AGA
Northern Virginia Chapter
of the Association of Government Accountants
P.O. Box 44079
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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 1 SEPTEMBER 2005

ABOUT OUR FIRST After-Work Good-Time and CPE Event

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Wednesday
September 21st
Embassy Suites Hotel – Alexandria-Old Town

5:15 pm – 6:00 pm Registration and Refreshments/Networking
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Meeting

Topic:
Building Strong Controls through Risk Management

Pamela Varner, Project Manager
Data Mining Division, DODIG

Cost:

$15 AGA Members
and Non-members
1 CPE

FREE to new and prospective members
(Must RSVP & let us know this is your first meeting)

Please RSVP by Friday, Sept. 16th

Reservations Email Karen Ulatowski:
kulatowski@dodig.osd.mil
or call Karen Ulatowski at 703-604-9169

Embassy Suites Hotel
1900 Diagonal Road
Alexandria, VA 22314

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'oevres, Iced Tea and Water Service
Domestic and imported beers, Copperidge Chardonnay and cabernet wines are available at additional cost.

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Build Strong Controls through Risk Management

Procurement fraud affects both public and private entities and it is often difficult to detect. At the PDC in July, DODIG's Colonel William J. Kelley shared his experiences in detecting and preventing fraud at DODIG.

Join Pamela Varner, Project Manager, Data Mining Division, DODIG, for an update on Col. Kelley's presentation on September 21st at the Embassy Suites.

The division has made great strides in identifying control issues with government purchase, travel, and fuel cards using data mining techniques. The OIG's data mining division was established in January 2002. Ms. Varner's presentation will be both informative and entertaining.

Learn how to better use budget and staff resources by establishing effective review and approval processes to detect inappropriate transactions; implementing innovative monitoring procedures to eliminate fraud and abuse; applying business rules that identify transactions that expose the organization to risk; using data-mining techniques to identify risk and suspicious transactions; and encouraging procurement fraud referrals.

CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY-REVAMPED FRESHLY-UPDATED WEB SITE!

THANKS TO HEATHER KEISTER,OUR NEW WEB MASTER!

WWW.NOVAGA.ORG

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What's Been Happening?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, ORLANDO – 2005

Compiled by NOVAGA Editor from Speaker presentations & input from NOVAGA At-Large Member Alice Arielly. Photos by various AGA members.

James B Davis,Jr. receives a Special Achievement Award from Bobby Derrick, National President

Sunny Orlando was a welcoming sight to NOVAGA Professional Development Conference (PDC) attendees from July 10-13, 2005. The chapter was well represented and exemplified characteristics of a stellar organization by bringing home many awards and taking advantage of the conference to ensure another successful year! Enjoy pictures from four great days of networking, education sessions, brainstorming and fun in the sun.

NOVAGA 2004-2005 President, Jackson Hufnagle accepts the Gold Award recognizing all our chapter accomplished last year from AGA National President, Bobby Derrick

Leadership> Preparing Tomorrow's Accountability Professionals
PDC 2005
July 10-13

Past Newsletter Alice Arielly receives the Award for Honorable Mention of the Chapter Newsletter in Group A category

With the theme **"Leadership > Preparing Tomorrow's Accountability Professionals"** the PDC brought together more than 1,800 professionals from federal, state and local government, as well as private sector leaders, to discuss critical government financial management issues.

Marcia B. Buchanan received an Educator Award from National President Bobby Derrick

Alice Arielly won the coveted Elvis license plate during Art Hayes' Fraud Happens session at the PDC in July 2005.

Karl Boettcher, Washington DC chapter, moderated the SGL Workshop on Sunday

Diane Dudley, Capital Region RVP 04-05, won a Gold Award

Message from the President, September 2005

Good day! And welcome to the 2005-2006 NOVAGA program year! I want to first tell you how pleased I am to be able to serve as your president for the 2005-2006 year. I believe that the AGA is truly the premier organization serving the Government accountability profession and its professionals. In keeping with this, our NOVAGA Chapter can help us all serve the profession better – and have fun at the same time. Times continue to be challenging for our profession and we are working hard to help you meet that challenge. If there is one overriding theme to our program this year, it is **Meeting the Challenges Head On**.

To that end, the NOVAGA Officers and Board of Directors have created a great program for the coming year – interesting topics, community events, and training. We will kick off on September 21 with Pam Varner who will update us developments based on Col. William Kelley's talk at the PDC about Building Strong Controls through Risk Management. Col. Kelley pioneered efforts in developing these controls for DoD purchase cards and travel cards by using data mining techniques to identify the problems. You may have caught his show at the PDC Conference in Orlando, come hear Pam Varner of his office. We hope that you will join us for this very interesting and timely presentation, as well as our planned future events, to gain insight into the challenges facing us as Government accountability professionals and to network with your fellow professionals at the pre-meeting social hour. Our newsletter will also include information on the events for our neighboring AGA chapters, DC and Montgomery/Prince Georges County, and the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors, which can also help you Meet the Challenges Head On.

I want to thank the Officers and Board of Directors who have put our program for this year together. They are an outstanding and enthusiastic group – some have served in the past and some are choosing to support the chapter by serving on the Board for the first time. You will find their names at the back of the newsletter.

Most of all, I want to thank all the members of NOVAGA. Without you there would not be a NOVAGA Chapter. We can develop great programs to meet your needs, but only with input and feedback from you. Please join me in supporting our chapter by coming to the meetings and training sessions, recruiting new members, and giving us your ideas and suggestions to better serve you.

I look forward to seeing all of you during the upcoming year!

Patricia A. Brannin, CGFM
NOVAGA President, 2005-2006

Sneak A Peek at the 2005-2006 NOVAGA Program Year

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 **5:15pm** until **7:00pm –** at the Alexandria Embassy Suites located directly across from the King Street Metro – on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month (unless otherwise noted):

Wednesday, September 21, 2005
Building Strong Controls through Risk Management
Pam Varner - 1 CPE
Embassy Suites, Registration 5:15-6:00pm, Meeting 6:00-7:00pm

Wednesday, October 19, 2005
Lessons Learned from Major IT Modernization Initiatives - 1 CPE
Joint Meeting with Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter, 6:00-8:00pm
Double Tree Inn, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville MD

Wednesday, November 16, 2005
VSCPA Ethics Training - Embassy Suites, Time TBD -2 CPEs
Personal Tax Planning – 1 CPE
Embassy Suites, Registration 5:15-6:00pm, Meeting 6:00-7:00pm

Tuesday, December 13, 2005
Financial Reporting Requirements - OMB Circular A-136 – 4 CPEs
KPMG 2001 M St. Washington DC, Time TBD

Wednesday, January 18, 2006
Getting to Audit in DoD – 1 CPE
Embassy Suites, Registration 5:15-6:00pm, Meeting 6:00-7:00pm

Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Congressional Issues – 1 CPE
Embassy Suites, Registration 5:15-6:00pm, Meeting 6:00-7:00pm

Wednesday, March 15, 2006
NOVAGA All-day Educational Event – 8 CPEs
Hilton, Alexandria VA.

Wednesday, April 19, 2006
Professional Etiquette and Dress – 1 CPE
Embassy Suites, Registration 5:15-6:00pm, Meeting 6:00-7:00pm

Wednesday, May 17, 2006
NOVAGA Annual Awards Banquet, 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

CGFM Page

Prepared and Submitted By Robin G. McCoy, CGFM Coordinator

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation recognizes the unique knowledge and skills of certification holders and has become the mark of excellence in government financial management. Each year the CGFM Program continues to grow and earn greater recognition from federal, state and local government. Virginia is one of seven states that formally recognize the CGFM designation, giving CGFMs preferred status in hiring, making the CGFM a substitute for one year's experience or offering pay increases to those who pass the exam.

So, if you are looking to improve your career opportunities, don't delay any longer. Begin earning your CGFM credential by joining the NOVAGA CGFM study group. If you are interested joining the study group please send you name and e-mail address to NOVAGA CGFM Coordinator, Robin G. McCoy, at Robin.McCoy@Navy.mil. You can obtain more information on the CGFM by going to the AGA website at www.agacgfm.org.

NOVAGA, CGFM Plan for 2005-2006

Activity Description	Milestone	Comments
CGFM Study Groups	September, 2005	Survey interest in newsletter. Plan study group meetings accordingly
CGFM Monthly Updates	September, 2005	Provide monthly updates on CGFM initiatives at chapter meetings and in newsletters via CGFM monthly conference calls and site previews.
Speaker - Regional CGFM Coordinator	November, 2005	Complete overview of CGFM program and initiatives.
Membership Drive	September, 2005	Send out letters to inactive and prospective members highlighting the value of CGFM certification and AGA membership.
CGFM Recognition and Acceptance	December, 2005	Increase formal recognition and acceptance of the CGFM credential in the state of Virginia (D.C. Metro. Area).

National Says Now Is the Time to Apply for Your CGFM

Compiled by NOVAGA Editor

Have you been thinking about applying for the CGFM Program? Have you been talking to a colleague who is "thinking about" applying for the CGFM?

Now is the time! From September 1 until November 30, 2005, AGA National will give a refund of $20 to CGFM applicants that meet the following requirements:

1. The complete CGFM application (application form, $85 application fee and proof of a bachelor's degree) must be received by the AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of September 1 through November 30, 2005.
2. The CGFM application form must have the promotional phrase: "**CGFM chapter promotion – Northern VA**" written at the bottom of the form (under the source code). If the application is submitted online, the applicant must put this phrase in the last question: "How did you learn about the CGFM Program?"

Important notes:

- A full application fee of $85 must be paid at the time of application. The $20 refund check will be sent to the applicant by mail in January.
- The applicant must put the words "**CGFM chapter promotion – Northern VA**" on the application form in order to receive the discount.
- It is preferable that the applications are submitted by the applicants themselves and not by the chapter. The applicant does not have to be a chapter member in order to receive the discount.

But that is not all...

Our chapter will receive 50 BONUS CREDITS (Chapter Recognition Points) for every application that lists the Northern VA chapter in the promotional phrase! PLUS the chapter that is listed on the most applications submitted in the three-month period of September-November 2005 will also receive $20 for each application!

The CGFM application form can be found on http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMapplicationform.pdf.

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

Get maximum exposures by placin 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.

Chapter News

Welcome New Members!

Compiled by NOVAGA Editor
from AGA National Information

We invite our new members to attend our monthly chapter meeting. NOVAGA pays for its new members' first home meeting (you must RSVP & let us know it's your first 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 for July:

- Mr. Steven C. Campbell
- Mr. Dev Chadha
- Mr. Shawn Coutu
- Mr. Shaun McNamara
- Ms. Theresa Patrizio
- Mrs. Helen J. Scheidemann

Amelia (Mia) Leswing CPA CGFM CISA
Partner, Clifton Gunderson LLP and **Kelly Stefanko, Regional Officer,** welcome RCOW attendees
May 14, 2005

RCOW Gets New Officers and Board Ready for Next Year's Challenges

Pictures and slides by Alice Arielly, At-Large member

Attendees at the 2005 RCOW soak up new tips and tidbits presented by chapter and regional officers and board members

This year's Regional Chapter Officers Workshop on May 14, 2005 proved to be a wealth of information for incoming 2005-2006 officers and board members and a great refresher for returning officers and board members.

The workshop is an opportunity to get acquainted or reacquainted with the AGA organization structure, different programs and offerings, and all aspects of running a meeting awarding members for accomplishments and everything else that contributes to making the year a success.

Julie Bryant presents information on the CEAR/SEA Program

Community Service Spotlight

By Jim Davis
NOVAGA Community Service Director

Community Service Events For NOVAGA For 2005—2006

"To Promote Public & Community Service"

September 21st Dave Styers of the Points of Light Foundation, Inc. & Raffle

November 16th Tom Meagher, VITA Speaker/Collecting Toys for Tots

January 2006 VITA Training (VITA Program is January - April)

January 18th Stephanie Thompson, A Presidential Classroom For Young Americans, Inc. & Raffle

February 15th Speaker/Raffle for USO

March 15th Collect canned food items for Arlington Food Bank

April MS Walk

April 19th Eileen Ellsworth, Northern Virginia Community Foundation & Raffle

May 17th Raffle at Awards Banquet to benefit NCSF

AGA Gives to Hurricane Katrina Survivors

The AGA National Office announced a major Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort on September 2, 2005, which affected an entire region of the nation, and personally hit home for many AGA chapters and members.

The National Office will be distributing donations to AGA chapters in affected regions and is still urgently calling on AGA members to donate to the AGA Hurrican Relief Fund, which will aid AGA members in need. The AGA is requesting that checks be made payable to AGA, note "Hurricane Relief Effort" in the memo and send them to AGA, 2208 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-1314. Interested parties with questions should call the AGA National Office at 800-242-7211.

News reports from the AGA National Office include real stories of AGA members from AGA chapters in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Jackson, Mississippi. As of September 12, 2005, reports online at the agacgfm.org website did not include any reports of loss of life and all reports were positive in some form or fashion, with everyone recognizing how fortunate they are to still have family and be alive and well. One member commented on his amazement at how people from so many different walks of life can come together to serve the community.

Much damage still remains, vast amounts of people and families are without basic needs and homes, but together, through giving, of ourselves, of our time, of our resources – we can build up the strength and rebuild the spirit that thrived in that Katrina region before the devastation.

Give today!!!!

Capital Region Events

Special email from Marguerite Nealson, DC AGA chapter and region newsletter editors.

Oktoberfest on October 29, 2005

The AGA Washington Chapter, Member Services in partnership with the Baltimore Chapter is sponsoring an "Oktoberfest" at Blobs Park on Saturday, October 29, from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Come and enjoy the "Gemutlichkeit" with German food, drink and dancing along with the entertainment provided by the original Bavarian dance club (Schuhplattler Verein) starting at 7 p.m. and the Rheinlander's Polka band starting at 8 p.m. The Blobs Park Pavilion is located in Jessup Maryland just off the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and RT 175E on Blobs Park Road. Admission at the door is $7.00 per person and $11.00 for the all you can eat traditional German buffet, including bratwurst, sauerbraten, dumplings, sauerkraut, and red cabbage along with roast beef or ham. Traditional American menu selections are also available. Drinks and deserts are extra. The charge for children 5 to 12 is ½ the price and no charge for children under 5.

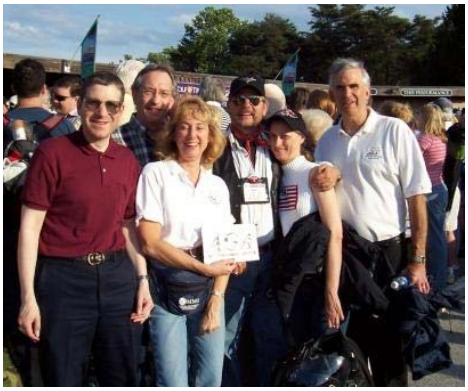
Send your electronic response or direct any questions to karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202-874-6131).

Visit the National Zoological Park

AGA Washington DC Member Services in partnership with the Northern Virginia and Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapters are sponsoring a "Tour of the Smithsonian's Zoological Park" on Sunday, November 6. We will meet at the visitor's center (Connecticut Avenue entrance) by 1:30 p.m. Animal buildings are open until 4:30 p.m. This will give us three hours to visit with the animals, and browse the gift and bookshop.

AGA members will be able to enjoy a soft drink and a snack compliments of our S**ponsors.** The Zoo is accessible via the red line - Woodley Park –Zoo metro stop.Ample parking should be available in parking lot "A" for a $5 fee. There is no charge for entrance to the Zoo. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes. If you are interested in this activity, please let usknow.

Send your electronic response or direct any questions to karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov (202-874-6131). For more information, you can also contact the Zoo at (202-673-4800).



AGA Members enjoy at Day at Wolf Trap National Park this May.

Washington DC Chapter

Compiled by NOVAGA Editor
From Washington DC Chapter Web Site & Newsletter

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 ther upcoming events.

The AGA Washington DC will once again host a series of monthly luncheons featuring a prominent speaker to address current events, issues, and initiatives that impact the government financial community. The theme of this year's series is "Getting to Green, and Everything In Between!" We are honored to feature Dr. Linda Combs as our kickoff speaker at our first luncheon on Wednesday, September 14th. Here are the dates for the other speaker luncheons:

Thursday, October 13, 2005
Thursday, December 8, 2005
Thursday, January 19, 2005
Thursday, February 16, 2005
Thursday, March 16, 2005
Thursday, May 18, 2005

The AGA DC chapter also has other socials and events planned throughout the year. Please check the website for more details.

Montgomery/Prince Georges County Chapter

Compiled by NOVAGA Editor
From Montgomery/PG County Chapter Web Site

Meeting Plan for FY 2005 – 2006
Meeting Location: Double Tree Inn (1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-468-1100)
Time: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. (approximate ending time)
Dinner is $30
Visit the Montgomery/Prince Georges chapter's Web site at http://www.marylandaga.com to learn about ther upcoming events.

Meeting Date	Speaker	Subject
September 14, 2005	Larry Neff, Deputy CFO Department of Transportation	DOT's strategy for implementing a COTS-based financial mgmt. system and for standardizing and consolidating accounting operations.
October 19, 2005 JOINT MTG w/ NOVAGA	**Laurance Alvarado, Managing Director, Bearing Point**	**Lessons Learned from Major IT Modernization Initiatives**
November 9, 2005	Dr. Marshall Spatz, Budget Director, Montgomery County Public Schools	Impact of Federal No Child Left Behind Legislation
January 11, 2006	Maria Joyce, Deputy Director, PSC, FMS	
February 8, 2006	Marcia Buchanan, Assistant Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO	
March 8, 2006	Sandy Weisman, CFO Department of Interior National Business Center	
April 19, 2006		
May 17, 2006	AGA National President, Sam McCall	Award Ceremony

NOVAGA 2005-2006 Officers and Directors

Welcome to This Year's Board

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Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for articles for the October Newsletter is **September 23**

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

We welcome your input!

AGA™
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

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or Phone 703-604-9169

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.