

## Chapter President's Message

*Happy New Year to all of you with a fiscal year beginning on October 1!*

*It was wonderful to see so many of you at the September meeting and Ms. Barbara Carraway, Chesapeake City Treasurer, made it worth the trip. I lived in Chesapeake and I admit I learned a tremendous amount about the Treasurer's Office and how the local government survives! The meeting started five minutes late and we finished up five minutes early! Each of the attending board members made a report on their area of responsibility. We had a wonderful meal chosen by Darcea Johnson, who is working hard to make sure we have a place to go and good food to eat when we get there, and she efficiently collects our money and provides receipts! Thank you Darcea!*

*At the end of the meeting, we had a short board meeting (quorum confirmed) in order to vote on purchasing a QuickBooks program and laptop computer for the chapter. This purchase will enable us to: (1) record our accounting records, (2) process credit card charges internally, (3) have records which can transfer intact from one year to another, (4) load programs for meetings and PDCs (which can then be loaded onto the website), and (5) do many other things like make nametags. We were paying 5% to have the charges processed by another chapter – with this new capability, we will pay 2%. For the Spring PDC alone, at 5%, we paid out \$1,225 for credit card processing fees. At 2% it would have only cost us \$490. For an investment estimated at \$600, the savings for one PDC alone would have been \$735, the savings alone will make it worthwhile. The board voted unanimous to approve the purchase.*

*I have been amazed at the number of people wanting to volunteer! Come one – come all! We love having your help (and it is good training)! Planning for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic PDC is well underway and information should be coming out soon! I am impressed with the lineup which is forming. Tanya Renica, (Immediate Past President), is reaching out and touching people to be a part of the program and doing a wonderful job! Thank you for all your help Tanya! I am sure Dave Sweeney, Director of Education, is very grateful for your assistance too!*

*I am passionate about the chapter and the members who are a part of it. YOU ALL MAKE ME PROUD! Until next month...*

**Donna L. Miller, MSAC**  
**President**  
**AGA VA Peninsula Chapter**



**Chapter President**  
**Donna Miller**

### NEXT MEETING

**October 15**

**Bring a guest for FREE this month!** We will have paper applications on hand at the meeting and the first 5 non-members to sign up for membership, with a check in hand, will get a \$20 discount.

**Location:**  
Embassy Suites, Hampton

**Time:**  
11:30 – 1:00

**Featuring:**

**Jay Meriwether**, Director of Internal Audit at Booz Allen. His primary responsibility is managing a risk based internal audit program. Before joining Booz Allen, he was at Arthur Anderson for 32 years, 20 as a partner. He has extensive knowledge of internal audit, process controls (i.e., Sarbanes Oxley), mergers & acquisitions, initial public offerings, and SEC reporting requirements

**One CPE**

Lunch will feature herb roasted chicken breast encrusted w/garlic and fresh herbs

**\$10 members**

**RSVP by Oct 12<sup>th</sup> to**

**Darcea Johnson at**  
[darcea.johnson@navy.mil](mailto:darcea.johnson@navy.mil)

Upcoming meetings:  
November 19 (Founder's Inn)

There will be no monthly meeting in December due to the chapter's professional development conference December 3 – 4 at the Williamsburg Hospitality House.

# Meeting Recap

## Chesapeake Gets Its Money's Worth with Carraway Collecting

By Maria Walters



*Barbara Carraway addresses the crowd at the Virginia Peninsula's first monthly luncheon of the year.*

The nearly 50 attendees at the chapter's first meeting, September 24, were treated to an inside look at what fellow member and Chesapeake City Treasurer, Barbara Carraway, does for a living. The City Treasurer's office, which is partially funded by the state, has the responsibility to collect local taxes and Ms. Carraway does that and more, overseeing collections of nearly every kind of city revenue, from water bills, to parking tickets, even library fines! The Treasurer's Office uses a central invoice system that all city departments use and she has assigned each branch office an area of delinquent receivables to follow up on during their down time. They make use of a variety of different collection tools, such as liens and DMV holds, to collect outstanding debts. She is extremely proud of the high collection rates Chesapeake has achieved, especially since the city's revenue, like others, have been impacted by the national economic conditions. In Chesapeake:

- Sales of homes have dropped and are slowly improving this year. July sales were a bright spot when sales rose more than expected due to the first time buyer's tax credit.
- Revenue from home assessments fell due to falling home prices. Home prices are likely to fall for the next year, and then stabilize, with a rebound in 2012. The falling prices are partially due to foreclosures and short sales.
- Revenue for personal property tax has declined due to fewer new vehicles being purchased.
- Both the Business, Professional and Occupational License and sales tax revenue have declined.
- Meal and lodging taxes have been holding their own.

In order to accommodate the reduced revenue, City departments have had to make the following adjustments:

- 8% reduction in their base budget
- No salary increases for FY09/10
- Hiring freezes
- 5 offices partially/fully funded by the State face additional budget cuts.

Ms. Carraway talked about the federal stimulus funds Chesapeake has received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including summer youth programs, homeless prevention, SNAP (food stamps) and 8 public works programs. She noted the extensive reporting requirements for funds received under the program with quarterly reports due 10 days after they close the quarter (additional information is available at [www.stimulus.virginia.gov](http://www.stimulus.virginia.gov).)



*Members Jesse Hughes and Ray Reyes (above) and Patricia White, Wanda Witherspoon, and Darryl Carver (below) take it all in.*



*The speaker enjoys lunch with Maria Walters and Joy Leyeza*



# Membership



## Bring a Guest for Free to Our October Luncheon

PLEASE bring a guest to our next monthly luncheon on October 15<sup>th</sup>! Guests may attend our October meeting for **no charge**. All of the usual perks of attending our monthly gathering are included, such as networking, lunch, and an hour of CPE. Consider bringing your boss as your guest, which is a great way for them to see the educational and professional development benefits offered by our chapter. Help get the word out about AGA and bring a guest to our October monthly luncheon!

## Attend a Chapter Luncheon and Your Next One Might Be Free

In addition to professional development and networking, we hold monthly door prize drawings at our meetings. Every person in attendance is eligible for the drawing. The door prize is a free admission for a future monthly luncheon during the 2009-2010 program year. Congratulations to Joy Leyeza from USCG for winning the monthly door prize at our September luncheon!

## Sponsor a New Member Challenge is Underway

The "Sponsor a New Member Challenge" continues. All members are encouraged to participate and personally reach out to potential members during the year. The member who sponsors the most new members from September 2009 to March 2010, will win a free AGA membership for the 2010-2011 program year. To get credit for sponsoring a new member, be sure the new members you recruit include your name and AGA member ID in the sponsor section on their membership application. The winner of this challenge will be announced at the April monthly meeting. It is not necessary to be present to win but the winner's membership status must be current. Good luck!

## Calling All Walkers, Runners and Pizza Lovers

It is not too late to sign up for ODU's Department of Accounting 5K! The annual run and walk through campus is Sunday, October 18. The race starts at 1:30 at the corner of Powhatan Ave and 48th. [Click here](#) for complete registration information and race details. Have questions? Contact [Ellen Silvela](#)

## Come Ride the Ghost Train!

Fall is now upon us and so is our next emerging leader event. The October event will be a ride on the [Ghost Train](#) in Northwest River Park (located in Chesapeake) on Saturday, October 24th at 8:30pm. The cost is \$9.50 per person.

The Ghost Train is a half-hour ride through the haunted woods of Northwest River Park. The scene is set by an eerie introduction to the spooky adventure which awaits you in the dark of the park. You are then boarded onto the Northwest River Park Ghost Train (hay carts, with built in benches), and the journey begins. As you wind deeper and deeper into the woods, a storyteller spins a ghoulish tale which unfolds in unexpected ways and in various locations.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [Allison Shoemaker](#) by Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> and include the number of people in your group so she can purchase the tickets in advance, on October 12<sup>th</sup>, through the City of Chesapeake at \$9.50 per person.



*The weather couldn't have been better September 12th for the Bicycle Ride for Fun & Networking event. Above, Emerging Leaders Director Allison Shoemaker (on right) gets ready to take on the Cape Henry bike trail with a friend.*

## Member News

Chapter member **Dr. Jesse Hughes** is working with the government internal auditors in Moldova (a country in Eastern Europe, between Romania and Ukraine), teaching them about the internal audit process and the content of audit files. To assist in this effort, he is in need of sample electronic audit files, reports, and peer reviews. If you or any of your colleagues working in the public sector would be willing to share their expertise on non-sensitive issues, please e-mail him at [jhughes@odu.edu](mailto:jhughes@odu.edu).

*If you have member news you'd like shared, please send to newsletter editor [Kelly Stefanko](#). Photos welcomed as well!*



*Get in the Halloween spirit by joining the emerging leaders for a ride on the ghost train. Don't forget to RSVP with [Allison Shoemaker](#)!*

# Meet Your Fellow Members

By Wanda Witherspoon



*Curt Smith with his family*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Curt Smith

#### Position?

Senior Auditor, Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA)

#### Brief description of your job?

I examine defense contractor pricing and incurred cost proposals and, based on my review, recommend acceptance or adjustment of proposed costs to the defense procurement community. Our examinations are detailed and enable the defense procurement community to make better, more informed decisions when awarding contracts.

#### What do you like most about your job?

What I like most is DCAA's mission of assisting in the oversight of defense contractors through independent examination of proposed and incurred costs. We provide a necessary, extremely important service to the taxpayer and the defense procurement community.

#### Your favorite perk of membership?

I appreciate the educational benefits most, both at the local and national level.

#### Most memorable AGA experience?

Attending an AGA conference. I found many of the presenters exceptional even though the content did not always apply to my day to day responsibilities. I found it helpful to learn what challenges and issues other government accounting professionals face in their respective fields.

#### Hobbies?

Overall fitness, cycling, golf, and reading a variety of books and magazines.

#### What was your best vacation?

My wife and I took our girls on their first Disney vacation earlier this year. We had long anticipated going to Disneyworld and finally made it in April. We had a blast.



*Past chapter president  
Rebecca Beale*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Rebecca Beale

#### Position?

I am a Senior Defense Analyst in the Defense Capabilities and Management Team within the Norfolk Field Office of GAO.

#### Brief description of your job?

I evaluate various issues related to the medical readiness of DOD service members. I am currently looking at DOD's medical personnel requirements determination process and the affects of deployments on day-to-day operations with military hospitals.

#### What do you like most about your job?

I really like the diversity of work, the people doing the work, and the places that the work has taken me over the years.

#### Favorite perk of membership?

AGA is a great organization to meet lots of interesting people that may be able to help you in the future. It offers great networking opportunities.

#### Most memorable AGA experience?

Back in the 1999-2000 timeframe, I was the Chapter President. I really enjoyed that experience as I met lots of great people during that year. I highly advise people to take on leadership roles within the organization because it helped me grow professionally and personally.

#### What are your hobbies?

I like playing golf and bowling. I also enjoy cheering on my kids in their sporting activities as well as attending Virginia Tech football games as much as possible.

#### What was your best vacation?

In March, my husband, 17 year old daughter, 13 year old son, and I went skiing for 3 days in the Vail area of Colorado. Then, we drove over to Moab, Utah and toured the Arches National Park and the Canyonlands National Park for the next 4 days. The sights were just breathtakingly beautiful!! I highly recommend this area to anyone who considers themselves outdoor types who like hiking. We all had a blast, despite the fact that my son broke is thumb on the first skiing day but managed to live with it until we got it checked out once we got back home 10 days later!! What a trooper!

# AGA Represents at ODU Career Fair

By Ellen Silvela and Kelly Stefanko

AGA sure seemed like the association to belong to at ODU's *Accounting Job Fair* on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. AGA was represented not only with its own booth, but also by employers at other booths and ODU accounting faculty members attending the fair (Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss and Dr. Laurie Henry).

At the AGA booth, Ellen Silvela and Bradford Smith introduced accounting students to AGA, providing brochures about membership, government financial management and the CGFM certification. They also promoted interest in ODU's Managerial Accounting and Auditing Club (MAAC), through which students gain membership to AGA. ODU is AGA's only student chapter.



Ellen Silvela, Membership Director (left) and Bradford Smith, President-Elect, manned the AGA table full of giveaway goodies at this year's ODU Accounting Job Fair on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Dave Barnes, a chapter member and Financial Management Analyst, was at the fair representing his employer, United States Joint Forces Command.



Above -- Former MAAC member and now VA Peninsula chapter member Amanda Gallant (left), with coworkers, represent Northrop Grumman.



Left - Scott and Robert talk to prospects about careers in the Department of Defense Inspector General's Office. Their boss, Mike Joseph, is a long time member and active supporter of the VA Peninsula chapter.

# Community Service

## It Never Hurts to Ask!

### **Chapter Soliciting Prizes for December's Community Service Raffle**

Once again, Joe Rutecki is spearheading the chapter's solicitation of prizes for the community service raffle to be held in conjunction with the upcoming Mid-Atlantic Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Williamsburg December 3 & 4. As he's done for each of the two conferences the chapter holds annually for many years now, he's prepared a letter, made a ton of copies and personally hit up businesses from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach.

Many times, Joe isn't even able to attend the conferences, but you may have enjoyed the fruits of his labor, in taking home a free dinner or round of golf. Certainly beneficiaries such as *March of Dimes* and *Make a Wish Foundation* are grateful, as each fundraiser has raised around \$1,000, which our AGA National Office has matched.

While he does enlist the help of fellow chapter members, it's a lot of work done by a few people that we can't expect to rely on forever! If you would like to support our chapter's charitable contributions, consider making a goal of obtaining just one donation for this fall's conference raffle.

Joe's advice is to consider places you generally frequent - like golf courses, restaurants, theaters, hotels - and ask! Just e-mail [Joe](#), or chapter Community Service Director [Helen Brooks](#) and they'll send you the request letter electronically. The more the chapter gets in donations, the more attractive the raffle becomes and the more funds we can raise for charity. As always, we thank you for supporting our award winning and community benefitting service program.



Joe Rutecki, far right, has been a long standing champion of community service in the Virginia Peninsula Chapter

## Start Collecting!

If your workplace doesn't have anyone setting up collection boxes, please consider doing it yourself! Coordinate a drop off of all items collected each month with Community Service Director [Helen Brooks](#)

### **Blankets & winter clothing**

Collection of blankets and all types of winter clothing (new socks particularly) to give to women's shelters, homeless shelters, and anywhere that has a need begins now and goes through January.



**Canned food** collections start now for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Collect food items and/or monetary donations in your workplace.

**Blood drive** at the US Coast Guard Finance Center, Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> (a van will be located next to the main bldg).

**Register receipts, aluminum pull tops, toiletries, and box tops** collections are on-going. No one at your organization to turn them in to? Volunteer to do it yourself and bring collections from the entire office to the next meeting.

**Coming Soon** - We will help provide manpower to the Union Mission in helping stock and arrange food supplies for the upcoming holidays.



Have questions or suggestions? Contact Community Service Director Helen Brooks at [Helen.M.Brooks@uscg.mil](mailto:Helen.M.Brooks@uscg.mil)

# Treasurer's Report

## Financial Report Summary

### ...or, How Much \$ Do We Have?

By Curtis P. Joachim



The Virginia Peninsula Board of Directors recently approved the purchase of a laptop and Quick Books for managing the chapter's finances. This will also enable us to accept credit cards during our monthly luncheons and professional development conferences (PDCs).

Did you know that the cost of our monthly luncheons to the chapter is based on the number of people who RSVP, not the number who actually show up? That's right. So if you RSVP, please show up, because if you don't, we end up having to pay the cost of your meal. For September's meeting, we paid for two meals that were not consumed. So, please don't be a "no show".



Curtis Joachim gives the Treasurer's Report at the September meeting.

#### AGA VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAPTER STATUS OF FUNDS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

<b>Balance Brought Forward 1 September 2009</b>	<b>\$ 6,376.16</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Spring 09 PDC Funds Collected	10,122.00
AGA National Chapter Recruitment Grant	208.00
September Meeting Dues	450.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,780.00</b>
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 17,156.16</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Hilton Norfolk Airport - September Luncheon	1,058.53
Embassy Suites - October Luncheon Deposit	250.00
ODU Job Fair Supplies	13.94
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,322.47</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 15,833.69</b>
<b><u>Payables &amp; Chargebacks</u></b>	
Spring PDC Chargebacks	1,000.00
Spring PDC Payables	500.00
Amounts Due ASMC (based on funds collected to date)	565.32
<b>Total Payables and Chargebacks</b>	<b>\$ 2,065.32</b>
<b>Funds Available 30 September 2009</b>	<b>\$ 13,768.37</b>

Above is the status of chapter funds for the month just ended. If you have any questions, please contact me at [curtis.p.joachim@uscg.mil](mailto:curtis.p.joachim@uscg.mil).

# Food for Thought

## What to do When you Feel Swamped

By Dr. Alan Zimmerman



No one ever seems to have enough time anymore. In fact, just about everyone talks about being swamped at work and snowed under at home. And that's a lousy way to live.

So what's the answer? It may NOT be putting in more hours. It may be learning how to use your hours more effectively.

As Randall Tobias, CEO of Eli Lilly, points out, "Historically we looked at whose cars were in the parking lot at 7 p.m., and we made the assumption that they belonged to corporate heroes hard at work. In truth, some of those people were probably poorly organized or spending time on the wrong things. We have to get more focus off measuring activity and onto measuring results -- not the number of hours put in but what gets produced."

And the answer may NOT be taking another complicated training program. Sales consultant Jeffrey Gitomer says, "Time management is not complicated -- unless you take a time-management course. Then you have to have a minor degree in rocket science to figure out what piece of paper gets what notes in what category and with what priority."

The answer is to simplify the way you use your time. So let me give you 10 tips for getting things done when you never have enough time.



### 1. Say "no" once in a while.

You see ... some people think if they say "yes" all the time, they're going to be more popular and have greater career advancement. That's not always the case. You may simply be labeled as a sucker or a doormat.

The "no" word is one of your most powerful weapons in the battle against time. But it's not an easy word to use. Even Tony Robbins, the motivational guru, says, "I overload myself ... I overload my back with my mouth and agree to too many things."

So practice saying "no" in a friendly but matter-of-fact manner ... without over explaining. Remember it may be possible to say "no" when you're asked to take over an entire project, while still offering to help in a smaller, specific way.

### 2. Avoid over-commitment.

Mary Kay Ash, the founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics, spoke about that. She said, "If I accepted all the requests I had to serve on boards or committees and to attend luncheons and dinners, I wouldn't have time to accomplish anything else. Help out when you can. Participate in good causes when you have the time, but there aren't enough hours in the day to do it all. You can't manage your time if you give it to everyone who asks for it."

If you find yourself over-committed too much of the time, it means one of two things. Either you haven't learned to say "no" or you don't know how to accurately assess how long various tasks will take. Start working on those two skills. And then check your master calendar before you agree to do ANYTHING more.

### 3. Maintain a master calendar.

Don't rely on your memory. Write it all down. As Gary Fisher, the western regional director of customer services for Highland Ridge Hospital in Salt Lake City, says, "For a long time, I knew my desk and office were a mess. I knew where all the stuff was. But I had things on my desk that would take me 10 minutes to find. The key was to keep a single calendar and to keep information in one spot with a system you can refer to."

For those of you who like to wing it, or keep your options open, or prefer a more casual, spontaneous approach to life, you probably won't like the idea of master calendar ... initially. But it works.

Keep one master calendar that has EVERYTHING on it from your personal and professional life. Include overtime, business travel, school conferences, transportation needs, doctor's appointments, and everything else.

*(Want to know the other 7 tips? Keep reading your newsletter as this article will be continued next month!)*

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*Dr. Alan Zimmerman is a full-time professional speaker and has given more than 3000 programs, to more than a million people, in 48 states and 22 countries.*

## Education

### The Mid-Atlantic Professional Development Conference Promises Two Days of Hot Topics and Great Speakers

Planning is well underway for the 14th annual *Mid-Atlantic Professional Development Conference*. The two day conference, December 3 & 4<sup>th</sup>, will feature the opportunity to earn 16 CPEs on government related topics. Also, for you CPAs, there will be an opportunity to fulfill your annual 2-hour ethics requirement. Put in your training request now and plan your stay at the *Williamsburg Hospitality House*. Watch your e-mail for the official agenda and notification that registration has started. Many thanks to Past President [Tanya Renica](#) and Education Director [Dave Sweeney](#) for all of their hard work in planning it. If you have questions about the conference, please feel free to e-mail them directly.



*Wise and witty, Joe Kull is expected to be back for a return performance at the December PDC. A former Deputy Comptroller within the OMB, Kull has 36 years of financial management experience, including experience as the CFO and Budget Director at 2 Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation.*

#### Invited Speakers



**Sherry Weir**, Partner, Kearney and Co.  
**David Zavada**, Partner, Kearney and Co.  
**David Norquist**, Partner, Kearney and Co.  
**Jeff Steinhoff**, Executive Director, KPMG  
**Ron Longo**, Managing Director, KPMG  
**Joseph Kull**, Director, PWC  
**Marvin Washington**, Partner, PWC  
**Karen Holmcrans**, Senior Manager, Grant Thornton  
**Cathy Kreyche**, Communications Strategist, Management Concepts  
**Michael Najjum**, CFO, Ginnie Mae  
**Joseph Rothschild**, Ass't Dir. of Financial Audits Div., HUD IG  
**Jeff Hoge**, Government-wide Accounting, Treasury  
**Dr. Ziegenfuss**, Professor, Old Dominion University  
**Billy Moorehead**, National President, AGA  
**Wanda Wallace**, Professor Ret, William and Mary  
**David VonMoll**, Comptroller, State of Virginia

### Big Names in Stimulus Oversight Headlined AGA's Internal Control & Fraud Conference

The more than 500 attendees at AGA's Internal Control & Fraud Conference last month in Washington, D.C., were treated to hearing directly from front liners on the federal government's efforts to oversee economic recovery spending. The recovery efforts overseen between two of the speakers, Earl E. Devaney, Chair, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), and Neil M. Barofsky, Special Inspector General, (Troubled Asset Relief Program), totaled more than a trillion dollars! Both current (U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-ME) and former (Tom Davis III) Congressional champions of accountability and oversight spoke on the importance of preventing and detecting fraud. Finally, G. Edward DeSeve, Special Adviser to the President, Assistant to the Vice President and Special Adviser to the OMB Director for Implementation of the Recovery Act, closed the conference with an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. [Read more on AGA's blog.](#)



*Earl Devaney, chairman of the Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board, spoke at the AGA's Internal Control & Fraud conference*

Check out these web links for AGA National Training Opportunities at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org):

[Register for AGA's Fifth Annual Performance Management Conference, Nov. 5-6, 2009, Seattle, WA](#)

[Bring New AGA-Sponsored Training Courses to Your Organization](#)

[AGA's 2010 National Leadership Conference, Feb. 18-19, 2010, Washington, D.C.](#)

# AGA National & Regional News

## Join AGA's Leadership Team

Leadership positions provide a great opportunity to represent members' interests in the government accountability community. Never considered it yourself? Why not?

### Consider Being an RVP

Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) serve year one as "elect," year two as "current" and year three as "immediate past." RVPs spend a lot of time getting to know the chapters within our region and their respective leaders, acting as a support system in sharing best practices and helping them to resolve issues.

To serve as a Regional Vice President-Elect, a nominee should:

- be an AGA member in good standing;
- have a professional background commensurate with the position; and
- have held elective office as an officer or director in a chapter for at least one complete year as of the date of nomination.

### Benefits of Service

As a volunteer leader, you are rewarded with unparalleled opportunities to:

- Expand your leadership skills.
- Enhance your career.
- Exchange ideas and perspectives with other leaders.
- Expand your network of personal and professional contacts.

While this month is the deadline for AGA National Leader nominations (nominations for national positions are due Friday, October 30, 2009), there is still plenty of time to consider volunteering for a chapter leadership role for next year and the opportunity to enjoy the same benefits of service.

### Want More Information?

More details are in AGA's nomination brochure. A number of VA Peninsula chapter members have recently served as our RVP so there are plenty of people you could talk to locally if you are curious as to what the job entails, including Kelly Stefanko, Janine Prybla, and Mary Lechner, in addition to myself. Please feel free to contact any of us.

Could you be our next RVP? You'll never know unless you submit your nomination!



## Beyond the Chapter

*I'm Cecelia Smith, your Regional Vice President for the Mid-Atlantic Region of AGA. Each month I will bring you various topics of interest from a regional perspective as well as keep you updated on AGA national news. I will also keep you posted on upcoming training and educational opportunities. If there are other topics of interest you would like to hear about from a regional or national perspective, please send me an email at [cecelia.smith-1@nasa.gov](mailto:cecelia.smith-1@nasa.gov)*

## Help AGA Improve its Education Program

AGA needs your help to improve its education program. We are conducting a survey to get your input and ideas about the AGA education program. The information you provide will be used to help AGA monitor the quality of its continuing education programs. Think about the education challenges facing you and your organization over the next few years and give us your ideas. Share your thoughts with us. Any and all input will be greatly appreciated.

## New AGA Research Study on Managerial Cost Accounting Now Available

AGA has just completed a research study on "*Managerial Cost Accounting in the Federal Government: Providing Useful Information for Decision-Making.*" The new report, the 22nd in the AGA Corporate Partner Advisory Group Research Series, looked at 10 federal entities that have had success with implementing their Managerial Cost Accounting (MCA) systems and are reaping the benefits. The objective of the research was to give pointers to entities that may be considering setting up a managerial cost accounting system and give them advice on how to do it well.

Benefits documented include: enhanced awareness on the part of program managers on how cost-accounting data can help make smarter decisions; more informed knowledge of the value of activities conducted in pursuit of effective mission delivery; better cost-effectiveness and efficiency; and easier compliance with requirements such as audits, budget justifications and testifying to Congress. **Read the report.**



## Incentives Abound to Take the CGFM



### Chapter to Buy a Set of CGFM Study Guides

The chapter board of directors recently voted to purchase a set of CGFM review guides for use by the members. Director of Professional Certifications, Steve Reagan, will order the guides, and upon arrival, will serve as librarian, checking them out individually to those who request them for two week periods. To your request for the guides, e-mail him at [Stephen.D.Reagan@uscg.mil](mailto:Stephen.D.Reagan@uscg.mil)

*At left, Steve Reagan giving a report on CGFM at last month's meeting.*

### Apply NOW for the CGFM and Save \$20

Been thinking for a while about becoming a CGFM but just haven't found the motivation to get the paperwork started? AGA's Office of Professional Certification is once again providing candidates a personal incentive -- in the form of an extra \$20 in your pocket -- with its [CGFM chapter promotion](#). Your complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and transcript copy) must be received by AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of September 1 through December 31, 2009, **with the promotional phrase: "CGFM chapter promotion – VA Peninsula chapter" written at the bottom of the form** (If the application is submitted online, you must put this phrase in the last question: "How did you learn about the CGFM Program?").

Instead of waiting for the new year, resolve now to apply for the CGFM BEFORE this year ends. If you're thinking about becoming a CGFM or planning to apply please let the chapter know by e-mailing our Director of Professional Certifications, Steve Reagan at [Stephen.D.Reagan@uscg.mil](mailto:Stephen.D.Reagan@uscg.mil)

## Out of Site - Go Exploring on Mark's Website of the Month

By Mark Morehouse, CGFM

Don't know if you have had the privilege to visit another AGA chapter meeting, but if you ever do get a chance—please do. This month, we visit the Boston chapter. Their website link is:

<http://www.aga-boston-chapter.org/>

You will find that they are another fine chapter such as ours and, yes, they are platinum also. One thing you can learn about AGA chapters is that the more active chapters have more fun and they earn the most awards. The Boston chapter is certainly no exception. Once on their website, please take a few moments to read their newsletter. You will find that theirs is much like ours, but with subtle differences such as the DOT OIG job announcement, the Sudoku game, or the new member sponsor list. When you read any chapter newsletter, you are getting a feel of the chapter's pulse. It is obvious that they are a very active chapter that is focused on professional education and earning CPEs. So take a little time and get to know another part of AGA.

I know it is hard to believe, but I do think there are things in life to do other than AGA! For instance, I like to visit the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and watch the eagles come and go. Sometimes you can see ordinary folks standing out there with binoculars watching the eagles (and counting the eggs). At any rate, it is an interesting hobby than can be enjoyed by all. But if you are like me, your mind is never far from accounting -- you are wondering if they use straight line depreciation on the front gate or not!

### Intensive Review to be Offered in February

AGA will offer a CGFM Intensive Review Course followed by two days of CGFM examinations in Washington DC in February and in Orlando this July. Just do it -- and you'll complete the CGFM process in a short period of time, have a set deadline to take the exams, and save money!

Pay one fee for the two day Intensive Review Course (which is less than the cost of the three examinations), and then get to take the three exams the following two days for free. Be forewarned, the Intensive Review Course is only designed as a supplement, not a replacement, to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations (such as using study guides). So start studying now and set your sites on becoming a CGFM in February in Washington, DC!

Continuing watching AGA e-mails for more information or contact [Katya Silver](#), AGA's Director of Professional Certification Administration.



*Information is everywhere these days but who has time to search through it all? Let Mark Morehouse do the dirty work – just check here each month for the results of his exhaustive research and resulting website recommendation. An AGA member for over 20 years, Mark is a regular at chapter meetings, a past chapter president and currently serves as an At-Large Director on the chapter's executive board.*



**VIRGINIA  
PENINSULA  
CHAPTER**

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*Have member news or pictures to share via the newsletter? Send to [Kelly.stefanko@norfolk.gov](mailto:Kelly.stefanko@norfolk.gov)*

Visit the Virginia Peninsula Chapter on the web at [www.agavapen.org](http://www.agavapen.org) or  
AGA National at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

Mailing us something? AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter  
P.O. Box 1464  
Chesapeake, VA 23327-1464

## Coming Up

Thursday, October 15 – **Chapter Lunch Meeting** – featuring Jay Meriwether, Director of Internal Audit at Booz Allen, at Embassy Suites – Hampton, starting at 11:30. One CPE. RSVP to Darcea Johnson at [darcea.johnson@navy.mil](mailto:darcea.johnson@navy.mil) by October 12<sup>th</sup>. *Bring a Guest for Free Day.*

Sunday, October 18, **ODU Department of Accounting 5k**, 1:30 pm – 48<sup>th</sup> and Powhatan, on campus. Be part of the AGA team! Mail in your registration form by 10/1 or complete a registration form at the September chapter meeting. [Click here for registration form and details](#) Questions? contact Ellen Silvela at [esilvela@deloitte.com](mailto:esilvela@deloitte.com).

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> **Ride the Ghost Train with Emerging Leaders** in the Northwest River Park located in Chesapeake on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm. The cost is \$9.50 per person. RSVP to [Allison Shoemaker](#) by Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> with the number of people that will be attending so she can purchase the tickets in advance.

October 30, **Deadline for AGA National and Regional Leadership Position Nominations**  
Click here for [nomination forms](#).

Thursday & Friday, December 3 & 4, **AGA 14<sup>th</sup> Annual 2009 Mid Atlantic PDC**, Williamsburg Hospitality House. Save the date, details will be forthcoming! For more information contact [Tanya Renica](#) or [Dave Sweeney](#)

July 11–14, **AGA's National PDC**, Orlando World Center Marriott.

## Going On

**Help Needed Soliciting Donations for the PDC Community Service Raffle** - E-mail [Helen Brooks](#) for the request letter and start asking – it's that easy!

**Collections for Charity** – Don't forget to bring these items to your chapter POC or Helen Brooks, Community Service Director, at the next chapter meeting -

- **Blankets and winter clothing** (new socks particularly) for homeless shelters
- **Canned food** for the Foodbank
- **Toiletries** (travel or regular size) - for the Samaritan House, Union Mission and other shelters,
- **Farm Fresh receipts** - for a local school
- **Pop-tops from aluminum cans** - for Ronald McDonald House
- **Box-tops for education** - for Ronald McDonald House.

### **ODU Student Chapter Needs Speakers**

Please help the future of government accounting by volunteering to be a guest speaker for ODU's MAAC (the Managerial Accounting and Auditing Club) - AGA's only active student chapter. Contact Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss, at [dziegenf@odu.edu](mailto:dziegenf@odu.edu). Presentations last approximately 30 minutes and focus on the speaker's career and job responsibilities.

### **Sponsor a New Member Challenge is Underway**

Start signing up new members! The member who sponsors the most new members between now and March 2010 will win a **free AGA membership** for the 2010-2011 program year. Share this newsletter with potential recruits, invite them to a meeting with you, and let them know they can join on-line on [AGA's national website](#). The VA Peninsula chapter does not charge an additional chapter fee!