



The **Federal FOCUS**  
OF THE GREATER COLUMBUS CHAPTER

Vol. 3, Issue 5

May 2006

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Ms. Lori Mikesell  
Chapter President*

Happy New Year! I know it's not January 1<sup>st</sup> or even October 1<sup>st</sup>, but we have started the new AGA program year on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I am pleased to serve as the new Greater Columbus Chapter President. I am excited about the upcoming program year and all that we will accomplish. Our programs, education, membership, community service, and ways and means committees are gearing up to keep the chapter energized and growing.

I would like to thank our out-going chapter officers. As the initial officers they were instrumental in developing the strong foundation on which we will grow and flourish. I especially want to thank Nancy Zmyslinski for guiding and leading the chapter through the beginning as we worked to stand up the chapter and for being a strong, positive role model to myself and the other chapter leaders. John Yerkey as the out-going treasurer deserves special recognition for his hard work on completing the articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State and successfully complying with the annual audit requirement.

As I listened to Jeff Hart, National President-Elect during our monthly luncheon and his briefing on Excited to Serve, it got me to thinking. I, too, am excited to serve the Greater Columbus Chapter members and hope that my excitement will be contagious to others throughout the year. I would like to see every member excited and start a movement to reach every possible person within the chapter and every co-worker to increase the excitement in furthering AGA throughout Columbus and the surrounding areas. As Nancy stated last month, the only limitations we have are those that we place on ourselves. I look forward to the coming year and to the great accomplishments I know we will achieve.

Have a great month,

*Lori*



**About the Federal Focus**

The Federal Focus of the AGA Greater Columbus Chapter is provided as a service to our members to keep them informed of events and news affecting our lives in the government accountability profession. Views expressed in articles are those of the author and may not necessarily represent the views of the chapter leadership. Article content is copyrighted to the author/source from which it was received.

## CHAPTER CALENDAR

- 18-21 June 2006  
AGA National PDC  
Location: San Diego, CA
- 13 July 2006  
Member Appreciation Luncheon  
Location: DSCC Red Pavilion
- 25-26 September 2006  
AGA National Internal Control  
and Fraud Conference  
Location: Atlanta, GA
- 30-31 October 2006  
AGA National Performance  
Management Conference  
Location: Schaumburg, IL



**PDC  
2006**

- June 18–21
- San Diego, CA
- 25 CPE Hours

**AGA**  
55th ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

## THE AUDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### 6 ARRESTED IN PROBE OF CONCRETE USED FOR BOSTON'S BIG DIG

*By Jay Lindsay, Associated Press Writer*

BOSTON --The arrests of six men who worked for the Big Dig's primary supplier of concrete are just a small step in the pursuit of contractors suspected of fraud on the multibillion-dollar highway project, authorities say.

The six current and former employees of Aggregate Industries were arrested Thursday on federal charges they hid the inferior quality of concrete delivered to the \$14.6 billion project.

"This conduct is an affront to hard working Americans," U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan said. "I think we've just scratched the surface in our effort to investigate the Big Dig."

The indictment charges the men with recycling concrete that was too old or already rejected by inspectors, and in some cases double-billing for the loads. The company was paid \$105 million for 135,000 truckloads of concrete, and at least 5,000 truckloads did not meet specifications, according to the indictment.

Lawyers for Aggregate Industries have defended the quality of its concrete and said it never delivered any that did not meet strength specifications called for in its state contract.

Sullivan said the safety of the project is not threatened and long-term maintenance problems are the most likely effect of using the substandard concrete, though he could not be specific. The inferior concrete was used in spots throughout the project, including parts of the Interstate 93 and Interstate 90 tunnels, the indictment alleges.

The Big Dig, formally called the Central Artery and Third Harbor Tunnel project, buried Interstate 93 beneath downtown and connected the Massachusetts Turnpike to Logan Airport with a third tunnel beneath Boston Harbor.

The project was plagued by long delays and cost overruns that ballooned from \$2.6 billion to \$14.6 billion. Earlier this year, after more than a decade of traffic detours, the last major section of the project opened.

Stephen Delinsky, an attorney for one of the defendants, Gerard McNally, said prosecutors are looking to place blame for the troubled project.

"It's always easy to blame the lowest level, which is the concrete manufacturers," Delinsky said. "Each defendant believed that they acted in good faith. They believed at all times their conduct was legal and believed the concrete delivered to the Big Dig was appropriate."

Indicted were: former general manager Robert Prospero, 63, of

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## TECH TALK

### SENATE DELAYS BORDER-CROSSING CARD BECAUSE OF PRIVACY CONCERNS

*By Alice Lipowicz*  
Government Computer News

The Homeland Security Department's controversial new border-crossing identification card initiative would be postponed for 17 months under an amendment adopted by the Senate this week as part of the immigration reform package.

The postponement applies to the People Access Security Services smart card, called the PASS card, that would be issued to Americans, Canadians and Mexicans who frequently cross the U.S. border. The PASS card is part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, intended to ensure that all travelers from the Americas use either passports or a border-crossing identification card.

The deadline to implement the PASS card is Jan. 1, 2008. However, under the amendment introduced by Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), it would be pushed back to June 1, 2009. The delay was approved by a voice vote Wednesday.

One factor that led to the Senate's delay of the program is criticism of DHS' move to place ultra-high-frequency radio frequency tags on the PASS cards. This would allow multiple cards to be read promptly at a distance, making for smooth flow of commerce. However, privacy advocates assert that this long-range type of RFID cannot protect privacy.

Leahy and Stevens said DHS' choice of UHF RFID for the PASS card is a security risk.

"The technology favored by DHS is an 'open' UHF system that would possibly make our border less secure," according to a statement released by Leahy and Stevens.

Leahy also has criticized the lack of coordination between DHS and the State Department on the choice of technology. The State Department is leaning toward a short-range RFID that uses contactless smart chips, similar to those used for passports, which must be read at a close distance and have numerous security features to protect privacy, industry sources say.

Leahy also said federal agencies are ill-prepared to implement the PASS card plan, and the result is likely to be major disruptions in commerce, tourism and travel.

The PASS card requirements are "a train wreck on the horizon for the Northern Border," Leahy said in a statement.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

AS OF 30 APRIL 2006

### Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$635.45
Deposits	\$363.00
Disbursements	\$345.49
Ending Balance	<u>\$652.96</u>

### Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,043.43
Deposits	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 6,043.43</u>

Total Balance \$6,696.39

## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

### NEW IFAC HANDBOOK HELPS ACCOUNTANTS HONE ETHICS, AUDITING EXPERTISE

*AccountingWEB.com*

A new electronic handbook enables accountants worldwide to hone their ethics skills and auditing expertise, regardless of whether they are connected to the Internet or not. Eurofield Information Solutions Pty. Ltd. (EIS) on Tuesday announced the delivery of the electronic edition of the 2006 Handbook of International Auditing, Assurance, and Ethics Pronouncements to the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

The 2006 handbook, which is listed on the IFAC web site as being published in March 2006, includes final International Standards on Auditing, International Auditing Practice Statements, International Standards on Review Engagements, and International Standards on Related Services issued as of December 31, 2005, as well as the IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants. The online price for the electronic version is \$50.00.

"EIS helped to enhance the Handbook and expanded the options available to professional accountants worldwide who rely on our standards," Stephen Walker, director of operations for IFAC, said in a prepared statement.

EIS, an Australian Technology company with U.S. offices in Austin, Texas, produced the electronic handbook using its eComPress technology. Developed by EIS, this proprietary, award-winning technology is used by the World Health Organizations (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), John Wiley, Macmillan, Random House and the Australian government, among others, to compress, encode and index large and complex reference publications, medical journals, service manuals and other documents. The resulting electronic publications are extremely powerful, quick to download and easy to use.

The IFAC is the worldwide organization for the accounting profession, based in New York, dedicated to serving the public interest by strengthening the professional and contributing to the development of strong international economies. IFAC's current membership consists of over 160 professional accountancy bodies in 120 countries, representing more than 2.5 million accountants in public practice, education, government service, industry and commerce. Through its independent standard-setting boards, IFAC sets international standards on ethics; auditing and assurance; education; and public sector accounting. It also issues guidance to encourage high-quality performance by professional accountants in business.

### HELP THE YWCA FAMILY CENTER AND AREA FOOD BANKS

Did you know needy families cannot buy toiletries with food stamps? The AGA and the ASMC are working together to collect hotel size toiletries to donate to the YWCA Family Center and local food banks to give to the families they are supporting. So the next time you go on vacation or TDY, bring those extra little soaps, shampoos, and lotions that you don't use into work. For a Drop-Off location please ask a Community Service Committee Member or Officer.

Full size toiletries are also accepted, and will be donated to a local food bank for distribution.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Anyone who believes in God and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor. Anyone who believes in God and the Last Day should entertain his guest generously. And anyone who believes in God and the Last Day should say what is good or keep quiet."

**Muhammad**

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Consumer Credit Counseling Service: Personal Finance Workshops

Tues., May 23, 2006

Smart Ways to Manage Debt  
CCCS Office, Whitehall

Tues., June 27, 2006

Preventing Identity Theft  
CCCS Office, Whitehall

*All Workshops are Held from 7:00 - 8:30 PM Registration is Required. Call 1-800-335-2227 to Register.*

### IRS: TaxTalk Live Webcasts

Tues., June 13, 2006

Why Fix Mistakes in Retirement Plans Now Rather Than Later?  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

Tues., July 11, 2006

Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA)  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

*For more information see:  
<http://www.taxtalktoday.tv/>*

### Building a High Commitment/Performance Company Webcast

Tues., 23 May 2006

Great chief executive officers (CEOs) strive to build high commitment, high performance companies. Few companies, however, are able to do it and fewer are able to sustain. How to Build a High Commitment, High Performance Company: TruePoint Research and the GE Commercial Leasing Case, explores recent research into how great companies achieve it.

*For more information see:  
<http://www.accountingweb.com>*

## THE BOTTOM LINE

### TSP MOVES JOBS OUT OF NEW ORLEANS, INTO PRIVATE SECTOR

*By Karen Rutzick  
[krutzick@govexec.com](mailto:krutzick@govexec.com)*

Hurricane Katrina has spurred an outsourcing of Thrift Savings Plan support functions to happen faster than originally planned, leaving only upper-tier policy and financial jobs filled by federal employees.

The National Finance Center, an Agriculture Department facility located in New Orleans, resigned its remaining duties for the TSP ahead of schedule because the hurricane left the facility understaffed and in poor physical shape.

The TSP board, which administers the \$180 billion 401(k)-style retirement savings plan for millions of federal employees, announced Tuesday at a meeting that it granted SI International a sole-source, rushed contract to take over duties held by employees at the NFC as of June 9. The one-year contract was not subject to the normal competitive bidding process because of its emergency nature.

The board already has moved toward contracting out the roughly 500 positions that were once held by NFC staff, to save money. Fewer than 100 federal employees remain in TSP-related jobs at the NFC, many of them in accounting positions.

In the past, NFC employees also processed forms for options including rollovers and withdrawals, operated call centers to answer participant questions and coordinated the plan with agencies' payrolls.

"I am very much in a comfort zone that nothing will fall through the cracks," TSP Executive Director Gary Amelio said. "Our costs will go down ... I think significantly."

In part because of the outsourcing, the plan's budget, which comes directly out of participants' investments, is shrinking. It has fallen from \$101.5 million in fiscal 2004 to a projected \$76.8 million for fiscal 2007.

Those costs, at around four basis points, are widely known to be the lowest among government-sponsored and privately run 401(k) plans.

"This is the last step in divorcing ourselves from the NFC," TSP Board Chairman Andrew Saul said. "It is hopefully getting a better product for our participants."

Saul said at the meeting that low administrative costs are especially important to investors when the markets are yielding smaller gains.

SI International already runs a call center in Clintwood, Va.,

## CHAPTER NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENT

#### AGA NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (PDC) JUNE 18-21, 2006

AGA's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition is set for June 18-21, at the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina. With the theme "*Navigating the Way to Citizen-Centered Government*," and offering 25 CPE hours, the PDC promises to be an excellent learning and networking opportunity for government financial managers and accountability professionals. Create your own curriculum from more than 75 concurrent sessions. Sessions will be organized around the following six tracks:

- Envisioning 2015: The Future of the Accountability Profession
- Building and Sustaining Strong Internal Controls
- State and Local Governments – Challenges, Strategies and Innovations
- Improving Public Performance: Transforming Data into Results
- Intergovernmental Financial Management: Collaboration or Frustration?
- Technology, Tools and Techniques for the 21st Century

### UPCOMING EVENT

#### JULY LUNCHEON JULY 13, 2006

Our Member Appreciation Luncheon will be held at the DSCC Red Pavilion on Thursday, July 13. This is a Free Event for Members. More information is coming soon. Please contact Melissa Ludovissie (3-0856) or Jim Gillenwater (3-6907) if you have any questions.

## GOVERNMENT NEWS

### PANEL DEMANDS BETTER OVERSIGHT OF DHS CONTRACTORS

*By Chris Strohm,  
CongressDaily*

Senior members of the House Homeland Security Committee on Thursday called on the Homeland Security Department to increase oversight of its contractors -- and said they are expanding their investigation into whether the department improperly awarded contracts to a limousine service that is under federal investigation for possibly providing prostitutes to public officials.

At a hearing Thursday, Republicans and Democrats alike lashed out at department officials over the five-year, \$21.2 million contract awarded last year to Shirlington Limousine and Transportation Inc. of Arlington, Va., to drive senior Homeland Security employees and officials around Washington. The company had previously received a \$3.8 million contract from the department in 2004.

The FBI is investigating whether military contractors linked to former Rep. Randy (Duke) Cunningham, R-Calif., arranged for the company to provide prostitutes for him and other lawmakers. Cunningham pleaded guilty last fall to taking \$2.4 million in bribes from military contractors.

House Homeland Security Management Subcommittee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Ala., questioned the department's process for doing background checks on contractors, saying the owner of Shirlington, Christopher Baker, is a felon. Rogers suggested that the department should investigate the backgrounds of executive officers and board directors of small companies before contracts are made.

Rogers added that his subcommittee plans to hold another hearing to examine the contract to Shirlington in early June.

House Homeland Security Chairman Peter King, R-N.Y., said proper background checks of Shirlington drivers are especially important because they have access to senior department officials and can overhear their conversations. King said the department should raise its standards for doing background checks on contractors. "To me, this is something that should be looked at. I wouldn't trivialize it," he said.

Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., said the department's chief procurement officer, Elaine Duke, told the committee in response to a letter that four companies originally applied to compete for the contract awarded in 2004. Three companies were disqualified because they did not meet criteria of the Historically Underutilized Business Zone program, leaving only Shirlington as a qualified bidder, Duke said.

But Pascrell questioned why the department did not re-bid the contract. "I would say this is very suspicious, which

## CHAPTER NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENT

#### AGA'S FIRST NATIONAL INTERNAL CONTROL & FRAUD CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2006

The AGA's First National Internal Control & Fraud Conference, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta, GA.

With a theme of "Fraud Prevention and Detection: The Newest Tools and Techniques," the conference will focus on management's responsibility for ensuring a good system of internal controls and the role of all accountability professionals in minimizing the risk of fraud, waste and abuse. Hear from leaders in government and private industry who will discuss the latest discovery techniques and lessons learned from various schemes, and how different levels of government are cooperating to improve services to citizens.

The "Fraud Conference" will bring together leaders from all levels of government, the private sector and academia. In addition to an outstanding technical program, this event offers unparalleled opportunities to network, exchange ideas and share best practices with colleagues and friends.

Register today and secure your place at AGA's newest educational and networking event!

### *THE FEDERAL FOCUS* WINS NATIONAL NEWSLETTER AWARD

For the second year in a row the Greater Columbus Chapter's *The Federal Focus* has won a National Newsletter Award. This year the year the newsletter was awarded First Place in Group D.

We want to thank all of those who contribute to this newsletter and help us make it the quality that it is. Without their support we couldn't have received this award.

## CERTIFICATION CONNECTION



### INFORMATION

#### NASHVILLE CHAPTER GOES THE EXTRA MILE FOR CGFM

*By Ms. Christina M. Camara*  
*AGA National Staff*

AGA's Nashville Chapter has pulled off its own version of a hat trick: gaining high-level recognition of the CGFM credential three times this year.

March was proclaimed CGFM Month by the governor, Tennessee General Assembly and Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County government.

The proclamation signed by Governor Phil Bredesen says in part that chapter members "are making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of Tennessee by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements." Nashville Chapter CGFM Coordinator Ronald H. Queen, CGFM, CPA, worked with contacts in the governor's office, and this was the second year the chapter was able to persuade the governor to acknowledge the CGFM through the proclamation.

The chapter did not stop at the governor's office, though. The next stop was the Tennessee General Assembly. Luckily, Nashville's AGA newsletter committee editor, Nichole Curtiss, could ask her father for a little help. State Rep. Charles Curtiss sponsored and helped pass a joint House-Senate resolution, also proclaiming March to be CGFM Month. The difference this time, though, was that no year was specified, so the same resolution will go forward every March.

Gerry C. Boaz, CGFM, CPA, AGA's CGFM Coordinator of the Southeast Region and the President-Elect of the Nashville Chapter, said the idea to go a step further was raised during a regional coordinator conference call. Once again, AGA's network helped. Queen contacted his former co-worker, Metro Council member Ginger Hausser, who sponsored the proclamation.

Representatives from the governor's office, General Assembly and the Metro Council were then invited to attend a chapter meeting, giving them even more exposure to AGA. Boaz said a press release was issued to the news media throughout the state, explaining the proclamations, the CGFM designation and a little background on AGA itself.

Nashville's work was part of a national effort to pursue state and local government proclamations declaring March CGFM Month as a way to recognize the program and the accomplishments of the CGFMs who display the

## EVENT RECAP MAY LUNCHEON

The following is a brief synopsis of the events that took place during the Luncheon held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2006:

Nancy Zmyslinski, Chapter President, kicked-off the May Luncheon with the Annual Chapter Award and Officer Installation Ceremony. The incoming officers include Lori Mikesell as the new Chapter President, Ken George as the new President-Elect, Heather Drake as Chapter Secretary and Justin Sponseller as Treasurer.

The speaker for our May Luncheon included Jeffrey Hart, AGA National President-Elect, who spoke to our chapter about AGA's Presidential Theme and AGA National Initiatives. Mr. Hart placed strong emphasis on his personal mission to create exceptional value for AGA members by instilling excitement over AGA's National goals and encouraging members to embrace their responsibilities as Government Accountability Professionals.

### **AGA MISSION:**

Advancing Government  
Accountability

### **AGA's MISSION STATEMENT:**

"AGA serves Government Accountability Professionals by creating value via quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research."

### **CREATING VALUE**

AGA's four core values (SAIL)

#### **1 Service**

- Service is the overarching theme in AGA's mission
- Reliability of service via members and partners
  - AGA's national membership numbers are at a record high
- Service as a Powerful gift and

## COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

The Community Service Committee will be sending out a survey soon to determine your interest in participating in a number of potential community service projects. Please take a moment when you get the email to respond. We need your input so that we can best determine how our chapter will provide community service over the next 12 months.

### But I Digress

May Day is past; Cinco de Mayo is past; Mother's Day is rapidly becoming a memory as May continues. We approach the first of the bookend holidays, Memorial Day, signaling the beginning of summer. Roughly translated, that means kids out of school, long enough hours of daylight to mow grass, weed gardens, walk dogs, chat with those neighbors that haven't been seen all winter like me. Backyard barbecues with family, and cleaning. Why is it that a change of seasons always gets women to think about cleaning? Not just ordinary stuff, but deep cleaning. Cleaning that involves me moving furniture, or washing walls, or worse—painting and papering said walls! If your wife hasn't finished the spring cleaning look out! You're in for some serious redecorating "now that the windows can be open to air out the fumes" she says sweetly.

But I just wanted to wash and wax the car, maybe check the tackle box for those lures that worked so well last year. I envisioned a sunny afternoon in the boat on the lake, lazily watching the bobber, soaking up the heat of the day. But I digress. . .

### GOV NEWS CONTINUED FROM PG. 6

indicates to me that it was politically precipitated," he said. He added: "It's completely bewildering to me that anyone who has this kind of a rap sheet could ever get a penny from the Department of Homeland Security."

Dwight Williams, chief of the department's Office of Security, said background checks were run on all Shirlington employees who had access to department officials. He said the department does not usually run background checks on company owners if they do not have such access.

Duke added in her letter that Shirlington's designation as a HUBZone business was challenged by one of the losing bidders. She said the Small Business Administration reviewed the matter and determined that Shirlington met all of the requirements for a HUBZone business.

investment

- Gift of Service = Sacrifice of Time, Caring and Appreciation for an organization that contributes to our careers/livelihood
- Service as an Investment = Commitment to earn financial return, Future Benefits and Advantages, Benefit Collectively and Individually

## 2 Accountability

- Accountability and Transparency is the foundational pillar of Capital Markets and Democracy
- Concepts of accountability inherent to the Financial Management profession:
  - Public vs. Personal interests
  - Recognizing the difference between the floor (law & standards) and the ceiling (principles & values)
  - Doing what's right vs. what's acceptable
  - Concerned with both facts and appearances
  - Using judgment vs. completing checklists
- Understanding trust is hard to earn and easy to lose

## 3 Integrity

- Modeling the concepts of Internal Leadership

## 4 Leadership

- Leadership is Personal, Transitional and is a Choice, not a Position
- Two AGA Leadership Roles:
  - Internal
    - Support and assist chapters/members
    - Communication link
    - Leading by example via each of the following:
      - ◆ Integrity

professionalism exemplified by the designation. Thirteen states and six local governments have issued official proclamations and four more states have issued recognition or congratulatory letters or proclamations ([http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/proclamations\\_06.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/proclamations_06.aspx))

Boaz said that marketing the CGFM outside of AGA is part of a new, long-range strategy for the chapter. More than half of the Nashville Chapter members have already earned the CGFM designation, and efforts to encourage more members to take the three exams haven't produced many new CGFMs over the last couple of years.

"We decided it was time to change directions and think outside the box to figure out what we need to do to get more people outside of AGA involved and let them know exactly what AGA is about and what the CGFM is about," Boaz said. In addition to educating legislators and government employees, the chapter is also reaching out to the private CPA firms that may be interested in contracting with government to do audit work. The chapter is planning to send out information to every CPA firm in the state that describes AGA, the CGFM Program and the competitive advantage of the certification with a government focus.

Work is continuing within state government as well. While the state Department of Personnel allows various departments to offer salary increases to employees who pass the CGFM Examinations, not every department chooses to do so, Boaz said. Queen is making short educational presentations about the CGFM to personnel directors from various state agencies.

And in an even more ambitious effort, the chapter's CGFM Coordinator and Past National President Charles Harrison, CGFM, CPA, are trying to gain support for changing the job descriptions for certain finance positions in state government so that the CGFM is given preference in hiring. Boaz says the chapter sees this work as a multi-year effort.

The chapter is always looking for new members and new CGFMs, but it's also educating upper-level government officials as to the benefits of the designation, Boaz said. "This approach is trying to work from the top down and from the bottom up at the same time."

Find more information about the Nashville Chapter's CGFM promotions at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org/CGFM.htm>

BOTTOM LINE CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

that handles functions previously performed by the NFC.

TSP officials said the NFC's resignation sped up the privatization of the remaining work by at least a year. It also had the effect of increasing automated processes in the TSP, among them the processing of death benefits.

"When you put in a new process, you take a look at it," said Pamela-Jeanne Moran, director of TSP benefit services.

By the end of the week, the TSP Web site will be updated with new addresses and phone numbers and revised forms to reflect the change, officials said.

- ◆ Strategic Planning & Budgeting
- ◆ Annual Performance Planning
- ◆ Performance Measurement & Reporting (AGA PAR)
- ◆ Transparency
  - External
    - Promote AGA and implement its goals (CGFM, CEAR, SEA, etc.)
    - Promote the Accountability Profession

### AGA RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Good reasons to get excited about AGA:

- Record breaking Professional Development Conferences (PDC), National Leadership Conferences (NLC), and Performance Management Conferences (PMC)
- New record setting numbers for AGA membership and CGFM
- New National Conferences (i.e. Fraud and Internal Control)
- Comptroller General, Dave Walker, Fiscal Wake-Up Tour, demographic tidal wave



**AGA.**  
FIRST NATIONAL INTERNAL CONTROL  
& FRAUD CONFERENCE

**AGA's First National  
Internal Control & Fraud Conference**

**Fraud Prevention & Detection:  
The Newest Tools & Techniques**

September 25-26, 2006 | Atlanta, GA | 14 CPE Hours

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

15 MAY 2006

- **June PDC**
  - Chapter to donate a "Car Theme" basket for the PDC Gift Raffle
    - \$250 in total donations, to include 3 \$50 gas cards, first aid kit, gas gauge, etc.
    - Chapter will consider purchasing Visa books in place of gas cards for winner to use at any gas station nationwide
    - Basket donation requested
  - Chapter agreed to give National's \$200 for National Community Service Fund
    - 50% of proceeds go to winning charity
    - Other 50% goes back into NCSF
- **Chapter Officer Leadership Training:**
  - Discussed results of training event
    - Approximately 50 people attended
    - Further discussion to take place during next CEC meeting
- **Next CEC Meeting: June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006**
  - **Mandatory** for all chapter officers and committee members. Discussion will include planning for the following:
    - Establishing duties for officers/chair members
    - Training at the regional offsite in July
    - Publishing a monthly calendar
    - Submitting yearly plans to National's in August
    - Welcoming new employees to AGA
- **Chapter Committee Updates:**
  - **Programs Committee Update:**
    - Upcoming Luncheon's (tentative)
      - June: No Luncheon (National PDC)
      - July: Officer Installation/Member Appreciation
        - Location: Red Pavilion
      - August Luncheon: TBD
      - September: Joint Luncheon with ASMC
      - October: Chapter Anniversary
        - Preferable Speaker: National AGA representative (i.e. Susan Fritzlen, Ron Cox, etc.)
      - November: Flexible Spending Accounts
      - December: No Luncheon (Local PDC)
    - Results of PDO evaluations were mostly positive
      - Chapter is considering organizing another PDO event in April 2007
    - Requesting suggestions for an Autumn Charity

## WANTED: AGA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

By being a member of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), you have already shown that you believe in and are dedicated to keeping yourself on the leading edge of your profession. The AGA offers its members late-breaking news and educational opportunities and seminars geared toward increasing our members' knowledge and proficiency. In addition to educational opportunities the AGA makes available a number of community service and social activities.

The AGA Greater Columbus Chapter is continuing its ambitious effort to dramatically increase the educational, community service, and social opportunities for our members and we need your help to make this a reality.

We are looking for a few volunteers who are interested in helping the continued growth and development of our chapter and its activities. For those who are interested in providing service to the chapter, there are a number of opportunities available.

If this interests you, we ask you to please get involved. We will have various activities you can work on depending on your skill and interest and most of the work can be performed around your schedule. Please contact one of our Chapter Officers (listed on Page 2) to express interest.

It is only with the assistance of members like you who are interested in getting involved that we will truly be able to become and maintain the high quality of chapter activities our members expect and that everyone can benefit from.

Event (i.e. Putt-Putt golf), as well as ideas for obtaining a plaque/trophy for each year's winning Chapter

○ **Communication Committee Update:**

- Newsletter Submission Deadline was May 15
- Past Director of Communications, Ken George, is transitioning duties to new Director, Amy Mobley
  - Initial training involves Amy putting together separate Newsletter from Ken
- Ken will retain responsibility of building Chapter Web-page; anticipates completion by December, 2006
- New Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) will be available by end of May

○ **Community Service Update:**

- Director, Roger Neefe, waiting for feedback on soliciting ideas for determining which events to coordinate this year for community service operations (i.e VITA, Accounting for Kids, etc.)

○ **Chapter Historian Update:**

- Historian Report nearly complete and should be published in June's Newsletter

### AUDITOR CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

Lynnfield; Marc Blais, 36, of Lynn, a dispatch manager; John Farrar, 42, of Canterbury, Conn., a dispatch manager; McNally, 53, of Rockland, a quality control manager; Gregory Stevenson, 53, of Furlong, Pa., district operations manager; and Keith Thomas, 50, of Billerica, a dispatch manager.

Stevenson and Farrar are no longer with the company. Aggregate says it has suspended the other four.

The men were released on \$100,000 unsecured bond each after making initial appearances in U.S. District Court in Boston.

Sullivan said while the concrete didn't meet project standards, it was not necessarily of poor quality. Part of the scheme's undoing, according to Sullivan, was the company's own record-keeping. One shift of workers kept logs of the loads of the substandard concrete. In some cases, concrete unused by other customers was delivered. The contractors were also required to pour the concrete within 90 minutes of mixing to prevent hardening. The logs showed the workers delivered concrete that exceeded that limit, sometimes with water added to make it look fresher, the indictment alleges.

Attorneys for the workers claim Big Dig managers sometimes waived the 90-minute rule when concrete trucks were lined up to meet a crushing demand for concrete. A spokesman for project manager Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff declined comment.

Aggregate Industries said in a statement Thursday that it will cooperate with authorities.

"As a result of extensive testing by industry experts, Aggregate Industries is satisfied that all of the concrete it has supplied on the Big Dig and throughout the commonwealth is structurally sound," the statement said.