



Northern Virginia Chapter
of the Association of Government Accountants

P.O. Box 44079
Washington, DC 20026-4079

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 5 January 2006

ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

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After Work Good-Time & CPE Event Getting to Audit in DoD 1 CPE

Ron Tollefson,
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense
(Comptroller/Chief Financial
Management)

Wednesday, January 18th
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, Jan 13th
Email or call Karen Ulatowski:
kulatowski@dodig.osd.mil
or call her at 703-604-9169

**Embassy Suites - Old Town
Alexandria
1900 Diagonal Road
Alexandria, VA 22314**

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 and Water Service**

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

Getting to Audit in DOD

To start off the New Year, **Ron Tollefson from DoD’s Office of Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness** will discuss the DoD strategy to produce auditable financial statements. The DoD financial statements for FY 2005 reported \$1.27 trillion in assets and \$1.87 in liabilities. Using an incremental strategy to move toward an unqualified audit opinion, the DoD currently has an unqualified or qualified opinion for 21% of its assets and 77% of its liabilities. Mr. Tollefson will talk about how the DoD is implementing its strategy.

Ron Tollefson, a staff accountant

in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Directorate, has a diversified background in DoD financial management. Before joining the Comptroller, he was an auditor for over nine years with the Office of the Inspector General, DoD. Along with his accounting and auditing experience, he also has DoD budget experience, having been the budget officer for the Air National Guard at the Pentagon, where he managed budget preparation, presentation, and execution for three appropriations.

THE IMPACT OF OMB CIRCULARS A-123 AND

The special half-day educational event on financial reporting requirements was a great success! The charts from various presentations are available on the NOVAGA Website!

Thanks to our specials guests for the great educational session:
Andrew C. Lewis, CPA, Senior Manager at KPMG and Adjunct Professor at

George Washington University, Hal I. Steinberg, CPA, CGFM, Technical Director, AGA and Hal Steinberg, CGFM, Technical Manager at the AGA.

Also, thanks to John Homan, NOVAGA President-elect for planning this outstanding event and to KPMG for hosting the event.

THIS YEAR'S NOVAGA EVENTS

It's time for a brand-new year of "After Work Good-Time and CPE Events." Join your colleagues and friends at the following events *from 5:15 until 7:00*--at the Alexandria Embassy Suites located directly across from the King Street Metro--on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month (unless otherwise noted):

Wednesday, February 15
Congressional Issues - 1 CPE
Embassy Suites, Registration 5:15-6, Meeting 6-7

Wednesday, March 15
NOVAGA All-Day Educational Event – 8 CPEs
Hilton, Alexandria, Virginia

Wednesday, April 19
Professional Etiquette and Dress - 1 CPE
Embassy Suites, Registration 5:15-6, Meeting 6-7

Wednesday, May 17
NOVAGA Annual Awards Banquet – 1 CPE
Embassy Suites

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

I hope all of you had a great holiday season. I am sure by now that we are all getting into our New Year resolutions. Both the NOVAGA Board and I also have a New Year's Resolution - to continue to provide NOVAGA members with the best in programs addressing the challenges facing the financial accountability profession. So be sure to start your year off right by attending the January meeting – hear how DoD is planning to get to audit of its financial statements. I would



Patricia A. Brannin CGFM
President

also like to remind you that other local chapters have events and activities, which you might be interested in. For example, in January, the Montgomery/Prince Georges County Chapter has a networking event and the DC Chapter is hosting a Chinese New Year dinner.

I am looking forward to serving you in the New Year and hope to see you at our events. If you have ideas or questions, please contact me or one of the board members.

Pat

Chapter News

We Welcome New Members !

By Jennifer Trieschman, Membership

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:

Jeffrey Pehl

Iman Aquil, IBM Busines Consulting Services
Croan, Michelle, GSA
Robert Krulevitz, Perot Systems Gov't Services
Nathan Lutz, Deloitte
Jannie McNeil, Leads Corporation
Christopher Staton, CACI

Member Spotlight

Our condolences to Heather Keister on the death of her father

Congratulations to Gene Reardon on his forthcoming retirement from Federal Service February 1

Community Service Spotlight

By Jim Davis
NOVAGA Community Service Chair

At the January 18 meeting, we will welcome Stephanie Thompson from **A Presidential Classroom For Young Americans**, who will benefit from our 50/50 raffle. See spotlights below.

Here's what's coming up:

- January will also kick off the **IRS's Voluntary Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) Training**. The

program runs through April.

- February we will have a speaker from and a raffle benefiting the **USO**.
- In March we will collect pet food for local animal shelters along with canned food items for the Arlington food bank.
- Don't forget the Annual **MS Walk** is April and our featured speaker will be Eileen Ellsworth of the **Northern Virginia Community Foundation**.
- Our May meeting raffle will benefit NCSF at the annual awards luncheon.

Member Services Events

DC Chapter Events

Chinese New Year Dinner – January 21st

DC Member Services in conjunction with Mr. Samuel T. Mok (CFO, Department of Labor) is sponsoring a "Chinese New Year Dinner" at the China Garden Restaurant on Saturday, January 21, 2006, starting at 6 p.m. Join us in this "Year of the Dog" and enjoy a wide variety of delicious Chinese cuisine. All dinners include 2 appetizers, 1 soup, 5 entries, 1 fried rice and 2 deserts. Soft drinks and hot tea are included. We were able to obtain a special price of **\$30.00 per person**. Cash bar is optional. Plenty of complimentary parking is available in the building. Dress is business casual. The China Garden is located at 1100 Wilson Blvd. in Roslyn, (Arlington) Virginia.

If you are interested in attending this activity, please contact the Member Services Director - Karl Boettcher at karl.boettcher@FMS.treas.gov - (202) 874-6131 by Friday, January 13th. See last month's newsletter for more information.

Ski Trip – February 10th

DC Membership Services is sponsoring a regional day ski trip to "Liberty Mountain Resort" on Friday, February 10, 2006. 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;" Complimentary 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 (202) 874-6131. See last month's newsletter for more information.

Montgomery/Prince Georges County Chapter Events

Government Agencies are going through constant changes, especially in this new Millennium. Technology breakthroughs and talented business professionals have paved the way for the future of the Government sector. Innovative ideas, new technology advances and increased manpower are a must during the current growth of the US Government.

The Montgomery / Prince Georges County chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is convening a networking event with useful information you do not want to miss. The event will run from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. featuring employers from IBM, Clifton Gunderson, and KPMG. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided at no cost. The networking event will immediately be followed by our scheduled dinner meeting speaker, Ms. Maria Joyce, Deputy Director, Financial Management Services, Program Support Center, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her topic will be, "The Impact on an Agency of Implementing a New Financial System." There is a \$30 charge for the dinner and you are requested to RSVP to our meetings director, Ed Mendez, listed in our website at www.marylandaga.com/info.html.

The networking event will be focused on individuals interested in doing business or starting a career with the Government. This will be a good opportunity to meet Government employees and private employers/contractors to discuss current needs in the Government, both short-term and long-term goals in the future.

The networking event and meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at the Double Tree Hotel, located at 1750 Rockville Pike in Rockville, MD. Government agencies such as NIH and HHS are located nearby. The hotel is across from the Congressional Shopping Center, and also across the street from the Twinbrook Metro Station on the Red Line. Parking is free in the hotel parking garage or metered on the street behind the hotel. For specific directions or questions about the hotel, you can contact the Double Tree Hotel at 301-468-1100.

We are pleased to extend this invitation to you and hope that you will join us for this fun and informative networking event.

For additional information, please contact me, Roger Pisha at 301-279-3407 or e-mail at roger_pisha@mcpsmd.org.

CGFM Corner

Special from AGA Topics and Robin McCoy



CGFM: Multiple Benefits for Multiple Clients

By: Christina M. Camara

Why become a Certified Government Financial Manager if you don't work for government?

The benefits of earning the CGFM for government finance professionals are well known, but two members of AGA's Corporate Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) recently talked about how the CGFM helps their private sector organizations and the clients they serve.

AGA's CPAG Program, which boasts more than 50 corporate partners, brings together executives from industry and government to exchange problems and solutions, build trust and work together to make government more accountable. One message government executives are hearing is that AGA's CGFM credential is not only a valuable addition to the resumes of government employees, but it also helps professionals at private firms demonstrate their expertise to work on government finance projects. Consider these comments.

Michael T. Smokovich, CGFM, Senior Vice President, Delta Solutions - Having once served as the chief financial officer of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and as a deputy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Smokovich knows what it takes to successfully bring a new financial management solution to a federal agency.

One of the reasons failures occur, Smokovich said, is because the people who are working on the systems "don't understand the playing field they're working in."

"What happens with the CGFM is there's a whole lexicon of terminology and understanding that goes with the federal environment in particular, but also with state and local governments."

"If you go through the process of understanding all the principles, standards, rules and conventions that are made known to people in the certification process, you have a better way of understanding what your clients are saying about their particular financial management problem," he said.

Having CGFMs on the project team is a good marketing tool for the firm and it gives the government clients the confidence that the contractors are speaking the same language.

Smokovich said federal agencies or private firms that contract with government should "buy into" the CGFM. "If you have young people coming into the federal environment or the corporate environment to work with government, it's a good investment."

Ron Smith, CGFM, Vice President of Enterprise Financial Services, Systalex - Smith said government agencies are starting to request CGFMs on project teams contracted to install new financial systems. It is becoming more and more important for the contractors to receive the same training as the financial managers themselves, he said.

"We're moving into an era of what I'll call a 'blended work force,' with the financial functions that were formerly performed by government employees now being done by contractors," said Smith, who has also worked for the federal government before moving to the private sector.

Smith, who has been in the federal financial management consulting business for 30 years, said he is constantly on the lookout for talented systems accountants who are knowledgeable about the federal environment, but it's difficult to find people with a good grasp of federal rules and regulations. The CGFM, he said, is "an indication of a skill set that a person has. It's another measure of their potential value to a project."

To become a CGFM, candidates must have the appropriate education and professional experience and pass three rigorous examinations that cover a broad range of issues in federal, state and local government financial management. For more information about AGA's CGFM Program, go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/cgfmdefault.aspx>. Detailed information about AGA's Corporate Partner Program can be found at <http://rmtrgweb.caci.com/aga/docs/index.cfm>.

FREE CPE OPPORTUNITY!!!!

Provided by Karen Cleary Alderman, Strategic Relationship Management Division, Deloitte and Mia Leswing CPA CGFM CISA

For 2006, Deloitte's Public Sector practice is launching a new series of educational web casts that I thought you might find of interest. The first one, "Building an Internal Control Framework" is of particular relevance given your role (and you can earn CPE credits). If you wish to sign up, see information below. We hope you can join us!

February 9, Thursday, 2:00 PM EST ---- Integrated Service Delivery for Government Agencies: Are We There Yet?

Many federal and state agencies are struggling to develop effective business models for a dynamic and quickly evolving service delivery environment. We'll discuss:

- * Key drivers, including budgetary constraints and changing workforce demographics.
- * Program delivery integration - distribution of programs across organizations (including new management, eligibility, and administration parameters) and logical integration of human and IT resources.
- * Workforce utilization issues, dealing with retiring baby-boomers, and new techniques for attracting younger workers.

Assess where your agency currently stands and discover innovative new ideas for taking your business model to the next level.

Dbriefs offers live webcasts featuring practical knowledge from Deloitte's federal, state, local and non-profit specialists. Plus, for CPA's, earn CPE credit.

Register at <http://deloitte.com>



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Check out our newly revamped website:

www.novaga.org

Contact Webmaster Heather Keister at
keisterh@gao.gov if have information for the website.



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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.