



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

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY 2006

## ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENT

\* \* \* \* \*

### After Work Good-Time & CPE Event

**Congressional Issues**  
1 CPE

**Mark Stephenson,**  
*Professional Staff, Minority*  
House Committee on  
Government Reform

**Wednesday, February 15**

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, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Email Karen Ulatowski:  
[karen.ulawowski@dodig.mil](mailto:karen.ulawowski@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.

#### Menu:

**Cocktail buffet of hot and cold hors  
d'oeuvres, Iced Tea & Water Service**

Domestic and Imported beers and  
various wines available at additional  
cost.

\* \* \* \* \*

### February Charity Highlight

The USO

and we will be collecting  
canned food items for the  
Arlington Food Bank and pet  
food for the local animal  
shelters

## MARK STEPHENSON AND MIKE HETTINGER TO SPEAK ON THE LATEST CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES - FEBURARY 15

Mark Stephenson is a professional staff member on the Committee on Government Reform, where he has worked since 1997. His work has focused mainly on issues relating to government operations, including financial management matters, procurement, personnel issues, and the management of government real estate. Prior to working for the Government Reform Committee he was employed by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Mike Hettinger currently serves as the staff director of the House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability. In this role he serves as the principal aide responsible for development of the subcommittee's agenda. Prior to this assignment, he was Senior Lobbyist at Washington's top-ranking lobbying firm, Patton Boggs LLP from 1999 - 2003 and has served in several other positions on Capitol Hill and in local government.

The Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability oversees the financial reporting and management requirements of laws such as the Chief Financial Officers Act, the Inspector General Act, the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act, the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act and the Debt Collection Improvement Act. It examines the quality of agencies' strategic planning, and performance goals and reports in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act. And it has jurisdiction over the operations of federal financial services' agencies, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

## March 15 All Day Training Event Katrina - Challenges and Lessons Learned

*See page 9 for the registration form and page 10 for the agenda.*

Sign up Now for the all day March 15 training event. The event, which addresses the challenges and lessons learned from the devastating hurricanes along the gulf coast this past year, will benefit all who have to plan for or deal with disasters, whether from nature or man-made. We have an outstanding array of presenters from both the public and private sectors.

The event will be at the Alexandria Hilton. It is right at the King Street subway station.

If past experience prevails, the event will fill up fast. So be sure to sign up early.

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# What's Been Happening?

## GETTING TO AUDIT IN DOD

By Alice S. Arielly

NOVAGA's January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting gave us important community service information, followed by a timely topic, and brought in a capacity audience of over 50 to the Embassy Suites. President Pat Brannin called the meeting to order promptly at 6 pm and introduced Stephanie Thompson of Presidential Classroom. This organization was founded in the tradition of John F. Kennedy, who challenged young Americans to commit to public service. It brings together high-achieving high school students from the 50 states for one-week programs ranging from Media to Law & Justice to Business Policy in Washington DC. The Future World Leaders International Program brings in students from 50 countries!

Presidential Classroom is looking for volunteer instructors to chaperone 30-40 students for a week during their stay at Georgetown University. There are still openings for their June and July sessions. Suspense is April 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information, see [www.presidentialclassroom.org](http://www.presidentialclassroom.org) or contact Stephanie at 202-464-5581, 703-683-5400, or at [sthompson@presidentialclassroom.org](mailto:sthompson@presidentialclassroom.org). Our 50/50 raffle brought in \$100. \$50 was won by Joanne Elkowich of Naval Research, who donated \$10 of her winnings back, allowing us to present \$60 to Presidential Classroom. Pat thanked Stephanie by presenting her with a NOVAGA coin.



Stephanie Thompson draws the winning raffle ticket while Community Service Chair Jim Davis looks on.



Ron Tollefson receives a well-deserved speaker gift.

**Ron Tollefson from DoD's Office of Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness** then discussed the DoD strategy to produce auditable financial statements, the strategy is incorporated into the Department's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan (FIAR Plan). The FIAR Plan was just posted to the OSD Comptroller Web site. The Department recognized that getting a clean opinion for all of DoD by 2007 was not attainable, and hence developed the FIAR Plan using an event based rather than date driven strategy. Four focus areas representing substantial amounts of assets or liabilities and which do not depend on a systems solution were chosen to concentrate on first – Real Property, Military Equipment, Health Affairs, and Environmental Liabilities. The Plan will be under continuous revision and new versions will be published semi-annually. The plan has defined business rules and is being managed using a web-based management tool. The Department's mid-term goal is to get a clean opinion for over 70 percent of DoD's assets and over 80 percent of its liabilities by 2010.

Ron's presentation brought about some lively discussion and audience interaction. After his presentation, Pat thanked him with a nice speaker gift.

Following the presentation, Pat welcomed all the new and prospective members and presented all the first-timers with a NOVAGA coin. The meeting ended at 7 pm.

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## THIS YEAR'S NOVAGA EVENTS

Our program year is half over, but there are still great "After Work Good-Time and CPE Events." Join your colleagues and friends at the following events.

**Wednesday, March 15**

**Sign Up Now**

**NOVAGA All-Day Educational Event**  
**Katrina: Challenges and Lessons Learned**  
**8.5 CPE – see Flyer on Page 14**  
**Location Old Town Alexandria's Hilton**  
**at the King Street Metro**

*There will be no meeting or board meeting at the Embassy Suites the evening of March 15*

**Wednesday , April 19**

Professional Etiquette and Dress  
A special for our early career members

**Wednesday, May 17**

**Awards Banquet - Embassy Suites**  
**Awards Nomination Information Out NOW**  
**See Page 4**

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

## President's Message



*Patricia A. Brannin, CGFM*  
President

Greetings. The New Year is underway and the NOVAGA meeting presentations began with a record crowd to hear **Ron Tollefson** speak on DoD's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness plan. January represents the half way point in our program year. So be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming events. In February, we have **Mark Stephenson** from the House Committee on Government Reform and in April we have a special program for our early career members – of course everyone is welcome to attend. But the **BIG EVENT** is the **one-day training in March**. I strongly urge you to sign up now. Spaces are limited and based on past experience, fill up quickly. The topic is extremely timely – challenges and lessons learned from this past year's gulf coast hurricanes. We have some great speakers on a variety of subjects to address these issues and others in the accountability community.

And of course the program year ends with our May awards banquet. The newsletter has the information you need to nominate individuals for the NOVAGA annual awards. So many people in our community do so much for the profession that it is hard to pick out just one for each of the awards – **so please send us your nominations**. This has always been a great event for the chapter and we plan for that to continue – but as always with your help.

See you on **February 15,**

*Pat*

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## Chapter News

### Welcome New Members!

By Jennifer Trieschman,  
Membershin 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:

- Nikita Adolphus, Grant Thorton
- Mami Gebereegziabher, Clifton Grunderson
- Erik Huff, GAO
- David Loerzel, IBM Business Consulting Services

- Jacqueline Lynch, US Geological Survey
- Catherine Nocera, Cotton and Company
- Fredrick Shwaery, Federal Higway Administration
- Paul Sondel, Department of Defense
- Colette Wilson, Cotton and Company
- Beth Wolicki, SRA International

## Members in the Spotlight

Our condolences to Karen Ulatowski on the loss of her mother.

Congratulations, Alice,

Alice Arielly, NOVAGA board Member, long-time member, and former award-winning newsletter editor has been selected for promotion to GS-15 as the Program Director for Installation Operations Audits at US Army Audit Aencv. effective Februarv 5<sup>th</sup>.



If you know of a member who should be recognized, please provide name and brief note on why to [patricia.brannin@dodig.mil](mailto:patricia.brannin@dodig.mil)



## Award Nominations Sought National and NOVAGA

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### 2006 CALL FOR NATIONAL AWARDS

AGA's National Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for our 10 National Awards that recognize the leaders advancing our profession and setting the standards of excellence:

- Robert W. King Memorial Award
- Einhorn-Gary Award
- Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Educator Award
- Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award
- Special Achievement Award
- Chapter Service Award
- Chapter Education Award
- Community Service Award

These awards will be presented during AGA's Professional Development Conference and Exposition in San Diego, CA June 18-21, 2006. In many cases, individuals do not have to be members of AGA to be eligible. Visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/> for all nomination forms or for more information please contact Rosanna Ortiz at [rortiz@agacgfm.org](mailto:rortiz@agacgfm.org).

Please provide nominations with completed forms for NOVAGA members to [patricia.brannin@dodig.mil](mailto:patricia.brannin@dodig.mil). Completed nominations should be submitted to Pat by **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** to meet the March 3<sup>rd</sup> National deadline. NOTE that initial nominations should be in by **February 20<sup>th</sup>**!

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## NOVAGA May Awards Banquet – Nominations Criteria Out!

By Patricia A. Brannin, Chapter President  
and Katherine Schirano, Awards Committee Chair

Awards will be presented at NOVAGA's annual Awards Banquet, **Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**. The Awards Banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites in Alexandria, VA directly across from the King Street Metro station. **Plan now to attend!**

The next page has a brief synopsis of each of the awards to remind you to nominate those people that work tirelessly to make this world a better place! We have also included the complete requirements and criteria for the nominations beginning on page 11 of this newsletter.

Nominations must be in by **March 31<sup>st</sup>** to Kathrine Schirano, the Awards Coordinator, at [schiranok@gao.gov](mailto:schiranok@gao.gov) or Patricia Brannin at [patricia.brannin@dodig.mil](mailto:patricia.brannin@dodig.mil). If you have questions please contact Ms. Schirano.

## NOVAGA Awards (continued)

The **Jeffery Steinhoff Award for Excellence in Federal Financial Management** was established in 2003 and named after our first recipient, GAO's Jeff Steinhoff, CPA CGFM. It formally recognizes federal professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures.

The **Federal Financial Partnership Award** was also established in 2003 to formally recognize private sector individuals who exemplify and promote excellence through outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, innovative management procedures and partnering with the Federal Government. John H. Hummel, CPA CGFM CFE, of KPMG was selected as our first recipient.

The **Pentagon Memorial Service Award** was established in 2002 in memory of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon. The award formally recognizes public service to our nation in the field of financial management. The award recognizes dedication and commitment to improved government operations, financial stewardship and accountability through public service to our nation. The first recipient of the award was LTC Christopher Keefer, U.S. Air Force.

The **Chapter Service Award** was established in 2003. The award is given to the individual who contributed the most to the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA during the year. The first recipient of this award was Alice S. Arielly, CPA CGFM CFE, US Army Audit Agency.

**Excellence in Accounting Studies: George Mason University.** This award was established in 2004. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in accounting studies at George Mason University and to encourage participation in a professional organization. This year, we have doubled the scholarship amount and the winner of this award will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a one-year membership to NOVAGA. Last year's winner was Nancy Washington.

Help us recognize the best and the brightest. Send us your nominations

**Sponsors Still Needed:** The last three years' awards banquets were successful in large part due to the generous support of several sponsors. If you'd like to help sponsor this year's awards banquet, please contact our president, Mrs. Patricia Brannin at [patricia.a.brannin@dodig.mil](mailto:patricia.a.brannin@dodig.mil) or our Corporate Sponsor Liaison, Mike Lippert at [mlippert@kpmg.com](mailto:mlippert@kpmg.com).

**PAST PRESIDENTS OF NOVAGA:** Past presidents of NOVAGA are invited and encouraged to attend this year's awards dinner. We'd love to see you, recognize you for your service and hear about what you've done since being Chapter President.

## Member Services and Other Events

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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.

For other events and training see

Also check out other training opportunities at ISACA chapter, 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>

## Chinese New Year Dinner Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>

Article & Pictures by Alice Arielly, At-Large Member of the Board

For those of you that read the announcement of the Chinese New Year Dinner in last month's newsletter, you already know that we welcomed in the Year of the Dog. You also know about the bountiful menu. Several NOVAGA members enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Samuel T. Mok (CFO, Department of Labor), who sponsored the celebration at the China Garden on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, along with AGA DC Member Services.



Is THAT what we were eating?  
Ron & Cecie Adolphi peruse the menu  
while RVP Elect Karl Boettcher explains  
and Linda Botkin looks on



NOVAGA members enjoyed Chinese New Year:  
Past President & Past RVP Jack Hufnagle, Alice Arielly,  
President Pat Brannin, and  
Past President & Current RVP Mia Leswing

We socialized for an hour, and then it was time for the Appetizers: Grilled Jumbo Scallops with Spicy Salt and Deluxe Cold Cut Platters. Next came Mixed Seafood and Asparagus Soup. Then the Entrees began: Braised Mushrooms and Vegetables, Roasted Chicken Cantonese Style, Fresh Lobster with Scallions and Ginger Sauce, Filet Mignon House Special, Pork Tenderloin Kingdom Style, Young Chow Fried Rice. We were stuffed by now, but managed to enjoy two Desserts: Sesame balls and Tapioca and Taro with Coconut Milk.

The surprise of the evening was that everyone received a lovely crystal ball to hang in the window and catch the light. What a nice way to enjoy Saturday night – with friends, food and fun. Thanks to Karl Boettcher, RVP Elect, for organizing the event. Can't wait till next year!

## DC Chapter Events

**Tour of the Washington National Cathedral – March 12<sup>th</sup>.** DC Member Services is sponsoring a tour of the National Cathedral on Sunday March 12. We will meet inside at the rear of the Cathedral at 1:45 PM for a 2:00 p.m. tour. The official interior tour narrated by a docent of the Cathedral's art, architecture and history will last about 30 to 45 minutes. This will allow ample time for visiting the Cathedral shops and gardens. It is suggested that you arrive early, since on-going parking garage construction has limited the usual ample free parking on the streets (North, South and Pilgrim) adjacent to the Cathedral. While there is no charge for the tour, a \$3 suggested donation is being contributed complements of our corporate sponsor - "Savantage Solutions." If you are interested in this activity, please let us know as soon as possible. Send your electronic response or direct any questions to [karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov](mailto:karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov) (202-874-6131).

**Ski Trip – February 10<sup>th</sup>** DC Membership Services is sponsoring a regional day ski trip to "Liberty Mountain Resort". Complete ski packages (equipment, lessons and lift tickets) are available for AGA members at discounted group prices \*\*\*\$48.00 Learn to Ski/Snowboard - limited mountain \*\*\* \$59.00 Intermediate and advanced - all mountain and \*\*\* \$32.00 lift ticket only – all mountain. Lunch is available at the lodge cafeteria. A reduced price lunch ticket can be obtained at registration for \$8.00. Other activities include: AGA member group picture, 12 noon at the "Ski School Bell;" Complementary coffee/coco and a world famous cinnamon bun at the refreshment stand by the ski shop at 3:30 p.m.; and après ski gathering at McKee's Tavern after 6:00 p.m. The date of this activity may be subject to change due to weather conditions. Alternate date is Friday, February 17. Please check the AGADC web site for any last minute changes. If you are interested in attending this activity, or for more information, please contact [karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov](mailto:karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov) (202) 874-6131.

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## UM's Robert H. Smith School of Business Offers Executive MS in Accounting

By Steve Loeb

The University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business intends to offer an Executive Master of Science (MS) in Accounting program. The program features a focus on internal auditing and was developed by Smith's world-class faculty in consultation with leading public accounting firms and other accounting professionals. The program will be delivered in an executive format, with classes meeting on Saturdays for 15 months.

Individuals interested in learning more about Smith's Executive MS Accounting program can call Neila Gharsallah at 301-405-9564, email Neila Gharsallah at [ngharsal@rhsmith.umd.edu](mailto:ngharsal@rhsmith.umd.edu) or go the Smith School Web site at: [www.rhsmith.umd.edu/execed/msaccounting](http://www.rhsmith.umd.edu/execed/msaccounting).

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### Want to place valuable job and exciting training opportunities as advertisements in our newsletter?????

Get maximum exposures by placing your advertisement in the NOVAGA newsletter at the following rates:

\* ¼ page - FREE!!! \* Half page - \$100 \*  
Full page - \$200 \*

Submit proposed ads and questions electronically to [robyn.n.stanley@usdoj.gov](mailto:robyn.n.stanley@usdoj.gov).

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### Community Service Spotlight

By Jim Davis  
NOVAGA Community Service Chair

- **February**, we will have a speaker from and a raffle benefiting the USO. In addition, we will collect food items for the Arlington Food Bank and pet food for local animal shelters.
- **April**, our featured speaker will be Eileen Ellsworth of the Northern Virginia Community Foundation. And don't forget the MS Walk
- **May**, corresponds with the Awards Banquet and our raffle will benefit NCSF.

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SOUTHEASTERN REGION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE  
P.O. BOX 198025 NASHVILLE, TN 37219-9998  
*Agaservp.tripod.com*

The Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is pleased to be hosting the **Southeastern Region Professional Development Conference** on March 16-17, 2006. If you've never been to Nashville, this is the perfect opportunity to pay us a visit!!!! This conference will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. **The theme of the conference is "Open Government - Public Trust and Accountability."** **The brochure and registration information, including on-line registration, are now available on the Nashville Chapter website. [www.nashvilleaga.org](http://www.nashvilleaga.org)**

# CGFM Corner



By Robin McCoy, CGFM Coordinator

## Annual CGFM renewal time!

AGA National is getting ready to send you an annual renewal invoice for your CGFM certification and/or AGA membership. 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](http://www.agacgfm.org)).

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.

Q: What are the requirements for maintaining the CGFM certification?

A: To maintain the designation, a CGFM holder must:

1. Pay the CGFM renewal fee at the beginning of every year.

2. Adhere to the AGA Code of Ethics.

3. Every two years complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) in government financial management topics or related technical subjects (with at least 20 in each year).

4. Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

If you did not renew your CGFM certification last year or have not earned 80 CPE hours in your last two-year CPE cycle, please contact the Office of Professional Certification at 1.800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931), ext. 305.

Q: I just retired. Do I need to do anything to adjust my CGFM status?

A: Yes. If you have recently retired from AND are no longer substantially working in the government financial management community, please notify AGA of your change of status to "retired" by fax (703-562-0361) or email ([agacgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org)).

Should you return to work (substantial employment or contracting) in the government financial management community, please contact AGA to change your CGFM status back to "Active."

## CGFM Updates from Robin McCoy, Coordinator

1. The 2005-2006 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign Continues -- *Go for Growth!* Attention Members who recruit new members also get treated to spectacular prizes in this year's member-get-a-member campaign - Go For Growth! Click here to check the campaign details and begin recruitment today!  
[http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/mem\\_campaign.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/mem_campaign.aspx)

2. This year AGA has introduced a new Intensive Review Course and an opportunity to take the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Examinations at AGA's National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. The cost of the course is only \$195 for qualified participants and it offers 16 CPE hours! Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations taken during this event are free of charge! For registration, eligibility and examination information, please go to [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

3. \*If you are an interested party for a CGFM study group, contact Robin G. McCoy, NOVAGA CGFM Coordinator at [Robin.McCoy@Navy.mil](mailto:Robin.McCoy@Navy.mil).



# Sneak Preview

## Katrina Challenges and Lessons Learned

Wednesday, March 15, 2006 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hilton Alexandria Old Town - 1767 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(across from the King Street metro)



**Who should attend: Auditors, Financial Managers, Internal Control Evaluators**

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The impact of hurricane Katrina brought a new focus on accounting for disasters, natural and unnatural, and continues to present federal managers with changing challenges and new lessons learned as a result of Katrina's aftermath. Participants will hear the latest information on these challenges and changes from key officials and standard setters. These sessions will explore these challenges and changes from a variety of perspectives.

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**SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTER EARLY**

8.5 CPEs

### Registration

Sponsored by:  
**The Northern Virginia Chapter of the  
Association of Government Accountants**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you an AGA member?  Yes  No Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment Information for 8.5 CPEs:

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ \$195 Early Registration by March 1; \$225 Late Registration after March 1 (no later than March 6)

\*\*\*Special volume discount: If an organization registers 10 or more participants at one time, the cost is only \$180 per participant. Discounts are Transferable and Subject to Availability.

Price includes continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshment breaks

Check Enclosed  
 Master Card  Visa  AMEX  Discover Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Register Early! Space is limited!**

Register by mail Mail completed form to:	Or register by fax or email: fax or e-mail completef form to
NOVAGA P.O. Box 44079 Washington, D.C. 20026-4079	Terri Patrizio (202) 512-4624 fax , <a href="mailto:patriziot@gao.gov">patriziot@gao.gov</a> , (202) 512-5386 (telephone # for emergencies) Dennis Green <a href="mailto:Dennis.green@em-i.com">Dennis.green@em-i.com</a> or phone (301)903-2823 or cell( 703)994-1814 )



## *Katrina Challenges and Lessons Learned*

### **DRAFT**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2006 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

7:15 – 8:00 am	Registration & Networking	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	
8:00 – 8:50 am	Keynote: Meeting the Challenges and Changes Resulting from Hurricane Katrina's Impact	<b>The Honorable Richard L. Skinner</b> , Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security	1 CPE
8:50 – 9:45 am	Providing Emergency Assistance While Preventing Waste and Fraud Lessons from Katrina	<b>Michael J. Hettinger</b> , Staff Director, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability, House Committee on Government Reform	1CPE
9:45 – 10:00 am	Break	Refreshments	
10:00 – 11:50 am	Presidential Committee on Integrity and Efficiency Panel:	Panel: <b>Chair, Matthew Jadacki</b> , Assistant Inspector General t, Gulf Coast Hurricane Oversight Office, Department of Homeland Security	2 CPE
11:50 am – 1:00 pm	Luncheon and Speaker OMB Circular A-123: Strengthening Internal Control (will include a 15 minute break to set up for lunch)	<b>Jeffrey C. Steinhoff</b> , Managing Director, Financial Management & Assurance, GAO	.5 CPE
1:00– 1:50 pm	FASAB Changes in Accounting Standards – Now and Later: The speaker will highlight new standards effective in FY2006, preview proposals to change standards and answer questions.	<b>Wendy Comes</b> , Executive Director, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, GAO	1 CPE
1:50– 2:45 pm	Discussion on activity based costing and measurement for disasters	<b>Maria Paz-Barrientos</b> , Partner, IBM Business Consulting Services	1 CPE
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break	Refreshments	
3:00 – 3:50 pm	Impact on Audit Standards - What are Katrina's Effects on the Yellow Book	<b>Jeanette Franzel</b> , Director, Financial Management & Assurance, GAO	1 CPE
3:50- 4:45	Improper Payments	<b>Sally Clark Beecroft</b> , Senior Policy Analyst, Financial Integrity and Analysis Branch, OFFM, OMB	1 CPE
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Patricia Brannin</b>, Assistant Inspector General, Audit Policy and Oversight</li> <li>• <b>Terri Patrizio</b>, Senior Auditor, Financial Management &amp; Assurance, GAO</li> </ul>	

# NOVAGA – Awards Nominations Criteria!

By Katherine Schirano  
NOVAGA Awards Committee Chairman

Criteria for the awards follow:

## Jeffrey Steinhoff Award for Excellence in Federal Financial Management

### Purpose and Overview

- In 2003 the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA instituted the Jeffrey Steinhoff Award to formally recognize federal professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures. The first recipient of the award was Jeffrey Steinhoff, GAO. Last year's recipient was Dennis J. Duquette, HHS.
- The award recognizes the cumulative achievements of federal professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.
- Nominees must be employed by the federal government. Nominees do not have to be members of AGA.
- Individuals or government units may make nominations. Self-nominations are welcome.
- The award will be presented at NOVAGA's annual Awards Dinner Meeting, 19 May 2005.

### Criteria and Evaluation

The Chapter Awards Committee will use the following criteria to evaluate and rank nominees. Therefore, for each key factor listed below, describe in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

1. Contributions to improved federal government services and operations.
2. Demonstrated leadership in federal government programs and the financial management profession.
3. Results (savings, increased productivity, improvements) from applying innovative management techniques.

### Nomination

1. **Nominee Information**  
Formal name with designations (i.e. CGFM, CPA, etc.) as it might appear on an award

Full address  
Phone number and email  
Current Employer  
Title

2. **Award Justification** Discuss in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.
3. **Biographical Sketch of Nominee** List the nominee's education and any other pertinent background information that will assist in evaluating the nominee's achievements.
4. **Citation** For use as the formal award citation, succinctly (using 2-3 sentences) describe the highlights of the accomplishments, particularly impact and results.
5. **Nominator Information** Name of nominator, phone number and Email Address (in case we have questions about your nomination).

### How to Prepare and Submit Your Entry

All nominations should include the nomination information listed above and be submitted electronically to [schiranok@gao.gov](mailto:schiranok@gao.gov). Please include all information in one e-file. If you do not have e-mail capability or have questions about this award, please contact Katie Schirano at 202-512-2562.

### Deadline

Nominations must be received by 1 April 2005. All nominees/nominators will be notified of the Awards Committee's decision no later than May 1, 2005.

**(Continued on next page)**

## NOVAGA Awards Nomination Criteria (cont.)

### Federal Financial Partnership Award

#### Purpose and Overview

In 2003 the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA instituted the Federal Financial Partnership Award to formally recognize private sector individuals who exemplify and promote excellence through outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, innovative management procedures and partnering with the Federal Government. The first recipient of the award was John H. Hummel, KPMG. Last year's recipient was Jeffrey W. Green, Kearney & Company, CPAs.

- The award recognizes the cumulative achievements of private sector professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.
- Nominees must be employed by the private sector. Nominees do not have to be members of AGA.
- Individuals or government units may make nominations. Self-nominations are welcome.
- The award will be presented at NOVAGA's annual Awards Dinner Meeting, 19 May 2005.

#### Criteria and Evaluation

The Chapter Awards Committee will use the following criteria to evaluate and rank nominees. Therefore, for each key factor listed below, describe in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

1. Contributions to improved government services and operations through partnering with the Federal government.
2. Demonstrated leadership in the financial management profession.
3. Results from applying innovative management techniques.

#### Nomination

1. **Nominee Information**  
Formal name with designations (i.e. CGFM, CPA, etc.) as it might appear on an award  
Full address  
Phone number and email  
Current Employer  
Title
2. **Award Justification** Discuss in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.
3. **Biographical Sketch of Nominee** List the nominee's education and any other pertinent background information that will assist in

4. **Citation** For use as the formal award citation, succinctly (using 2-3 sentences) describe the highlights of the accomplishments, particularly impact and results.
5. **Nominator Information** Name of nominator, phone number and Email Address (in case we have questions about your nomination).

#### How to Prepare and Submit Your Entry

All nominations should include the nomination information listed above and be submitted electronically to [schiranok@gao.gov](mailto:schiranok@gao.gov). Please include all information in one e-file. If you do not have e-mail capability or have questions about this award, please contact Katie Schirano at 202-512-2562.

#### Deadline

Nominations must be received by 1 April 2005. All nominees/nominators will be notified of the Awards Committee's decision no later than May 1, 2005.

**Thank you for helping us pay tribute to the best and brightest!**

### The Pentagon Memorial Service Award

#### Purpose and Overview

- The award was established in 2002 in memory of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon. The award formally recognizes public service to our nation in the field of financial management. The first recipient of the award was LTC Christopher Keefer, U.S. Air Force. 2003 Winner was Jim Davis, USAAA; 2004 Winner was COL William M. Landrum III, US Army Finance Command.
- The award recognizes dedication and commitment to improved government operations, financial stewardship and accountability through public service to our nation. Nominees must be a civil servant (federal employee) or a member of the Armed Forces. Nominees do not have to be members of AGA.
- Individuals or government units may make nominations. Self-nominations are welcome.
- The award will be presented at NOVAGA's annual Awards Dinner Meeting, 19 May 2005.

# NOVAGA Awards Nomination Criteria

## The Pentagon Memorial Service Award (cont.)

### Criteria and Evaluation

The Chapter Awards Committee will use the following criteria to evaluate and rank nominees. Therefore, for each key factor listed below, describe in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.

1. Contributions the individual has made to improved government operations, financial stewardship and accountability through public service.
2. Demonstrated leadership in serving our nation through a career in public service.

### Nomination

1. **Nominee Information**  
Formal name with designations (i.e. CGFM, CPA, etc.) as it might appear on an award  
Full address  
Phone number and email  
Current Employer  
Title
2. **Award Justification** Discuss in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination.
3. **Biographical Sketch of Nominee** List the nominee's education and any other pertinent background information that will assist in evaluating the nominee's achievements.
4. **Citation** For use as the formal award citation, succinctly (using 2-3 sentences) describe the highlights of the accomplishments, particularly impact and results.
5. **Nominator Information** Name of nominator, phone number and Email Address (in case we have questions about your nomination).

### How to Prepare and Submit Your Entry

All nominations should include the nomination information listed above and be submitted electronically to [schiranok@gao.gov](mailto:schiranok@gao.gov). Please include all information in one e-file. If you do not have e-mail capability or have questions about this award, please contact Katie Schirano at 202-512-2562.

### Deadline

Nominations must be received by 1 April 2005. All nominees/nominators will be notified of the Awards Committee's decision no later than May 1, 2005.

**Thank you for helping us pay tribute to the best and brightest!**

## Excellence in Accounting Studies: George Mason University

### Purpose and Overview

- This award was established in 2004. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in accounting studies at George Mason University and to encourage participation in a professional organization. This year, we have doubled the scholarship amount and the winner of this award will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a one-year membership to the Association of Government Accountants, Northern Virginia Chapter (NOVAGA). Last year's winner was Nancy Washington.
- Candidates must be a business major at George Mason University and have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The award is based on academic achievements and potential for excellence in the field of accounting or financial management.
- The award will be presented at NOVAGA's annual Awards Dinner Meeting, 19 May 2005.

### Criteria and Selection

The winner of this award will be based on the recommendation of the head of the Business Department of George Mason University. The award will be based on academic achievements and potential for excellence in the field of accounting or financial management.

### Deadline

The Chapter Awards Committee will coordinate with the head of the Business Department at George Mason University to have their recommendation and a citation for the award by 1 April 2005.

## NOVAGA Chapter Service Award

### Purpose and Overview

- This award was established in 2003. The award is given to the individual who contributed the most to the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA during the year. The 2003 recipient of this award was Alice S. Arielly, Army Audit Agency. Last year's recipient was Heather Keister, Naval Audit Service.
- The award will be presented at NOVAGA's annual Awards Dinner Meeting, 19 May 2005.

### Criteria and Selection

The winner of this award is determined by the Chapter President.

### Deadline

The Chapter Awards Committee will coordinate with the Chapter President to have their recommendation and a citation for the award by 1 April 2005.

**Thank you for helping us pay tribute to the best and brightest!**



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Be sure to let us know your correct email address!

Update your member profile on-line with AGA at [www.agacgfm.com](http://www.agacgfm.com) or simply contact our President at [Patricia.Brannin@dodig.mil](mailto:Patricia.Brannin@dodig.mil)

**Newsletter Deadline:**

Deadline for articles for the March Newsletter is **Wednesday, February 22nd.**

Please submit information to our Newsletter Editor at [robyn.n.stanley@usdoj.gov](mailto:robyn.n.stanley@usdoj.gov)  
**We welcome your input!**

Check out our newly revamped website:

[www.novaga.org](http://www.novaga.org)

Contact Webmaster

Heather Keister at [keisterh@gao.gov](mailto:keisterh@gao.gov)  
if have information for the website



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of the Association of Government Accountants

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The NOVAGA is an association with approximately 800 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.