

Chapter President's Message

Hello AGA Members,

It may not seem like it now but spring is right around the corner and warmer weather is coming. With spring coming it means it is time for our Spring PDC in Chesapeake, VA. The speakers are getting prepared, the atmosphere promises to be exciting and the venue is a place where we can learn and socialize. The registration form is attached, so please complete it so you don't miss out on this great event to be held on March 16th and 17th at the Chesapeake Conference Center.

Please review the schedule of our upcoming events and activities in hopes you see an activity that you will be interested in. I encourage each member to review not only our chapter website, but also the AGA National website so you will know what is going on at the national level. There are many opportunities to obtain CPE credits at the different conferences and seminars that are being held and it's a great way to know what activities our organization is participating in.

I ask each of you to consider if there is an activity or area in the chapter that could put your talents to use. We have a place for everyone who wants to volunteer. I want to also thank those members who have volunteered and are dedicated to making this chapter as great as it is. We could not do it without you.

Thanks for all that you do,

*Bradford W. Smith
President
AGA VA Peninsula Chapter*



NEXT MEETING

March 16 & 17, 2011

Chesapeake Conference Center

16 CPEs

Virginia CPAs can earn the required annual ethics credits. (Non conference attendees can attend JUST the ethics for \$40).

See attached registration form for complete cost details and to sign up to attend.

Remaining Chapter Meetings:

April 21, 2011

Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina

May 19, 2011

Chapter Awards Night
Quality Suites Lake Wright

What's Happening?

This month:

- o March 16 & 17 – Chapter's spring conference, Chesapeake conference center, (POC is [Curtis Joachim](#))

CPAs in VA – meet your annually required 2 hour ethics requirement (\$40 if not attending the conference)

Participate in the community service raffle by buying raffle tickets or donating a prize. (POC is [Helen Brooks](#))

Chapter Leaders Sought

Need a professional challenge? Want to work on a skill you don't get to use often in your full time job? Think it would be nice to get to more out of your AGA membership by getting to know fellow members better? The answer to all of these questions can be found in volunteering to be a chapter leader!

The Virginia Peninsula chapter is led by an annually elected volunteer board of director that is always in need of help. The new AGA year begins in July and for continued success and growth, it is crucial that the chapter incorporate new leaders.

What interests you? Chances are, there is a board position that matches your interest. Like to write and be creative? The chapter has an immediate need for a newsletter editor, which offers unlimited opportunities to learn and create.

When there is no one to step in and take on roles of departing volunteers, valuable experience can be lost, not to mention the loss of the particular service the chapter used to enjoy. The transition is aided when new volunteers have the time to learn from an existing volunteer.

Please consider sharing your time and talent to help continue all the good things the Virginia Peninsula chapter of AGA provides...conferences, meetings, community service, and awards to name a few. Chapter president elect Curtis Joachim is recruiting his leadership team now. Contact him at cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com.

Virginia Peninsula Chapter 2010-2011 Schedule of Upcoming Events

- o April 21 – Chapter lunch meeting, Hampton (POC is [Melissa Saunders](#))
- o May 1 - March of Dimes Walk America – Oceanfront Boardwalk, 2400 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach. Chapter will help provide manpower to register walkers and count donations after the event for deposit. (POC is [Helen Brooks](#))
- o May 19 – Chapter awards dinner. Quality Suites Lake Wright (POC is [Brad Smith](#))
- o May - Equikids Therapeutic Riding program for special children. Chapter will contribute \$250 to sponsor a hole for the fundraiser and/or help sponsor a team to participate. (POC is [Joe Rutecki](#)).
- o June 4- Clean the Bay Day, 9:00 am – 12:00pm (POCs are Latrealle Lee (GAO) and [Ellen Silvela](#)).
- o July 10-13, [AGA Professional Development Conference](#), *Celebrating Our Past, Embracing the Future*, Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA.
 - o Sign up for AGA's special intensive review course and take the CGFM Examinations before the PDC. (POC is [Katya Silver](#))
 - o July - Community Service Fund Raiser at the AGA PDC in Atlanta, GA The chapter will provide a gift basket as a prize for the fund raiser and a donation for the chapter challenge. (POC is [Helen Brooks](#))

In case you missed it: **February Meeting and ODU Game Recapped**

February 17th was the chapter's annual joint luncheon meeting with the Institute of Internal Auditors. The Springhill Suites in Chesapeake was a particularly convenient location for USCG FINCEN members, who just had to walk across the street, to attend.

Channing Guvernator, Public Awareness and Training Coordinator of Virginia Utility Protection Services spoke on "Communicating with the Mass Media". She emphasized the importance of crisis preparedness and suggested that your office introduce itself to the media when times are good (i.e., invite them to your company picnic!). She also suggested developing a media kit, identifying the spokesperson and other roles in advance, and rehearsing your message in advance of a crisis situation. For a copy of Ms. Guvernator's presentation, contact chapter education director Dave Sweeney at Sweeney_J_David@bah.com

Allison Shoemaker reported that she, Tanya Renica, Dr. Ziegenfuss, and Clement Mikowski had a good time at the chapter's outing to an ODU men's basketball game in February.

Membership News

Did you know? Tidbits from our chapter history

Our history book details a rich history of VA Peninsula chapter member involvement at the AGA National level, generally as members of its National Executive Committee or participants and leaders of national boards and committee. The chapter has been home to two National Presidents (while the association was named FGAA): **Edward A. Howe** in 1973 and **Behn C. Taylor** in 1976. Also it boasts two national treasurers – Julie Bryant (2001) and **Mary (Lecher) Peterman** (2010)

Read all about the VA Peninsula chapter's history and its colorful leaders, by visiting the "[Chapter History](#)" link on our chapter website.

Did you hear?

- Congratulations to **Brad Smith** on his recent promotion to Deputy City Auditor, Norfolk.
- Members of the Norfolk City Auditor's Office, including City Auditor **John Sanderlin**, and Assistant City Auditors **Brad Smith** and **Mike Helmke** highlighted careers in auditing as part of a recent career fair at Rosemont Middle School.
- The Norfolk City Auditor's Office is recruiting for an Assistant City Auditor II. The closing date is Fri. 03/04/11. Salary: is between \$46,289.28 - \$74,002.85. [Click here to view announcement](#) or visit "jobs" at www.norfolk.gov.
- **Curtis Joachim** attended the Regent University Executive Leadership Series event which was a speech given by The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli, the Attorney General of Virginia (see picture below). The topic of his speech was "Keeping the Federal Government in Check". During the almost hour-long speech, Cuccinelli highlighted Virginia's lawsuits against the Federal government over the constitutionality of the provision of the recently in-acted health care legislation that requires individuals to purchase health care insurance or face possible fines. The Attorney General also discussed Virginia's lawsuits against the Environmental Protection Agency over concerns surrounding the constitutionality of key provisions of laws regulating carbon dioxide.



Take AGA's 2011 CFO Survey and Help our Chapter Win Cash!

Once again, AGA is conducting the annual CFO survey. We need your help in encouraging members to participate. As it did last year, AGA will give three chapters prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 respectively for the top response rates to the [survey](#). This year, we are adding an incentive--a \$200 prize for the chapter with the most responses, no matter what percentage of chapter members take part.

The results of the CFO survey will be printed in a research report and will be discussed in a session at AGA's Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC) in Atlanta in July. Thanks for your help.

Well, what are you waiting for?! [Take the survey](#) now! This is your chance to help your professional community shape the next several years of policies and procedures and it only takes a few minutes.



Brad Smith publicizing careers In auditing at a local middle school career fair last month.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership! AGA Annual Renewal Deadline is March 31

Renewal time is here! Most members should have received an electronic invoice during the month of January. The deadline for members to renew is March 31.

Members can return an invoice and check by mail or pay online in the Members Only section of the [AGA website](#). Remember check payments may take up to 10 business days to process.

Don't risk letting your membership lapse. All of us associated with AGA are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to the future with enthusiasm. We are counting on you to help us continue our work in 2011, by renewing your membership today.

Member Spotlight



LAWRENCE (LARRY) FERDINANDE

1. What is your job position?

I am a senior auditor with the DoD Office of Inspector General. I work in the Yorktown, Virginia field office.

2. Give us a brief description of your job.

I'm part of a division that conducts audits of the military health system. We examine a wide variety of issues, including fraud, waste, and abuse in TRICARE, the planning and delivery of military health care, medical military construction projects, accountability of medical equipment...just about anything related to military medical care. Our work takes us all over the world.

3. What do you like most about your job?

As an Army retiree and father of a soldier about to deploy, I like that I have a positive impact on our military members and their families; for me our work is a source of pride. The opportunity for world-wide travel is also a plus.

4. What is your favorite perk of AGA membership?

I appreciate the ability to network with my peers throughout government and the opportunities for local professional development.

4. What is your favorite perk of AGA membership?

I can't remember the details, but while taking classes at ODU I attended an informational meeting or presentation that opened my eyes to the many opportunities for accountants and auditors in government. I had no idea!

6. What are your hobbies?

I enjoy riding my motorcycle, bowling, and the occasional bad round of golf. I like to travel any place I've never been. My favorite (and most consuming) hobby is photography.

7. What was your best vacation?

My best vacation was a 2009 trip to Hawaii - it was my first visit and I tried to do everything! But I've been to many memorable places, including Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Canada, Alaska, Korea, Japan, and Guam.

8. Anything else you'd like to share about yourself?

I'm grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our men and women in uniform.

Education – Don't miss the 2011 ASMC/AGA Spring 2011 PDC

Sharpening the Axe, Spring Edition

"Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe"
- Abraham Lincoln

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another - Proverbs

A lingering thought produces an action, an action repeated becomes a habit, a habit adopted becomes a lifestyle and a lifestyle sustained becomes a destiny
– Adapted from Confucius

Do you feel stuck, running hard but getting nowhere? Maybe it's because your axe needs sharpening. By now you're well familiar with our mantra, "when the axe is dull, much effort is required".

Well don't miss out on the spring conference! This unique opportunity to sharpen your axe only comes around once every twelve months to the Hampton Roads area!

As budgets get tighter and uncertainty abounds, it becomes increasingly important to be in the know. To be fore-warned, is to be fore-armed. At this year's ASMC/AGA Spring Professional Development Conference, you can be fore-armed. We'll sit and learn at the feet of a Rear Admiral, a retired captain, SESs, senior partners in CPA Firms, professors and more. We'll discuss and ponder topics like:

- Financial Management in a Time of Ever Changing Priorities
- Show Me the Money – Cost Recovery
- Preventing Improper Payments
- Comptrollership
- So what's this really going to cost me?
- The New Fiscal Reality
- Operating Under an extended Continuing Resolution
- Fraud and Going after deep pockets – Mortgage
- Managerial Costing – Creating Organizational Value
- Business Case Analysis – Financial Management



...and much more!

It is said that there are three kinds of people in this world, those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wondered what happened. Be one of the ones who know what's going to happen before it happens, and you'll never be heard repeating one of the saddest phrases uttered, "I should have seen it coming".

AGA Members Get Discounted Rate for ALGA Conference

The Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) welcomes AGA members to its annual conference in Charlotte, NC. Called, "Racing Toward Audit Excellence," the conference is set for May 16-17 at the Marriott Charlotte City Center.

Join our lively group of government financial professionals as we learn more about fraud, risk, information technology, report writing, and much, much more. Don't forget all the extras Charlotte has to offer: NASCAR Hall of Fame, Discovery Place, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Lowe's Motor Speedway, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, and the EpiCentre.

Earn 15 CPE hours and 12 more if you attend a Sunday and Wednesday workshop. AGA members will be offered the ALGA member rate of \$450 for the two-day conference. [Register today!](#)

Date set for the Next Mid-Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit Forum

The next Mid Atlantic Intergovernmental Forum Meeting is at the Dunes Manor Hotel www.dunesmanor.com in Ocean City, Maryland on June 1-3. Contact Chris Rice for more information at Ricec@gao.gov

UPCOMING NATIONAL CONFERENCES

AGA's
Ninth Annual
National
Leadership
Conference

February 17-18, 2011
Washington, D.C.

[Click here
for more
information!](#)



July 10-13, 2011
24 CPE hours
Atlanta, GA

[Click here for
more information!](#)

AGA Regional and National News



Apply for a 2011 AGA National Academic Scholarship

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 \$3,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- Up to one \$1,000 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members, and
- Up to one \$3,000 community service scholarship

The **deadline for receipt of applications is Wednesday, March 31, 2011**. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership.

To download a copy of the application go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/> or contact [Louise Kapelewski](#).



Volunteer Opportunity at AGA's PDC This Summer

AGA is seeking PDC 2011 Atlanta Host Committee volunteers to share their time and talents by providing assistance at the conference. The Host Committee plays an essential role by helping with bag stuffing, registration, session monitoring and other tasks.

In appreciation for your time, AGA will provide volunteers with a complimentary conference registration. AGA does not reimburse for airfare, hotel accommodations, parking, bus fare, taxi or any other travel expenses incurred by getting to and from the PDC. The Host Committee is limited to 35 individuals. Preference is given to AGA members who are able to work multiple shifts during the week. Great care will be taken to ensure the committee is diverse, includes both new/past participants, various agencies/organizations, and represents all AGA chapters and regions.

If you're interested in volunteering, please complete and e-mail the [Host Committee Application](#) to meetings@agacgfm.org by **April 18, 2011**. Selection and notification will be made on **May 12**. Even if you are not selected, you will be notified and added to our waiting list.

This is a very popular program. Submitting an application does not guarantee you will be selected; however, we appreciate your interest and willingness to help.

Certification News

Congratulation to new CGFMs in our chapter!

Mr. Mark A. Rose (October 2010)
Mrs. Mary C. Deneen (March 2010)
Mr. Rahul Jindal (September 2010)

Are YOU ready to become a CGFM? Click the following links to learn more!

[CGFM Application](#)

[CGFM Certification--Learn More](#)

Supporting the Professional Interests of Young Leaders Through the Emerging Leaders Focus Group

Perfectly timed with Early Career Month, AGA offered, several free programs for young professionals at the National Leadership Conference in February, including an Early Career Happy Hour. A CGFM informational session was also held.

Our own Allison Shoemaker, as a co-chair of the National Emerging Leaders Focus Group, helped put together a round table session titled "Managing the Brand of YOU," which focused on branding yourself in your place of employment.

Respected speaker **Joseph Kull, CGFM, CPA**, director, PricewaterhouseCoopers, delivered the keynote. He offered practical and proven techniques for establishing professional identity. He was later joined by **Daphne Jefferson**, Department of Labor, **Douglas A. Glenn, CPA, CMA**, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, **Everett L. Mosley, CGFM**, Mosley & Associates, and **Kelly Gorrell, CGFM**, Kearney and Company, who shared their insights and answered questions on growing a professionally successful and personally rewarding career within both government and private industry.

The audience included students, professors, early career and mid-career level individuals. Registration for this free event was spectacular and participants were energized and looking forward to using some of the techniques they gained. For more information on programs by the Emerging Leaders Focus Group, contact Allison at AShoemaker@kearneyco.com or AGA Membership Manager [Rodneikka Scott](#).

Treasurer's Report

By Ellen Silvela

The monthly treasurer's report as of 1/31/11 is below. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

For more information on spring conference sponsorship opportunities, please contact me at (757) 639-5129 or esilvela@deloitte.com



AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter Monthly Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/11	\$ 26,108.57
Income	
Collections from Fall 2010 PDC Attendees	\$ 250.00
Collections from Meeting Jan 20th *	\$ 1,756.55
Collections for Charity Donation	\$ 7.50
Interest from Bank	\$ 0.99
Total Income	<u>\$ 2,015.04</u>
Expenses	
Credit Card Fees	\$ 90.77
Ethics Session Fee	\$ 250.00
Fall 2010 PDC Supplies	\$ 53.54
AGA Richmond Chapter (Fall 2010 PDC)	\$ 10,200.20
Postage	\$ 8.80
Supplies	\$ 25.71
PO Box Annual Fee	\$ 110.00
Speaker Gift for Jan 20 Meeting	\$ 10.00
Payment of balance for Jan 20th Meeting	\$ 2,127.64
Deposit for Spring PDC	\$ 500.00
Website	\$ 12.95
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 13,389.61</u>
Net	<u>\$ (11,374.57)</u>
Available Balance 1/31/11	<u><u>\$ 14,734.00</u></u>

Notes: * Collections for Jan 20th meeting includes ASMC portion

Food for Thought

Courage

By Curtis P. Joachim

Courage is not the absence of fear, but taking action in spite of it.

The approaching end of another year in our chapter's history will bring with it a changing of the guard. As the President Elect of the 2011/2012 AGA year, I am looking for a few good members to join me in ensuring the vibrancy of our chapter for another year.

It is said that there are three kinds of people in this world, "those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wondered what happened". Which one are you?

If you're one of the ones who make things happen we're looking for you. Over the next couple of months we will be assembling chapter officers and board members for the VA Peninsula Chapter. Our chapter has a proud history among government accounting professionals of being in the forefront of AGA, providing outstanding training, and developing and fostering excellence in government accounting. Help us continue that proud tradition.

Some of you have already expressed your desire to continue on as a chapter officers or board members in your current position. If you have not already expressed that desire to me, please let me know your plans.

If you've always thought that things could be done differently, have ideas for improvement, want to be challenged, grow and increase your base of professional contacts, serve your fellow government accounting professionals, or develop leadership skills, then we're looking for you.

The Virginia Peninsula chapter is looking for a few good members to lead!



Here are the positions that make up the chapter's leadership:

- **Officers**
 - President
 - President-Elect
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Emerging Leaders
- **Chapter Directors:**
 - By-Laws
 - Education
 - Meetings/Publicity
 - Research, Early Careers and Academic Affairs
 - Chapter Recognition
 - Newsletter
 - Community Service
 - Professional Certifications
 - Webmaster

Maybe you've always wanted to serve but don't want to take on the full responsibility of one of the positions, no problem, you could be an assistant. The more the merrier, but if you are a whiner, a complainer or a slacker, please disregard this message.

However, if you have a "can do" attitude, thrive on testing the limits of your God given talents and abilities, and think you have what it takes to get the job done as a team player, then we're looking for you.

Reach out to me at one of our upcoming events, e-mail me at cjoachim@tjgcpas.com, or call me at (757) 621-9498. I look forward to serving with you.



VIRGINIA
PENINSULA
CHAPTER

Chapter Officers:

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Brad Smith
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President-Elect

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Emerging Leaders

Allison Shoemaker
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The Virginia Peninsula Chapter Board of Directors 2010-2011

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By-Laws

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Honorable
Mention

Have member news or pictures to share via the newsletter? Send to kstefanko@hotmail.com

Visit the Virginia Peninsula Chapter on the web at www.agavapen.org or
AGA National at www.agacgfm.org

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