

The Indy Observer

~For the Indianapolis Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants~



January 2011

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last months Holiday luncheon was very enjoyable for all as our banquet room was full with members from AGA and ASMC. The Lawrence Central Sound choir entertained those in attendance and our AGA and ASMC chapter representatives were able to provide a number of prizes. It is great that we can come together for a festive afternoon and take some time to enjoy the holiday spirits.

Our community service events were huge last month as members donated 15 bags of gifts for the Angel Tree, 3 bags of food, 3 bags of candy and \$550 in gift cards for the families we supported. IPS #105 thanked everyone from the bottom of their hearts!!!! Not only were we able to provide gifts for the 3 families; the gift cards will be used to support 15 or so families that the social worker was unable to refer to organizations like AGA, Damien center, etc.

We also provided one educational training event thru the audio program sponsored by AGA as our December training covered the "Role of Governance, Risk and Compliance in Improving Operations". We have two events planned in January titled, "Needles in a Haystack - Data Mining & Predictive Analytics to Prioritize Leads & Highlight Risk for Investigators & Auditors, and "Are We Winning the Improper Payments Battle".

I want to thank our Corporate Sponsors "Becker, Finance Center Federal Credit Union, and Booz Allen Hamilton" for their support as they are helping us provide the additional training opportunities for our members in Indianapolis.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the AGA Wellness Committee has challenged ASMC to a program-year wellness challenge and we need your help for AGA to win this challenge. Talk to Charlie Pollis or Shane Douglas if you have questions about our wellness events.

Greg Schmalfeldt, CPA
President
AGA, Indianapolis Chapter



The deadline for submitting articles and updates for the next newsletter is:

January 31

Please email submissions to
Anne Ulrich at
anne.ulrich@dfas.mil or
Heather Crews at
heather.crews@dfas.mil.

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GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS CAN BOOST YOUR CAREER

NOVEMBER 29TH, 2010
FEDERALTIMES.COM

Just as the mantra of real estate is “location, location, location,” the mantra of the federal sector should be “relationships, relationships, relationships.”

Here are some ways to strengthen your business relationships and reputation:

- **Treat everyone well.** No matter where in the hierarchy you are, and no matter how much you dislike or disrespect other individuals, treat everyone with courtesy and respect. You will look best by taking the high road, and you never know if another professional has the ear of a manager whose support you may need.

For example, I am aware of numerous job hunters who either sabotaged or improved their prospects depending on the way they treated their interviewer’s secretary.

- **Carve out time daily to improve your professional relationships.** As one Senior Executive Service member advises, “Take time every day to interact more than superficially with supervisors and colleagues within and outside of your agency. Promote the free flow of information and always tell the truth — even if it is painful.” He continues: “Executives always have tough decisions to make. If your relationships are not strong when you make them, you will be dead in the water.”

- **Focus on your strengths.** Even while you build skills, your priority should be to keep improving the skills that distinguish you from others and that provide the foundation for your reputation. It will be easier for you to sell yourself, and leaders will be more likely to tap you, if you emphasize particular strengths that are not possessed by others.

- **Seek opportunities to lead.** Volunteer to lead projects, organize training or other events, and bring in speakers. Also, broaden your reputation by pursuing opportunities to work with others at your own or higher levels in other organizations and agencies.

I know an employee who, when a midlevel fed, was assigned to be her agency’s Combined Federal Campaign representative. At first, she resented it because it took time away from her other assignments. But once she realized that the CFC assignment was helping her culti-

vate high-level contacts that she otherwise would not have generated, she came to appreciate it.

- **Learn about the federal budget.** This is a must if you hope to one day join the SES. Gain a full, 360-degree perspective — both that of managers of federal agencies and of legislators on Capitol Hill.

As one executive says, “SESers need an overarching knowledge of how the federal government works and to be intellectually nimble enough to move from agency to agency and manage agencies that address varied issues. Doing so requires a basic knowledge of how federal budgets are set.”

You may learn about the federal budget by landing detail assignments that address budget issues in your agency or in Congress. Also, consider taking courses on federal budgeting at the USDA Graduate School, the Federal Executive Institute and local universities.

- **Exit gracefully.** Last impressions often leave lasting impressions. If you leave your job with loose ends, unfinished assignments and unfulfilled commitments, your last-minute irresponsibility — no matter how time-pressured you may be — may overshadow the years of hard work and dedication that preceded it.

So, before you give notice on a job, list obligations that need your attention and list documents that should be handed over to your successor. Shortly after you give notice, review the list with your supervisor. If you won’t have time to complete the list, prioritize and devise a plan B with your supervisor. On your last day, give a copy of the to-do list to your supervisor, with each item checked off or alternative provisions for it notated.



Call for Academic Scholarship Applications

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!



Each year, AGA National awards:

- ◆ Up to four \$3000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- ◆ Up to one \$1000 part-time merit scholarship to AGA members and their family members, and
- ◆ Up to one \$3000 community service scholarship

The deadline to submit applications is March 31, 2011. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership!

Visit this link for more information and links to applications: <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/>

AGA ANGEL TREE

The AGA Angel Tree was a huge success. We collected enough gifts to fill 15 garbage bags, making a great Christmas for three families with children at IPS #105. We also received three gift bags of food and three gift bags of candy for the families. We collected gift cards totaling \$550 which will be used to support other families that the social worker at the school was unable to find assistance for.

Thanks so much for all of your help in brightening the days of our local children!





AGA's Audio Conference Schedule for 2010–2011

The audio conferences are routinely held on Wednesdays from 2–3:50 p.m. Eastern Time, unless otherwise noted. Please check the AGA website before each audio conference to ensure there were no changes.

SCHEDULE:

DEC. 8: Internal Control and Risk Assessment—Thoughts from SAS 109 and 115

DEC. 15: GRC—Governance, Risk and Compliance

JAN. 19: Improper Payments

FEB. 2: Internal Controls

MARCH 2: Auditing Tools

MARCH 23: Improving Performance Reporting

APRIL 20: Fraud

MAY 18: Ethics

JUNE 8: Internal Controls



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ashriner@becker.com

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NATIONAL PDC DETAILS

Mark your calendar for **July 10–13, 2011** and make plans to join us in Hotlanta for AGA's 60th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)—*the* premier education and networking event for government financial managers and accountability professionals. The theme for this year's conference is "Celebrating Our Past, Embracing the Future."

The PDC is the authoritative source for the knowledge and contacts you need to succeed in today's constantly changing environment. Offering 24 CPE hours, the conference covers the latest research and information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the constantly changing rules and standards, new management techniques, technological advances and practical tips for bringing greater efficiency to government operations. The PDC offers a comprehensive program, captivating speakers, lively discussions, top-quality education sessions, and equips you with knowledge and skills you need to be a more effective leader.

Please visit the PDC website for more information. <http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2011/index.htm>

CEC MINUTES – NOVEMBER 15, 2010

ATTENDEES: Greg Schmalfeldt, Donna Cox, Audra Pera, Meg Hart, Tom Spahr, Dan Neumann, Melissa Jacobs, Sam Graham, Andrew Tyler, Mary Carson, Jeannie Allen, Charlie Pollis

OPENING REMARKS

President – Greg Schmalfeldt

NONE

SECRETARY NOTES

Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM)

What is it? The SLM is designed to bring national, sectional, regional and chapter leaders together with AGA National Office staff to discuss the following objectives:

- ◆ AGA's national direction and initiatives
- ◆ Expectations of our national, regional and chapter leaders
- ◆ Ways to improve services to current members and recruit new members and leaders
- ◆ How to access information to be a more effective leader

Who's invited? Regional Vice Presidents, Regional Vice President-Elects and Regional Vice President-Elect Designates Regional Coordinators for Chapter Development and Assistance, Membership/Early Careers, CGFM and Education who are not in the last year of their term Chapter President-Elects. Three additional incoming Chapter Executive Committee Chairs. These attendees can be whomever the chapter feels would benefit the most from attending a SLM. Suggestions include: Membership or Early Career Chair, CGFM Chair and Education Chair. In Philadelphia on April 28-30. RSVP by March 4, 2011 with form to National Office. Travel costs covered by AGA

TREASURER NOTES

Treasurer – Maranda Summers

December Net Worth - \$39,123.62

COMMITTEE NOTES

CGFM Coordinator – Tom Spahr/Dan Neumann

- ◆ 10 applications submitted to national in December to open CGFM testing windows
- ◆ 5 new sets anticipated in January
- ◆ Two study groups still in progress update on my Module 3 group
- ◆ Six weeks left will be done the first week of March 4-6 people in class

Community Service – Katie Buck/Brandi Hobson

Upcoming event: DVD/CD drive for soldiers Jan/Feb TBD

Corporate Sponsorship Committee – Jamie Whitman/Andrew Tyler/Jeanie Allen

Credit Union (FCFCU) came on as Bronze Corporate Sponsor for AGA and ASMC. Discuss our obligations to our Sponsors (recognition at events, newsletter, website, etc)

Education Committee – Megan Nethery/Audra Pera/Camille Schultz

Please note the location of the two upcoming Audio Conferences Audio Conference on Wednesday, January 12 will take place in the west auditorium. Audio Conference on Wednesday, January 19 will take place in conference room 218H

Incentive Points Committee – Melissa Jacobs

Discuss how we're going to do the PDC drawing in April; specifically who will NOT be in the drawing Melissa recommends President, President-Elect, Committee Chair, and all other SES be removed from the drawing. Melissa will promote incentive points and PDC at April Luncheon. PDC early registration is in June.

Meeting Arrangements Committee – Tamra Vincent

Feb and Mar luncheons—February Luncheon is joint with ASMC; Mr. Gustafson is the speaker and topic is TBD March Luncheon is on the 17th and booked at the Garrison; Mr. Bergmeyer will speak on Audit Readiness April meeting

Joint Chapter meeting—Considering Morty's Comedy Club like last year. Have not heard from other chapters on location but last year they mentioned having it downtown which may result in parking costs that could inhibit participation **Programs Committee** – Meg Hart/Shane Douglas/Jeanie Allen

April Meeting—Topic is ACAA; Audits and Their Environment. Meg asks if we should consider offering CPEs at Luncheons. In order to earn CPEs you must have 50 minutes of material presented without food present which would increase the length of the event to 2hrs. Results in compressed networking time. Melissa notes that offering two different prices, one for CPEs and one for lunch, as well as DFAS allotted training time leads to luncheons with CPEs being successful. Greg asked how this would affect our Chapter points with National. Donna notes that we max out on educational points submitted to National each year as it is Audio conferences provide high CPEs available to chapter despite non CPE luncheons Greg recommends we stick with normal luncheons for now.

Wellness Committee – Charlie Pollis, Marilyn McGee & Brooke Moore

Agency having contest between sites; check the Daily News. HCA conversation continued from last month. They schedule them for 8am-9am and they can only do 4 to 5 a day so sign up now. Biggest Loser—25 AGA members involved in initial weigh-in. Wellness presentation January 14th by J. Spencer Milus, RN. Click link below for the briefing charts of the featured speaker, Spencer Milus. Please take a moment and read through them, you will come across some really good takeaways. [DFAS Wellness Presentation](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Sam Graham introducing funding and the PDC as funding is tight internal to DFAS. AGA may send 2 people and Sam recommends discussing with Bruce Paul Greg says AGA is in a position to offset price for PDC by ~\$50. Donna suggest we send more to locale than Nat'l. PDC; locale is cheaper and thus can benefit more people and suggests people submit names into a drawing to ensure only those interested are considered. Greg likes the local idea and recommends drawing 5 AGA/5ASMC in the joint April meeting and sending them to the local for ~\$30-\$40 a head

ADJOURN: 8:45AM



Wiki Leaks

The recent disclosure of U.S. Government documents by WikiLeaks has resulted in damage to our national security. Each federal employee and contractor is obligated to protect classified information pursuant to all applicable laws, and to use government information technology systems in accordance with agency procedures so that the integrity of such systems is not compromised.

Unauthorized disclosures of classified documents (whether in print, on a blog, or on websites) do not alter the documents' classified status or automatically result in declassification of the documents. To the contrary, classified information, whether or not already posted on public websites or disclosed to the media, remains classified, and must be treated as such by federal employees and contractors, until it is declassified by an appropriate U.S. Government authority.

Federal employees and contractors therefore are reminded of the following obligations with respect to the treatment of classified information and the use of non-classified government information technology systems:

- Except as authorized by their agencies and pursuant to agency procedures, federal employees or contractors shall not, while using computers or other devices (such as Blackberries or Smart Phones) that access the web on non-classified government systems, access documents that are marked classified (including classified documents publicly available on the WikiLeaks and other websites), as doing so risks that material still classified will be placed onto non-classified systems. This requirement applies to access that occurs either through agency or contractor computers, or through employees' or contractors' personally owned computers that access non-classified government systems. This requirement does not restrict employee or contractor access to non-classified, publicly available news reports (and other non-classified material) that may in turn discuss classified material, as distinguished from access to underlying documents that themselves are marked classified (including if the underlying classified documents are available on public websites or otherwise in the public domain).
- Federal employees or contractors shall not access classified material unless a favorable determination of the person's eligibility for access has been made by an agency head or the agency head's designee, the person has signed and approved non-disclosure agreement, the person has a need to know the information, and the person has received

contemporaneous training on the proper safeguarding of classified information and on the criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions that may be imposed on an individual who fails to protect classified information from unauthorized disclosure.

- Classified information shall not be removed from official premises or disclosed without proper authorization.
- Federal employees and contractors who believe they may have inadvertently accessed or downloaded classified or sensitive information on computers that access the web via non-classified government systems, or without prior authorization, should contact their information security offices for assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation, and for your vigilance to these responsibilities.

DFAS site Security Specialist contact information can be found on the ePortal Force Protection community page:

<https://eportal.dfas.mil/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=656&PageID=0&parentname=Login&parentid=1&cached=true&mode=2&userID=444240>

ABOUT THE OBSERVER

The Observer is AGA-Indianapolis Chapter's monthly newsletter which covers member and association activities on both the chapter and national levels. *The Observer* features developments within the profession, chapter news, and articles of interest to members. Opinions and beliefs expressed in *The Observer* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the association. We welcome and encourage members to send us original or reproduced articles that may be of interest to our members for publication in our newsletter.



Indianapolis Chapter Directory

2010-2011 Officers, Board Members , &
Committee Chairs

Position	Name	Term	Phone	Email
President	Greg Schmalfeldt	2010-2011	317-212-5858	greg.schmalfeldt@dfas.mil
President-Elect	Laura Jankovich	2010-2011	317-212-7084	laura.jankovich@dfas.mil
Treasurer	Maranda Summers	2010-2011	317-212-7471	maranda.summers@dfas.mil
Treasurer-Elect	Jose Munguia	2010-2011	317-212-5659	jose.munguia@dfas.mil
Secretary	Jessica Wisler	2010-2011	317-212-2647	jessica.wisler@dfas.mil
Previous President	Michele Gomez	2010-2011	317-212-7493	michele.gomez@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Donna Cox	2010-2013	317-212-3022	donna.cox@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Nate Pierce	2010-2013	317-212-3892	nate.pierce@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Sam Graham	2008-2011	317-212-7851	sam.graham@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Edmie Castillo	2008-2011	317-212-1398	edmie.castillo@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Neil Anderson	2009-2012	317-212-7697	neil.anderson@dfas.mil
3 Year Board Member	Melissa Jacobs	2009-2012	317-212-1901	melissa.jacobs@dfas.mil

Committee	Chair	Co-Chair	Phone	Email
Awards	Shane Douglas		317-212-1933	shane.douglas@dfas.mil
Citizen Centric	Terri Droeger		317-212-3875	terri.droeger@dfas.mil
Community Service	Katie Crist / Rob Duncan	Brandi Hobson	317-212-6520	katie.crist@dfas.mil
Corporate Sponsorship	Jeannie Allen	Jamie Whitman	317-212-7830	jeannie.allen@dfas.mil
Early Careers	Jamie Whitman		317-212-0066	jamie.whitman@dfas.mil
Education	Megan Nethery	Audra Pera; Camille Schultz	317-212-3264	megan.nethery@dfas.mil
Meeting Arrangements	Tamra Vincent	Katherine Dallas	317-212-6138	tamra.vincent@dfas.mil
Membership	Kelly Wagenmaker		317-212-3487	kelly.wagenmaker@dfas.mil
Newsletter	Anne Ulrich	Heather Crews	317-212-7370	anne.ulrich@dfas.mil
Programs	Meg Hart	Shane Douglas	317-212-4233	meg.hart@dfas.mil
Social	Amanda Illg	Sarah Pank	317-212-1412	amanda.illg@dfas.mil
Wellness	Charlie Pollis	Marilyn McGee	317-212-7404	charles.pollis@dfas.mil
CGFM	Tom Spahr	Dan Neumann	317-212-6880	thomas.spahr@dfas.mil
Chapter Recognition	Kim Mitzner		317-212-5025	kimberly.mitzner@dfas.mil
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VITA	Jayne VanHorn	Sylvia Cornelius	317-212-6369	jayne.vanhorn@dfas.mil
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