

## NEXT MEETING

### Chapter Awards Night Friday, May 21st

Geisha Japanese Steakhouse  
& Sushi Bar  
714 Eden Way North,  
Chesapeake VA 23320

5:30 p.m.

View the menu at [www.gogeisha.com](http://www.gogeisha.com)

Members FREE.

**Non-member cost is \$25.**

RSVP no later than May 18<sup>th</sup> to Darcea  
Johnson ([darcea.johnson@navy.mil](mailto:darcea.johnson@navy.mil)).

## Remaining Events

Saturday, June 5th

The 22nd annual Clean the Bay Day from  
9 a.m. - 12 noon. Our chapter traditionally  
participates with GAO. For more details,  
please e-mail [Helen Brooks](mailto:Helen.Brooks@ga.gov) or [Joe  
Rutecki](mailto:Joe.Rutecki@ga.gov).

Thursday, June 10th

Equi-Kids Golf Tournament (Heron Ridge  
Golf Club, VA Beach). As a sponsor, the  
chapter is entitled to send four players for  
free. If you're interested in representing  
the chapter, please e-mail Joe Rutecki  
([Ruteckij@gao.gov](mailto:Ruteckij@gao.gov)) regarding availability.

July 11-14

AGA's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional  
Development Conference & Exposition  
(PDC) in Orlando, FL. The premier  
education and networking event for  
government financial managers and  
accountability professionals.  
Worth 24 CPE hours.

Summer Chapter Executive Board  
Meeting - TBD

Please email Brad Smith  
([brad.smith@norfolk.gov](mailto:brad.smith@norfolk.gov)) or Dave  
Sweeney ([sweeney\\_j\\_david@bah.com](mailto:sweeney_j_david@bah.com))  
with speaker ideas for next year.

**Thanks for a great year.  
See you in September!**

## Chapter President's Message

*Well, here it is... My last newsletter submission from West (by God) Virginia! I write this with both sadness and a great sense of pride that I had the opportunity to be the President of the Virginia Peninsula Chapter. The sadness is greatly because I will be moving on after growing and learning through my experiences with all of you in the chapter. The pride is from being able to be a part of the history and the future of the chapter and its members. All of us have had quite a journey!*

*I will be splitting my membership between Virginia Peninsula and the D.C. chapter because I can't bear to lose that final connection but I have a need to move forward to my new life and more commitments in my new location. I will continue to care about this chapter and its members so if I can be of help please let me know. I will look forward to seeing all of you at National events!*

*The final meeting will be a blowout and a time of finality with awards and recognition for all of those who have made this year special! It will be at the Geisha on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The details are in the newsletter. Please be there if at all possible so I can see as many of you before I move on...*

*Just remember your chapter needs ALL of you to care and participate. Volunteer whenever you can!*

*Thank you,*

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



**Chapter President  
Donna Miller**

# Meeting Wrap Up



(from left ) Melissa Saunders, Clay Griffin, Steve Reagan, Brad Smith, and Dave Sweeney are voted into office during the April meeting

## Familiar Faces Headline April Meeting

The April meeting speaker was no stranger to VA Peninsula AGA podium. Cecelia Smith, a past two-year chapter president and current regional vice president gave the audience tips on becoming an influential leader. She discussed how leaders encounter problems with grace, then was quick to follow her own advice in adjusting to a powerpoint malfunction. She accurately pointed out that leadership has little or nothing to do with position but everything to do with ability to influence and bring out the best in others.

Chapter elections followed Cecelia's comments and were also full of familiarity as 11 veteran board members were voted into leadership positions in the upcoming year.

At right, Cecelia Smith headlines the April meeting



Below, enjoying lunch at the Embassy Suites



## Chapter Officers Elected in April Meeting

Next year's VA Peninsula chapter Board of Directors is as follows:

- President – **Bradford Smith**, who succeeds Donna Miller. Thanks Donna for your outstanding leadership this year!
- President Elect – **Curtis Joachim**
- Treasurer – **Ellen Silvela**, succeeding Curtis Joachim. Curtis's great work as Treasurer has earned him MORE chapter responsibilities! Thanks Curtis!
- Secretary – **Valerie Ward**.
- By-Laws – **Joy Leyeza**, succeeds Maria Walters! Thanks for your many years of service to our chapter Maria.
- Education – **Dave Sweeney**
- Meetings/Publicity – **Melissa Saunders**, succeeding Darcea Johnson. For the past 3 years, Darcea has faithfully manned the registration table at our chapter meetings, in addition to doing all the behind the scenes coordination with the hotel and taking member RSVPs. Thanks Darcea!
- Membership – **Wanda Witherspoon**, succeeding Ellen Silvela, who did a super job and like Curtis, got MORE chapter responsibilities! Thanks Ellen!
- Research, Early Careers – **Doug Ziegenfuss**
- Chapter Recognition – **Ron Ingram**
- Newsletter – **Kelly Stefanko**
- Community Service – **Helen Brooks**
- Professional Certification – **Steve Reagan**
- Webmaster – **Clay Griffin**, who succeeds Lissa Jordin who did a masterful job of keeping our website update even while on maternity leave! Thanks Lissa!
- Emerging Leaders – **Allison Shoemaker**

Many thanks to all the new volunteer faces on the board as well as veterans who have agreed to serve for another year (Brad Smith, Curtis Joachim, Ellen Silvela, Valerie Ward, Dave Sweeney, Doug Ziegenfuss, Ron Ingram, Kelly Stefanko Helen Brooks, Steve Reagan, and Allison Shoemaker).

# Member Spotlight

## AGA National News

- AGA's first Federal Performance Conference (conducted last month) was a success. The conference had 179 attendees and will turn a profit.
- Planning for the PDC is going along fabulously. Unfortunately both the main hotel (Marriott World and the overflow hotel) are sold out. AGA is in the process of finding a third hotel. Estimated attend attendance in the neighborhood of 2,300 would be another record, beating the 2,100 from last year.
- The East Coast Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM) to train incoming chapter and regional leaders was held last weekend in Baltimore with 155 attendees, 30 more than last year, which is a good indicator of growing volunteer involvement. Our chapter was represented by Cecelia Smith, Steve Reagan, Brad Smith and Curtis Joaquim. Various Workshops were held during the two day meeting that gave an overview on the tools and resources available to run a successful AGA Chapter. Staff from the National Office presented material. AGA's National President Elect ended the meeting on Sunday Morning with a presentation on the Goals of AGA.
- The CEAR Program is on going with the number of award recipients increasing slightly. AGA honors award winners at a Black Tie Award Dinner scheduled for May26th.
- AGA's Executive Director was invited to attend a Fiscal Stimulus program sponsored by the Peterson Foundation on Wednesday that discussed fiscal problems and what can be done to develop a solution(s). He discussed The Citizen Centric Report with many attendees and am following up with both AARP and America Speaks.
- AGA's academic case challenge had 23 participating schools this year and more expected for next year.



*Shanelle (center) on vacation with her husband and son in 2006 in Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands. This was from one of their island hopping day trips.*

### **Shanelle Donovan** Internal Revenue Agent

What is your job position? **Internal Revenue Agent**

Give us a brief description of your job. **As a Revenue Agent in the Small Business/ Self Employed Division, my job is to audit tax returns of Self Employed taxpayers and Small Business with \$10 million dollars or less of revenue. The objective is to verify that the return is substantially correct. If it is not substantially correct, we determine federal tax liability through an audit with information provided by the taxpayer and information that the IRS already has on the taxpayer. In the process of auditing the taxpayer, we educate them of what was done right, what was wrong and why, and how to avoid those mistakes again. Through conducting audits, some tax payers will have a federal tax liability, while others will have a tax refund. See, revenue agents are nice people!**

What do you like most about your job? **Well, since I'm new and I am just starting my career... everything!**

What is your favorite perk of AGA membership? **The young professional outings. I don't socialize with too many people outside of my family and close friends. So, it is a nice change of atmosphere to socialize with people in my field and get to know them.**

What is your most memorable AGA experience? **Meeting Cecelia Smith. I met her at one of ODU's MAAC meetings and she gave me some words of encouragement in reference to finding a government job. She encouraged all of us at that meeting to come to the AGA meetings if we could. I've kept in touch with her since that night.**

What are your hobbies? **My hobbies are cooking, bike riding with my son, and gardening.**

What was your best vacation? **Well, my husband and I are from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands and we go home every two years. Our best vacations are always at home. We enjoy family and friends, hit as many beaches as possible while we're there, and island hop.**

Anything else you'd like to share about yourself? **I am very interested in taxation. What better place is there to learn about and work with taxation than the IRS? I have my dream job and I intend to make the most of it.**

# Membership

By Ellen Silvela

# AGA National & Regional News

## Membership Chair Thank You

I would like to thank Wanda Witherspoon who has been my right hand this past year as I served as the chapter Membership Chair. She helped me develop the Membership Program for the year where we came up with great ideas such as the chapter's very first *Sponsor a New Member Challenge*. She also was key to the Member Spotlight section of the newsletters as she personally contacted members in order for the rest of us to get to know our fellow members better. Recently, she was the "hostess with mostess" showcasing her event planning and coordination skills for the AGA Lunch 'N Learn at the US Coast Guard Finance Center that took place on April 30th where we had over 30 attendees. Thanks a million to Wanda!

## AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter Member Survey 2010

In order to better meet the needs of our members, our chapter is currently conducting a Chapter Satisfaction Survey, via Survey Monkey. Survey responses will be used by the chapter board in planning for the next AGA program year and also as an avenue for member feedback on the areas of certification, education, and community service, among others. This survey will help the chapter board understand in what areas we do well as a chapter AND what areas where there are opportunities for improvement.

The survey should take no more 10 minutes of your time and your participation will be appreciated. Members who complete the survey will be entered in a drawing to receive a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart!

## Sponsor a New Member Challenge Winners are ... Joy Leyeza and Valerie Ward!

As an incentive to grow our network of government accountability professionals in the Hampton Roads area, our chapter offered the Sponsor a New Member Challenge. The rules were that the member who sponsored the most new members from September 2009 to March 2010 will win a free AGA membership for the 2010-2011 program year. We had a tie - and I am pleased to announce the winners – **Joy Leyeza** and **Valerie Ward**. Joy works for the US Coast Guard Finance Center and Valerie works for US Joint Forces Command and we thank them for being AGA cheerleaders at their agencies! Congratulations to both Joy and Valerie!



Membership Director Ellen Silvela

## Welcome New Members!

**John Alleva**, Deloitte  
**Lesley Harden**, Witt Mares, PLC  
**Joseph Monaco**, PricewaterhouseCoopers  
**Penny Wiemann**, US Coast Guard Finance Center  
**Juliet Williams**, US Coast Guard Finance Center  
**Miryam Woodson**, City of Virginia Beach

## Chapter Scholarship Awarded

Brad Smith represented our chapter in attending the ODU College of Business Awards luncheon last month and presenting our AGA VA Peninsula Chapter scholarship to this year's recipient...Randy Pullins, a double major in accounting and finance who also works on campus and off campus. Randy has been invited to be the chapter's guest at our May meeting so please congratulate him if you see him.

## Lunch 'N Learn

Our chapter visited the US Coast Guard Finance Center (FINCEN) on Friday, April 30th. We had over 30 attendees, comprised of both current and potential members at this event, to whom we provided information about AGA and the CGFM certification. The chapter provided pizza and drinks. We also recognized current and future chapter board members from FINCEN in attendance, including Wanda Witherspoon, Curtis Joachim, Steve Reagan, Joy Leyeza, and Clay Griffin. A special thanks to Wanda Witherspoon for spearheading this event, to Curtis for being my PowerPoint – clicker and to Steve who gave us additional insight into the CGFM and showcased the chapter's copies of the CGFM study guides.

# Treasurer's Report



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

By Curtis P. Joachim

Chapter Treasurer Curtis Joachim. If you have any questions, e-mail him at [cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com](mailto:cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com)

**AGA VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAPTER  
PDC  
STATUS OF FUNDS AS OF April 30, 2010  
Spring 10 PDC**

Total Fees Owed	\$ 33,580.00
Fees Collected	29,370.00

<b>Receivables</b>	<b>4,210.00</b>
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**Expenses**

Conference Center Deposit	\$ 500.00
Conference Center Charges	19,486.53
Cancellation Fee Refund	210.00
Speaker Gifts	850.22
Raffle Tickets	9.26
Bags for Attendees	2,112.67
Credit Card Fees	853.97
Badges	157.48
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 24,180.13</b>

<b>Conference Profit (Loss) Based on Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$ 5,189.87</b>
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<b>Amount Due (to) from ASMC Based on Funds Collected to date</b>	<b>\$ 2,594.94</b>
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**AGA VIRGINIA PENINSULA  
CHAPTER OPERATIONS  
STATUS OF FUNDS AS OF April 30, 2010**

<b>Balance Brought Forward March 31, 2010</b>	<b>\$ 17,974</b>
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**Operating Income**

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 992</b>
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<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 18,966</b>
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**Operating Expenses**

March of Dimes	\$ 762
Credit Card Fees	\$ 2
April Luncheon	\$ 675
Membership Incentive	\$ 240
ODU Scholarship	\$ 500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,179</b>

<b>Balance 30 April 2010</b>	<b>\$ 16,788</b>
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**AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter  
2009-2010 Financial Summary  
as of April 30, 2010**

<b>Brought Forward 1 September 2009</b>	<b>\$ 11,832</b>
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Description	Income	Expenses	Balance
Operations	3,977	9,258	-5,281
Fall PDC 2009	26,670	23,715	2,955
Spring PDC 2010	33,580	28,880	4,700

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 64,227</b>	<b>\$ 61,853</b>	<b>\$ 2,374</b>
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<b>Balance 30 April 2010</b>	<b>\$ 14,206</b>
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# The Back Page

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

By Mark Morehouse, CGFM

The other day I read in the April '10 AARP Bulletin that Henry Ford "didn't believe in accountants." I know you're shocked that I would read an adult magazine. I know I am. The article on page 39 by Bill Hogan is entitled "Power of 50" and the excerpts concentrate on seven inventions that rocked the 20<sup>th</sup> century by persons over 50 years of age. Wow. What I found surprising is that Henry Ford who is credited with being the "Father of the Assembly Line" and he "didn't believe in accountants." Somehow I think he had somebody somewhere counting things—lots of things from car fenders to cold cash. Somehow I do not see him collecting the cash every day and paying the bills out of petty cash. Just doesn't seem realistic. You know I did some research on Google to find out more about Henry Ford and accountants. My search had a lot of hits but not much more information. I found a Henry J. Ford who is a CPA in Baltimore—thought that was ironic. Also found an accounting club at the Henry Ford Community College—ironic too. My most interesting find was the piece on Henry Ford at Willamette University in Oregon. The article talks about how standardized accounting played no role in assembly line production facilities that relied so heavily on standardization. The article link is below:

[http://www.willamette.edu/~fthomps/MgmtCon/Henry\\_Ford.html](http://www.willamette.edu/~fthomps/MgmtCon/Henry_Ford.html)

The article later has famous quotes from Henry Ford. He is credited with saying: "I want them (*accountants*) all fired. They're not productive; they don't do any real work. Get them out of here today." To me this suggests that he did have accountants at some point in time. Sounds like he didn't feel like accountants did real work like lifting a 100 pound box of bolts or fit tires on rims all day.

Personally, we as **financial managers** can feel pretty lucky that we influence business and government operations daily as we supply our chains of command with reliable and consistent data that is used to make decisions. Our efforts go a long way toward making America a strong country and a better place to work. Today businesses and government entities enjoy modernized accounting via computers and their programs; however, these systems rely heavily on the professional experience we hold collectively and the knowledge we have about accounting, our work communities and financial management in general. America thanks you for being a **financial manager!**



*Just a few of the many members who make the VA Peninsula chapter great! Thanks for all that ALL of you do!*



*This is our final chapter newsletter for this AGA year and I want to thank those of you who took the time to read it. Also, thanks to all of the writers who made it newsworthy. A special thanks to regular contributors Donna Miller, Ellen Silvela, Wanda Witherspoon, Curtis Joachim, Mark Morehouse, Allison Shoemaker, Cecelia Smith, and Clement Mikowski. Please be sure to continue to send member news and pictures over the summer to me at [Kstefanko@hotmail.com](mailto:Kstefanko@hotmail.com). We can always use more newsletter contributors so consider joining our team next year!*

*Have a safe and relaxing summer!  
Kelly*



VIRGINIA  
PENINSULA  
CHAPTER

## The Virginia Peninsula Chapter Board of Directors 2009-2010

### Chapter Officers:

#### **President**

Donna L. Miller, MSAC  
DHS/OCFO/OFM  
[d.l.miller@frontier.com](mailto:d.l.miller@frontier.com)

#### **President-Elect**

Brad Smith  
City of Norfolk  
[Brad.Smith@norfolk.gov](mailto:Brad.Smith@norfolk.gov)

#### **Past President**

Tanya Renica  
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters  
[Tanya.Renica@uscg.mil](mailto:Tanya.Renica@uscg.mil)

#### **Treasurer**

Curtis P. Joachim, CPA, MBA  
The Joachim Group CPAs &  
Consultants, LLC  
[cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com](mailto:cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com)

#### **Secretary**

Valerie Ward  
US Joint Forces Command  
[valerie.ward@jfc.com.mil](mailto:valerie.ward@jfc.com.mil)

### Chapter Directors:

#### **By-Laws**

Maria Walters, CGFM  
MacFadden  
[mewalt@verizon.net](mailto:mewalt@verizon.net)

#### **Education**

J. David Sweeney, PPM  
Booz Allen Hamilton  
[Sweeney\\_J\\_David@bah.com](mailto:Sweeney_J_David@bah.com)

#### **Meetings/Publicity**

Darcea Johnson  
US Navy  
[darcea.johnson@navy.mil](mailto:darcea.johnson@navy.mil)

#### **Membership**

Ellen Silvela  
Deloitte and Touche LLP  
[esilvela@deloitte.com](mailto:esilvela@deloitte.com)

#### **Research, Early Careers and Academic Affairs**

Doug Ziegenfuss, CPA, CMA,  
CIA, CFE, CGFM, CCSA, CISA  
Old Dominion University  
[dziegenf@odu.edu](mailto:dziegenf@odu.edu)

#### **Chapter Recognition**

Ron Ingram, CGFM  
Army Audit Agency  
[Ronald.Ingram@us.army.mil](mailto:Ronald.Ingram@us.army.mil)

#### **Newsletter**

Kelly Stefanko, CGFM  
Norfolk City  
[kstefanko@hotmail.com](mailto:kstefanko@hotmail.com)

#### **Community Service**

Helen Brooks  
U.S. Coast Guard  
[Helen.M.Brooks@uscg.mil](mailto:Helen.M.Brooks@uscg.mil)

### **Professional Certifications**

Steve Reagan  
U.S. Coast Guard Finance Center  
[stephen.d.reagan@uscg.mil](mailto:stephen.d.reagan@uscg.mil)

### **Webmaster**

Lissa Jordin  
NASA  
[lissa.m.jordin@nasa.gov](mailto:lissa.m.jordin@nasa.gov)

### **Emerging Leaders**

Allison Shoemaker  
Kearney & Co  
[AShoemaker@kearneyco.com](mailto:AShoemaker@kearneyco.com)

### **Regional Vice President- Mid Atlantic Region**

Cecelia Smith  
NASA  
[cecelia.smith-1@nasa.gov](mailto:cecelia.smith-1@nasa.gov)

### **At-Large Directors:**

Michael Joseph, CGFM  
Department of Defense  
Inspector General  
[michael.joseph@dodig.mil](mailto:michael.joseph@dodig.mil)

Mark Morehouse, CGFM  
Military Sealift Command  
[mark.morehouse@navy.mil](mailto:mark.morehouse@navy.mil)

Mary Peterman, CGFM, CPA  
(AGA National Treasurer)  
Savantage Solutions  
[mpeterman@mediacombb.net](mailto:mpeterman@mediacombb.net)

Have member news or pictures to share via the newsletter? Send to [kstefanko@hotmail.com](mailto:kstefanko@hotmail.com)

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)

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