



Northern Virginia Chapter
of the Association of Government Accountants
P.O. Box 44079
Washington, DC 20026-4079

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 8 APRIL 2006

IGNITING THAT PROFESSIONAL FIRE!!!

Wednesday, April 19, 2006 is "Early Careers Nite" at NOVAGA!

Come join us at Old Town Alexandria's Embassy Suites for an evening that is certain to be relevant, informative, enlightening, and just plain fun!

The evening begins with informal networking with colleagues working in the Federal, state or local government accounting, auditing, or financial management environment over a delicious and sumptuous hot & cold hors d'oeuvres buffet. Enjoy great food while talking shop – or not!

Next up is a lively and insightful panel discussion of what it takes to better your odds of achieving success in our profession – those small things such as professional dress and etiquette. The panelists will share their perspectives (and maybe an interesting anecdote or two) as to the "dos" and "don'ts" of getting ahead in our their profession! Have a question or seeking some career advice? Not to worry - a brief Q & A with the panel follows the discussion. Panelists are:

- Kay Daly, Past NOVAGA Education Chair and Assistant Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO
- Mike Lippert, NOVAGA Corporate Sponsor Liaison and Partner, Assurances, Public Services, KPMG
- Karl Boettcher, AGA Capital Region VP-elect, who directed Marketing & Recruitment effort for Agency Services Franchise Fund, Department of Treasury
- Pat Brannin, NOVAGA President and Assistant Inspector General (Audit Policy and Oversight), DoD OIG
- Jill Wylot Fashion Consultant, Beauty for All Seasons

And, what is success without "dressing for success?" The highlight of our evening will be NOVAGA's own "Dress for Success" fashion show of sophisticated classic business and contemporary business casual attire provided by Lord & Taylor, Tysons Corner Center, Virginia. NOVAGA's Laura Koschny will give commentary on outfits modeled by:

Bryan Clark Leilani Melendez Jennifer Trieschman
Ariel Vega Damarus Sanders Lisa Vega Latesha Murphy

It really doesn't matter where you are in your career – eager, newly hired college grad or earnest journeyman or mid-career seeker of re- invigoration. Come on out and enjoy a great evening with NOVAGA on Wednesday, April 19, 2006!

ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

* * * * *

After Work Good-Time & CPE Event

Early Careers Nite 1 CPE

Wednesday, April 19th

5:15-6 pm – Registration & Hors d'oeuvres
Meeting 6-7 pm

Price: \$15

FREE to New and Prospective Members
(Must RSVP & let us know this is your first meeting)

Please RSVP by Friday, April 14th
Email: Karen.ulatowski@dodig.mil
or call her at 703-604-9169

Embassy Suites - Old Town Alexandria 1900 Diagonal Road

Located directly across from the King Street Metro – Yellow & Blue Lines or park at the hotel for \$3 after 5PM.

* * * * *

April Charity Events:

Dress for Success

Business Clothes for Women and Men

and

Eileen Ellsworth of Northern Virginia Community Foundation

Also in April!

Canned food collection for an Arlington Food Bank and pet food collection for a local animal shelter

MARCH 15TH ALL DAY TRAINING EVENT ON KATRINA LESSONS LEARNED

From Meeting Minutes
Photos by Patricia Brannin

The March 15 meeting was a great success, thanks to the presenters and the 89 attendees who asked the hard questions. Mr. Richard Skinner, Inspector General for the Department of



About 89 individuals from as far away as Micronesia attended the conference

Homeland Security (DHS), kicked off the day touching on a number of issues including recent reports on the aftermath of Katrina, the need to invest in preparedness and the lack of or failure of internal controls. A central theme was the need to have internal controls in place and operating from the start.

Mr. Hettinger, Staff Director, House Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability, talked about the balancing act needed between getting money to those in need and the need to have the controls in place first. He commented that the aftermath of Katrina highlighted the need for sound internal controls to be in place. His subcommittee is strongly in favor of and seeking improvements in the internal controls within the federal government. The PCIE panel, Mr. Matt Jadacki, Special IG for Gulf Coast Hurricane Oversight, DHS; Tom Gimble, Acting IG DoD, and Bob Gwin, Deputy IG, HUD, discussed how the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) pulled together to address provide oversight in the aftermath of Katrina. They have monthly meetings that are widely attended to discuss emerging issues and they publish a report that summarizes the work done by the different Inspectors General. In addition to talking about the need for internal controls they discussed the work they are doing, which is summarized in their report, pointed out such lessons learned as two agencies that both provide temporary housing; and the need to work with state and local auditors. Mr. Jeff Steinhoff, with GAO, was an inspiring luncheon speaker.



Theresa Patrizio, who coordinated the event, introduces Mr. Jeff Steinhoff, the luncheon speaker.



Maria-Paz Barrientos, Partner, IBM Business Consulting Services



Jeff Steinhoff, Managing Director
Financial Management and Assurance,
GAO



Mr. Richard Skinner, Inspector General,
Department of Homeland Security, Keynote Speaker



Mr. Mike Hettinger, Staff Director,
Subcommittee on Government
Management, Finance and Accountability,
House Committee on Government Reform

MARCH 15TH ALL DAY TRAINING EVENT ON KATRINA LESSONS LEARNED cont'd

He reminded us all of the importance of internal controls to ensure what we want to happen happens and what we want to avoid is avoided. He also stressed that the tone at the top was critical and that minimum requirements are not necessarily all that we should do. He stressed personal accountability and the right incentives to do the right thing. Janette Franzel told the story of how they came to provide exemptions to auditing standards for Katrina related audits and those affected by Katrina. Exemptions and questions and answers addressed certain non-audit services; documentation and peer reviews. Sally Beecroft, from OMB, summed it up the need for internal controls re-iterating the need for balance between mission accomplishment and maintaining internal control stating the need for short term, mid-term, and long-term controls and actions. Wendy Comes discussed what was happening with the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. She talked about the discussions the board is having on such issues as social insurance, which is a question before a lot of international boards. The goal is to have principal based standards which have enough guidance but are still flexible enough to reflect the realities that exist in different organizations. A number of the presentations can be found on the NOVAGA website – www.NOVAGA.org



Jannette Franzel, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO accepts a token of NOVAGA's appreciation.



Sally Beecroft, Senior Analyst, Improper Payments, OMB



Wendy Comes, Executive Director, FASAB discusses the latest trends of the PCAOB



PCIE Panelists (left to right), Mr. Robert Gwin, Deputy Assistant IG (Audit), HUD; Mr. Thomas Gimble, Acting IG, DOD; and Mr. Matt Jadacki, Special IG for Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief handle the tough questions from guests.

NOVAGA Newsletter Advertising Rates

¼ Page - **FREE**
½ Page - \$100
Full Page - \$200

Advertising services are available to members and non-members wishing to reach government accountability professionals in the Northern Virginia area. Our newsletter reaches over 800 professionals each month.

Just send us a soft copy of your advertisement in a format that can easily be cut and pasted into Microsoft Word.

Questions? Contact robyn.n.williams@usdoj.gov

THIS YEAR'S NOVAGA EVENTS

Our program this year is quickly drawing to a close, but there is still one great "After Work Good-Time." Join your colleagues and friends at the:

NOVAGA Awards Banquet Embassy Suites

Wednesday, May 17th

Locale: Alexandria's Embassy Suites Hotel (East Wing Room - Restaurant Level - upstairs) 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria -at the King Street Metro stop on the yellow and blue lines or park at the hotel for \$3 after 5PM.

Sign up now by contacting Karen Ulatowski at Karen.ulatowski@dodig.mil or call 703-604-9169

Want to provide input?

Stay for our Executive Committee Meetings immediately following each (home) monthly meeting at the Embassy Suites, 7-7:30 pm

And exclusively for next year's board members...

Capital Region and Mid-Atlantic Regional and Chapter Officer's Workshop (RCOW)

May 5-7, 2006
Sunspreet Resort
Virginia Beach, Virginia

President's Message

The March 15 training event, Katrina: Challenges and Lessons Learned, was a huge success. With outstanding speakers and a good crowd of almost 80 people, the discussions were informative and lively. Not often do two different people give the same answer to two different questions - "That is above my pay grade." Just goes to show that despite what we learn and how far we progress there is always the unknown that we need to prepare for and no one ever has the answers to everything. The



*Patricia A. Brannin, CGFM
President*

overarching themes that came out of all of the discussions were the failure of internal controls and the need for good data - certainly critical information for us in the accountability profession.

Mark your calendars for the April 19, Professional Dress and Etiquette, and the May 17 awards banquet. I hope to see many of you at the PDC in San Diego.

I would also like to announce that Bill Hughes, a long time member of the NOVAGA board will be the president elect for the 2006-2007 year. Bill has chaired the NOVAGA Programs Committee for the last three years. He is Senior VP of Operations and Federal Services at Morgan-Franklin Corp in Reston, Va. Please join me in congratulating Bill. John Homan, your next President has a few words he would like to impart. He has a great start on the next board, with many returning members. But there are still opportunities for you to participate - contact John at jhoman@kpmg.com.

Pat

From the Incoming President

With all the great success and exciting events of the past year, I truly have a very tough act to follow in succeeding Pat as President. NOVAGA truly had an outstanding year in 2005-2006, and Pat's leadership helped us to achieve all that we did. Our membership is at an all time high (we are AGA's second largest chapter with over 850 members) and our education events, including the most recent seminar on Hurricane Katrina and the A-123/136 Update in December have been fantastic successes. We have had a great series of monthly meetings and our community service programs have brought a measure of pride to all of us.

As we focus on the final events of the year, we need to think about keeping our momentum as an organization going and it is not too early to start thinking about next year's program. We have our officer's seminar in Virginia Beach on May 6 and anyone from the Board should try to attend this event. In addition, I plan to have a meeting at my home over the summer where we will plan next year's series of events.

Many of you have already come forward to volunteer for next year's board and I would like to extend a warm invitation to those of you out there who would want to help us next year. Bill Hughes will lead our Programs effort as President-Elect and Bill is always looking for folks with good ideas for seminars and speakers. Anna Dixon will be our secretary and Dennis will be our money man as Treasurer once again. Cathy Presnell has joined us as head of Community Service, succeeding Jim Davis after his many years of service to the Chapter, and those of you who want to help in that area should contact her. Robyn Williams will continue to run our newsletter and Heather Keister will continue to be our webmaster. Robyn and Heather are always looking for well written contributions for our newsletter and website. Robin McCoy will lead our CGFM effort once again, and if you have any ideas to promote CGFM at your organization or in general, please let Robin know. Laura Koschny will again run Media/Interagency relations. Chris Bitakis will lead our early careers efforts.

We still have a number of positions open on the Board in such areas as Education, Membership, and Hospitality. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to give me a call and if you have any ideas to make next year's program even better, please let me know.

All of us, who are active on the AGA Board will attest to the great deal of fun AGA is and the sense of pride one feels in helping a truly great organization succeed in its mission.

I as well as the rest of the Board look forward to an exciting new program year.

John Homan President, 2006-2007

Chapter News

Welcome New Members!

By Jennifer Trieschman
Membership Chair

We invite our new members to attend our monthly chapter meeting. NOVAGA pays for its new members' first home meeting. We hope the new members will find out for themselves that the meetings are entertaining and great for socializing, networking, and learning. We want you back again, and again, and again...

Welcome to our newest members:

- Martha Cooper, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DoD
- Linda Garcia, Deloitte and Touche
- Gail Guseman, CGI Federal
- Alex Harman, Grant Thornton LLP
- Robert Hultberg, Small Business Administration
- Christy Ives, MSD

- Cathy March, US Fish and Wildlife Services
- Eric Wilson, US Navy
- G. Evelyn Wong-Herman, Headquarters U.S. Army Europe,

Members in the Spotlight

Outgoing EPA IG Tells of Search for Accountability

Courtesy AGA Today Bulletin; Excerpt from article by Jenny Mandel, *Government Executive*

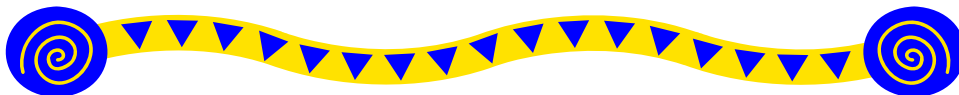
Nikki L. Tinsley, Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency since 1997, retired from the federal government on March 1 after almost 35 years of public service. An ambitious leader within the inspector general community, Tinsley shared her reflections on the past decade as a federal auditor in an interview with *Government Executive*. Tinsley, a member of **AGA's Northern Virginia Chapter** and co-chair of the AGA's First National Internal Control and Fraud Conference in September, said she sees her greatest legacy as one of culture change at the agency. "When I came to headquarters, our auditors thought they had done their job when they had identified a problem," she said. "When I got to EPA, I automatically thought that programs were supposed to do something," she said, noting that she has a penchant for program analysis that can be attributed in part to an early-career stint at the Government Accountability Office, as well as to a personality type that won't just leave things alone. Tinsley said she was eager to take government auditing past the traditional inspector general's realm of fraud, waste and abuse, to look not just at how money is managed, but also at how well the spending of that money accomplishes agency objectives.



Congratulations to NOVAGA Member **Pat Fitzgerald**, who was sworn in as The Auditor General of the US Army on March 28th at a ceremony held at the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon. The ceremony was hosted by the Honorable Pete Geren, Under Secretary of the Army. Pat is a long-time supporter of AGA and helped to organize the PDC for several years.



Congratulations to another long-time NOVAGA member, **Joyce Morrow**. Joyce was recently selected to be the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. This follows nearly 26 years with the Army Audit Agency, where she had served as The Auditor General since July 2004.



Community Service Spotlight

By Jim Davis, NOVAGA Community Service Chair

For the April 19 Meeting

Dress For Success donations: Two organizations in the DC area assist low income women (Dress for Success) and men (STRIDE) to advance their economic and social development and to encourage self-sufficiency through career development and employment retention. They respond to the needs of our communities by providing programs that help economically disadvantaged women and men acquire jobs, retain their new positions and succeed in the mainstream workplace. To find out more about these organizations you can go to the Dress for Success website, <http://www.dressforsuccess.org>.

If you have professional attire that you would like to donate to one of these organizations, please can bring them to the April meeting. The donations should be dry cleaned contemporary suits for women and appropriately cleaned or dry cleaned professional and business casual contemporary attire for men. **GENTLY** used shoes, blouses, shirts and accessories are also needed.

Results of the Raffle go to Northern Virginia Community Foundation (NVCF) – highlighted at the April 19 meeting. Eileen Ellsworth is the current President of NVCF, a nonprofit public charity that encourages philanthropy, manages philanthropic dollars, and strengthens our community. Since joining NVCF in the fall of 2005, Ms. Ellsworth has guided the organization through a strategic planning process that will ensure its continued success and impact on Northern Virginia. Before joining NVCF, Ms. Ellsworth was President of WIN-WIN Strategies Foundation, and Executive Director of Empower Girls, Inc. Before joining the non-profit sector, she was General Counsel of Best Software, a \$100 million high tech software company in Reston, Va.

Food donations for people and pets. Bring canned goods for people to go the the Arlington Food Bank and pet food for local animal shelders.

NOVAGA MS Walk Team Completes Another Walk

By Alice S. Arielly
NOVAGA Team Captain

Continuing a long-standing NOVAGA tradition, NOVAGA once again entered a team to walk to find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis. Sunday morning April 2nd dawned sunny and warm as the walkers gathered at the Reston Town Center. Taking over a tradition led by Andrea Walker for many years, Alice Arielly led this year's team, which consisted of former NOVAGA President Jack Hufnagle, Community Service Chair Jim Davis, DC Chapter Member Services Director and Regional RVP Elect Karl Boettcher (OK we let a DC Chapter member sneak in) and Linda Botkin.

The team walked a combined total of 25 miles on Sunday and



Are we almost done yet?



2006 MS Walk Team (l-r) Linda Botkin, Karl Boettcher, Alice Arielly, Jack Hufnagle, and Jim Davis before starting out on this year's walk at Reston.

donated pledges to fight this debilitating disease. Studies show that early ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can reduce future disease activity and improve quality of life for many people with MS. Log on to www.MSandYOU.org to learn about ways to help manage MS and about current research that may one day reveal a cure.

Thanks to the NOVAGA team for this year's efforts!

CGFM Corner



By Christina M. Camara

CGFM Profile: Marlene K. Dorenkamp

When Marlene K. Dorenkamp became president of AGA's Des Moines Chapter, she wanted to set an example for her fellow chapter members, give herself an injection of confidence and show that attaining the CGFM credential was "doable."

"I thought that it would be good incentive for others if I went ahead and took it and let them know if it was achievable," Dorenkamp said. That she did, by passing the three examinations and becoming the first chapter member to become a CGFM through the exam process.

It took Dorenkamp one year to study and pass the exams, finishing up in November 2005. When she achieved her goal, the chapter did not overlook it. The current chapter president, Michelle Wendel, and other members recognized her at last November's Chapter Executive Committee meeting with a certificate and cupcakes. The next month, the chapter presented her with a scholarship, to defray some of her costs, and a cake in her honor.

Dorenkamp, who is also a CPA, used AGA's three study guides to prepare. She also organized a study group with two other members. Once a week, they would set aside an hour to study, helping them stay focused. Some of the material was very familiar. At the time,

she was working in the school finance arena with the state Department of Education, and needed a strong understanding of the financial reporting requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) Statement 34. Her success on the exams did, in fact, give her a boost. "It really did help," she said. "It gave me confidence that I knew the answers to some of the questions. I knew more than I thought I did."

She encourages anyone going into governmental accounting to consider the CGFM. "I think it's an excellent way to get that background. When I went through school, they had one governmental accounting course and that was it."

Dorenkamp had success using the study guides, while other CGFM candidates like to take the three preparatory courses and use the study guides to complement what they learned. She said the study guides have a lot of good information, reviews at the end of each chapter, and an appendix with reference materials to learn more.

Her advice for CGFM candidates is to make a goal and schedule the exams. Don't procrastinate and lose momentum. That way, the exams are on the calendar and it's easier to stay on track. "I made a goal when I first started that I would have it done by a certain time, and that kept me motivated and kept me going."

Member Services and Events

Wolf Trap

Special from Karl Boettcher

AGADC Member Services is sponsoring an evening at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts on Sunday, May 28 at 8 p.m. We will be entertained by the "President's Own" United States Marine band followed by fireworks at 9 p.m. There is no charge or tickets required for this activity. There is plenty of free parking. Gates will open at 7:00 p.m. for in-house and lawn seating. In order to ensure inside seating, we will meet at the entrance (box office area) by 6:30 p.m. Those wishing lawn seats should bring blankets and/or lawn chairs.

* AGA members will be able to enjoy a soft drink and a light snack compliments of our event sponsors – Savantage Solutions and the Administrative Resource Center, (ARC) Bureau of the Public Debt *

Wolf Trap is located just 4 miles west of Tysons corner. From 495, take Rt. 7 to Towlston Rd., left on Towlston Rd., and go 1 mile to the Wolf Trap parking area. If you are interested in attending this activity, please contact – Karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202-874-6131). For additional information you can also contact Wolf Trap at 703 255-1860 or www.wolftrap.org.

Come join us!

To find out what's happening at other AGA chapters in the area:

Visit the Washington DC chapter's Web site at <http://www.agadc.org> to learn about their upcoming events.

Visit the Montgomery/Prince Georges chapter's Web site at <http://www.marylandaga.com> to learn about their upcoming events.

Also check out other training opportunities at ISACA, National Capital Area Chapter <http://www.isaca-washdc.org/content/events/events.htm>

and the Northern Virginia Chapter of the IIA <http://www.theiia.org/chapters/nova>

Member Services and Events cont'd

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

An interesting opportunity to consider - Join our financial management audit team as for an Auditor (511-GS 12/13/14) in the Office of Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission! This vacancy announcement will be open until Monday, April 17, 2006 and is available for ALL interested sources. Both Fed and non-Fed employees are encouraged to apply.

The job posting can be found at the following USAJobs link:
<<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=40828261> >

AGA National – Register SOON for PDC 2006!

At AGA's Web site at <http://www.agacgm.org>

Still Time to Sponsor Banquet!

Special Input from Michael Lippert
NOVAGA's Corporate Sponsor Liaison

Once again, several corporate supporters have stepped forward to help offset the cost of our annual awards banquet in May. Thanks to the following sponsors that have already pledged their support. There is still time for YOU to be a sponsor! Please contact **Mike Lippert, KPMG**, Corporate Sponsor Liaison, at 202-533-5638 or email him at malippert@kpmg.com.

We thank the sponsors listed below for their financial support. We also want to thank these and all the other employers that have given their time and have allowed their employees to participate in our programs to enrich the lives of others.



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Financial Management, Governance, Risk and Compliance, Program Management, Operational Effectiveness, Security and Data Management, Healthcare and XBRL.



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Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for articles for the May Newsletter is **Friday, April 21st**

Please submit information to our Newsletter Editor at robyn.n.williams@usdoj.gov

We welcome your input!



<http://www.novaga.org>

Reservations email:
karen.ulatowski@dodig.mil
or Phone 703-604-9169

The NOVAGA is an association with approximately 850 members from the federal, state, public and private practices, with a mission statement to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.