



## VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAPTER



### Next Meeting:

**October 25, 2011**

Old Dominion University,  
Constant Hall, room 1005

*(Note: We're changing our meeting date and time this month to accommodate ODU activity hour)*

Constant Hall is on East 49<sup>th</sup> Street (across from the football stadium).

Parking is free at WHRO. From downtown Norfolk headed north on Hampton Blvd, the lot is on the right, just after passing 49<sup>th</sup> street.

The meeting will start promptly at 12:30pm and last one hour.

*Effective Meeting Management*  
1 CPE

**Enjoy a free pizza lunch with members of the ODU Management Accounting and Auditing Club, AGA's only student chapter, while hearing tips on how to avoid the pain of miserable meetings.**

**FREE** for members

An e-mail with a link to register through 123signup is forthcoming...please be sure to register if you plan to attend.

## Chapter President's Message

*As we approach the last quarter of calendar year 2011 its time to huddle up and decide what's going to be the appropriate end to the year for you. As you know, today we write tomorrow's history. What will be written about you in 2012 that you did during 2011? Yes, we're in the twilight of 2011 but it's not over yet. We've got one full quarter left. Are you satisfied with what you've accomplished during the first three of the four quarters allotted to you? Did you make those changes that were needed to reach the goals you set on January 1?*

*If you did, most assuredly you've run into some obstacles. Did you knock them over and pursue your goals with vigor, or did you allow them to knock you over and leave you stranded? Did you learn from them and wise up for the next challenge or did you allow them to beat you into submission? Whatever your answers may be to the previous questions, it's not too late to finish 2011 strong.*

*Remember the old, catchy tune by Boy George, "Nobody's gonna break my stride, nobody's gonna slow me down, oh no I've got to keep on moving". Make that your mantra, for we all know that the race is not always won by the swift, but by the one who keeps on running.*

*But you're not alone; we're all rooting for you. "Who are you?" you say? We are your fellow AGA members from all across the Peninsula, at all levels of government, the military and the private sector. Come join us the third Thursday of each month. We'll be looking for you so we can cheer you on.*

**Curtis P. Joachim, CPA, MBA**  
**President**  
**AGA VA Peninsula Chapter**



*Chapter president Curtis Joachim greets the crowd at the chapter's first meeting of the year, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Read more about the meeting on page 6.*



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# What's Happening?

This month:

- **October, 16, 2011**, 11:00am, ODU Department of Accounting 5K (<http://tidewaterstriders.com/docs/races/11/odu5k11.pdf>)
- **October 25, 2011**, Chapter Meeting (**NOTE – New date!**) – *Government Highlight Month* - (POC is Melissa Saunders at [msaunders@wittmares.com](mailto:msaunders@wittmares.com)) . Meeting will be held in a classroom in Constant Hall, ODU. Free parking available across Hampton Blvd at WHRO. 1 CPE and pizza lunch free to members.
- October community service projects (see page 4)
  - Blankets & winter clothing donations will be collected at the October meeting, October 25
  - Komen Tidewater Race for the Cure, October 15
  - Union Mission - e-mail [tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil](mailto:tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil) to volunteer

## Meet the October Speaker – Getting More out of Meetings

While meetings may be the most universal part of business life, they are often also the most universally despised part of work! Everyone has been in meetings that take too long and don't accomplish anything. Kelly Stefanko, fellow member and experienced meeting attendee, shares some tips on what you can do to make meetings more meaningful.



Stefanko is a 17 year veteran of government auditing meetings. Having worked for the Departments of Defense and Justice, as well as the City of Norfolk, and now the National Science Foundation, she's sat through hundreds of meetings...annually, or so it feels! Likely, you've had the same experience. Ready to be the change? Be sure to join us for our October meeting, which is a special joint meeting with our fellow AGA chapter at ODU.



## Support ODU's Department of Accounting

Don't forget to register for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual ODU Department of Accounting 5k run and walk ([click here!](#)), to be held Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 11:00am. The chapter annually sponsors this family friendly event, which is always a lot of fun and good exercise, no matter your fitness level. Look for fellow AGA members at the start of the race, at the corner of Powhatan Ave and 48th Street. Everyone that registers gets a t-shirt! The scenic course circles through Old Dominion University's campus and ends down 48th Street with a pizza party at the Elizabeth River. For more information, contact Curtis Joachim at [cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com](mailto:cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com)



Chapter Membership Director Traneisha Bailey-Williams and chapter Meetings/Publicity Director Melissa Saunders catch up at the ODU Accounting Fair September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Virginia Peninsula Chapter 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

- November 16, 2011, Chapter Meeting – *Bring a Guest* - Audio conference seminar. (POC is Melissa Saunders at [msaunders@wittmares.com](mailto:msaunders@wittmares.com))
- November community service projects ([tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil](mailto:tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil)):
  - Stockings and Bears for Christmas : Chapter members contribute by filling holiday stockings with books, toys, games and gifts for area children and donate them for Christmas distribution by the Salvation Army. Members can also dress & return Christmas Bears provided by the Salvation Army (Coast Guard, DODIG & GAO)
  - Samaritan House -- Chapter will help provide manpower to help hand out stockings and bears to children for Christmas.
  - Adopt-A-Troop: Send one care package to service members in Iraq. Collect items as identified on the Wish List. A list of suggested snack food and miscellaneous items will be distributed.
- December 1 & 2, Fall PDC to be held jointly with the Richmond Chapter in Williamsburg , *Navigating through Uncertainty* (contact [cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com](mailto:cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com))
  - Fundraiser to benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation at the Fall PDC in Williamsburg, VA
- January 19, 2012, Chapter Meeting - joint with ASMC (POC is Melissa Saunders at [msaunders@wittmares.com](mailto:msaunders@wittmares.com))
- January community service - "Coats for Kids". AGA will collect gently used coats for kids working with the local News Channel, Wavy TV10 and businesses (contact [tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil](mailto:tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil)).
- February 16, 2012, Chapter Meeting - joint with IIA (POC is Melissa Saunders at [msaunders@wittmares.com](mailto:msaunders@wittmares.com))
- February community service- Food Collection for local area Food Banks. Chapter will collect food items and money donated by for each Food bank (Southside and Peninsula). Also, prepare breakfast for the families of the Ronald McDonald House.
- March 14 & 15 – Spring PDC (joint with ASMC) in Virginia Beach
- April 19, 2012. Chapter Meeting (POC is Melissa Saunders at [msaunders@wittmares.com](mailto:msaunders@wittmares.com))
- April community service - March of Dimes Walk America – Sponsor and participate in this fundraising event. Also, Chapter will help provide manpower to register walkers and count donations after the event for deposit (contact [tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil](mailto:tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil)).
- May community service projects (contact [tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil](mailto:tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil)):
  - 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. Point of Contact will be Joe Rutecki.
  - Hampton Veterans Affairs Center - Volunteers provide many important functions throughout the Medical Center and help make patients' stay more enjoyable. Volunteers will be performing a number of services.
- July 28-August 1, 2012 – AGA National PDC, *Navigating the Winds of Change*, San Diego, CA.



AGA members Rudy Ricafort, Laurie White, and Shanelle Donovan (and son!) supported Clean the Bay Day in June. Read more about the chapter's community service projects on page 4.

# Membership News

By Traneisha Bailey-Williams, Membership Chair

The September luncheon was a great kick-off to our new AGA year. Nearly 40 people enjoyed the member perk of a free lunch at Carrabba's! We've got an exciting year planned—please invite a colleague to share in it and help our chapter grow!

## AGA Fever

In addition to the AGA National Membership campaign (see box below) the Virginia Peninsula chapter is running its own membership recruitment promotion—AGA Fever! Current members (excluding officers) and non-members are encouraged to participate. Here's how it works -- attend at least 3 meetings and 1 chapter-sponsored event (conference, community service event, etc.) this year for a chance to earn free membership for the 2012 – 2013 program year. The winners (up to 3) will be announced at the April monthly meeting. It will not be necessary to be present to win. In case of a tie, there will be a drawing.

## October is "Government Employee Month"

Both our October luncheon speaker and spotlighted members are government employees! This month, share your newsletter with a government employee or invite one with you to our next meeting!

## Member News

**Barbara Reeves** recently joined the Norfolk City Auditor's Office as an Assistant City Auditor for Norfolk.

Congratulations to **Joy Leyeza** on passing part 3 of the CGFM exam....only one more to go!

She's off and running...in September **Ellen Silvela** not only completed the Rock and Roll Half Marathon, she also ran the Women's Half Marathon in Nashville, TN.

Thanks to **Britanny Renica**, who organized a happy hour for emerging Leaders Friday, September 23 at Gordon Biersch.

Have good news to share? Please e-mail me at ([tbaileywilliams@deloitte.com](mailto:tbaileywilliams@deloitte.com))

Traneisha Bailey-Williams,  
Membership Chair



Curtis Joachim and Traneisha Bailey-Williams represent the chapter at ODU's Accounting Job Fair September 13<sup>th</sup>.



## Ready, Set, Grow

AGA National Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Based on the idea that current members are the ideal ambassadors to communicate the advantages of AGA to prospective members, the "Ready, Set, Grow" Member-Get-A-Member Campaign running from May 1, 2011 until April 30, 2012 provides lots of incentives to get members to reach out to non members.

You receive a sponsor pin when your first new member referral joins AGA (be sure your name is listed as "sponsor" on their membership application!). The incentives get better as you recruit more members! The member who recruits the most new members will be presented with the Recruiter of the Year distinction and receive a complimentary registration to the 61st Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC) in San Diego and two tickets to Sea World San Diego. The next two members who recruit the most new members will each be presented with the Top Sponsor distinction along with a complimentary PDC. An AGA national meeting registration will also be awarded to the AGA member who recruits the most new Early Career members during the campaign.

Membership growth benefits us all – get out there and help us grow!



## New Chapter Accountability Report

Your Accountability Chair, Helen Brooks and Chapter President, Curtis Joachim are pleased to present the Virginia Peninsula's first Chapter Centric Report, which can be found at [the chapter's website](#). This report, which will be produced annually, provides vital information about the current status, performance and financial information of the Chapter, along with our challenges and strategy for the future. In addition to accountability to our members, the report will also garner the Chapter additional recognition points, as part of the AGA National Accountability focus.

With my long passion and support for Citizen Centric Reporting, I am pleased to serve on the AGA National Accountability working group, to have had the opportunity to prepare this report, and to continue to move accountability efforts forward. Is your government, agency or organization interested in producing a Citizen Centric Report ... Or hearing more about it? We can and want to help! No charge! ☺. For more information, contact me at [mpeterman@mediacommbb.net](mailto:mpeterman@mediacommbb.net).

- Mary Peterman, CGFM, CPA



# Community Service

By Tia Forte Godwin, Chapter Community Service Chair



## October Community Service Activities

### Blankets and Winter Clothing Drive

Join our *Blankets and Winter Clothing for the Homeless* initiative this winter and make a difference where you live during the cold months to come. A rapidly growing number of kids, women, and men, including veterans, are becoming homeless everyday and the realization is that most shelters seemed to run out of blankets for homeless families and individuals. We will be collecting blankets and winter clothing to send to the local homeless shelters for distribution this winter at the AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter October 25, meeting. Thank you in advance for your support!

### Komen Tidewater

The AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter is looking for a few movers and shakers to join us in the Race experience. The Race for the Cure will be held at the 31st Street Park in Virginia Beach on October 15, 2011. Preparations for this event have already begun and we need your help...contact me at [tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil](mailto:tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil) to volunteer.

Volunteers play a vital role in the Susan G. Komen Tidewater Race for the Cure. Their passion and commitment is what makes the Race successful. This year, individuals from all walks of life will be volunteering their time and talents before, during and after the Race to ensure its success.

### Union Mission

During the month of October, members of the AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter will be coming together to make a difference in the community. Please join us at Union Mission to help in a variety of ways. Contact me at [tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil](mailto:tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil) to volunteer.

**Equi-Kids Golf Tournament** - On Tuesday, October 25, 2011 join the Virginia Peninsula AGA Chapter in supporting the Equi-Kids Golf Tournament at Bayville Golf Club in Virginia Beach. If you are interested in joining us for some fun and networking, contact Joe Rutecki at [jrutecki@cox.net](mailto:jrutecki@cox.net).



## Last Month: Daytime Food Distribution

On September 20, members of the AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter provided a helping hand to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Members Mark Morehouse and Tia Forte Godwin distributed food from the mobile pantry to the residents of Silver Hill. This community service activity provided a great opportunity to meet new people, have fun, and make a difference in someone's life. Didn't get a chance to make it to that event? Don't worry! There are plenty of ways you can help our chapter support the community this month!

## Coming in November

### Stockings and Bears for Christmas:

Chapter members contribute by filling holiday stockings with books, toys, games and gifts for area children and donating them for Christmas distribution by the Salvation Army. Members can also dress & return Christmas Bears provided by the Salvation Army (collection points at Coast Guard, DODIG & GAO)

**Adopt-A-Troop:** The AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter will be sending a care package to our service members overseas. Items will be collected during the October and November meetings. The wish list will be distributed via email.

## Letter to the Editor

*The chapter program year is off to a great start. Curtis you are proving to be a fine leader who is fortunate to have a great team behind you supporting you. This is going to be one outstanding year. Chapter members have a great deal to look forward to. Curtis you are so lucky to be following another great leader, Brad. The chapter excelled in every way under his steady leadership. Brad brought the chapter up a notch and you are bringing it up yet another notch.*

*Last month's meeting was among the best. Melissa is an excellent organizer and she will go far in everything that she does. You had a great speaker, great attendees and a great attitude. All this greatness will be catching on and soon we will have waiting lists for folks to join the chapter. Just hope that Traneisha has enough membership applications to handle all the new members the chapter will be getting. I feel so lucky to be a member of our chapter, the WOW chapter.*

*Curtis, thank you for serving our great chapter and going above and beyond in making it even better.*

*Keep smiling,  
Mark Morehouse*

# Member Spotlight



## Helen Brooks

### **What is your job position?**

I work at the Coast Guard Finance Center in Chesapeake, in the General Accounting Branch, Reports and Reconciliation team.

### **Give us a brief description of your job.**

My main job is to process the vouchers that come through the State Department from different embassies around the world. I also process EPA (oil spill) and IPACS from DFAS.

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

It's so interesting. The research, the people I communicate with, the challenges are all fascinating. There are some days when it can be overwhelming; but as a whole it's very satisfying.

### **Where would you like to see yourself in five years?**

Working as an accountant.

### **What are the benefits of being in a professional association?**

You get to help not only yourself, but others as well. Learning to: network by meeting people from other walks of life, different agencies, and different companies; learning the different aspects of auditing, accounting and financial management; and learning what's new every year. In addition, helping your community in a variety of ways can really open your eyes to many possibilities.

### **What is your most memorable AGA experience?**

Working on a 3-day conference with Jesse Hughes during the AGA/ASMC spring conference.

### **Anything else you'd like to share about yourself?**

I have been a member of the AGA for over 15 years. I previously served as the Community Service Director, Publicity Director and Education Director. I am currently the chapter's Accountability Director.

# Chapter News

## Chapter Debuts New Event Management Service

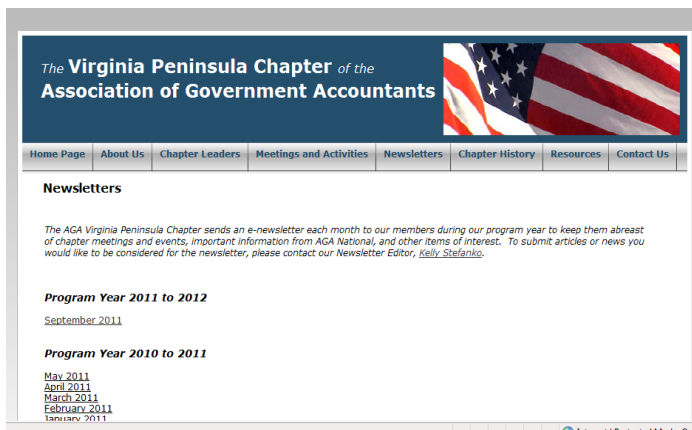
By Ellen Silvela, President-Elect

Notice anything a little different about us this year?! The chapter has gotten tech-savvy in acquiring an event management service – 123signup – to help us improve registration for chapter activities and communications with our members. 123signup will help our chapter better manage our email distribution list and potentially reach a wider audience. Watch for changes in the following areas:

- **Monthly Meetings** – As in the past, notifications of monthly meetings will be emailed to members (based on e-mail addresses on file with the National office) and non-members who request to be added to our email distribution list. However, the email will now be delivered via 123signup and include a link that will bring you to a secure online registration page. The registration link for an advertised meeting will also be posted to the chapter website as registration becomes open.

From the online registration page, you can register yourself and pay for your registration fee, if applicable, with a credit card. Once registered, you will receive an email confirmation and payment receipt. Additionally, you will receive a reminder email 1-2 days prior to the event if you are registered. *Please note that the chapter incurs a minimum \$1.00 cost per registration (even if there is no charge to the member for the luncheon) so please only register if you highly expect to attend an event.* This service helps us better plan for the number of attendees. You may also cancel your registration prior to the event via the link on the invitation email.

- **Newsletters** – Newsletters will be uploaded to the newsletter page on our chapter website at [www.agavapen.org](http://www.agavapen.org) as they become available at the beginning of each month. A notification email will be sent from 123signup at the beginning of each month containing a link to the newsletter section of our website. The newsletter in a large file clogging your inbox will be a thing of the past!



Screenshot of [www.agavapen.org](http://www.agavapen.org) page where you will be directed via a 123signup e-mail to access each month's edition

From the newsletter section, click on the month of the most recent newsletter for your reading pleasure! You can also download the newsletter from this page by saving it.

- **Other Chapter News** – Other chapter news from chapter leaders may also be sent via 123signup. Be sure to keep the address in your “safe” list.
- **Promoting AGA** – Feel free to forward any emails we send via 123signup to your colleagues who may be interested in a particular event. They can register as well through the provided registration link and subscribe to our email list so they get our chapters news directly.

For more information on 123signup, visit <http://www.123signup.com/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ellen Silvela at [esilvela@deloitte.com](mailto:esilvela@deloitte.com) or 339-4325.

## September Meeting Recap

### Fargen Dares Members to Dream of ...the Death of Budgetary Accounting?

Seth Fargen gave frustrated government accountants a reason to hope in challenging the status quo on government accounting. Fargen, Deputy Director of the Coast Guard Finance Center, kicked off our first chapter meeting of the year in presenting his ideas for reforming the current government budgeting model by eliminating funding expirations with certain controls. He explained that the budgetary process we currently have is broken and unnecessarily complicated. The thinking behind his idea, the “*The Get Real and Manage your Resources Act of 2011*,” is that government should operate more like a business and accountants have to take on a larger role as financial consultants to management. As chapter president Curtis Joachim commented, Fargen “is proof there is no shortage of smart people in government.”

Nearly 40 people took advantage of the opportunity for a CPE and free lunch at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Chesapeake ([see the photo gallery](#)) Be sure to take advantage of this great member benefit by attending the next chapter meeting!



# Treasurer's Report

By Nicole Whitaker, Chapter Treasurer

Our QuickBooks file has been the responsibility of a number of treasurers over the years. It has a few errors that need to be repaired to correct the Undeposited Funds balance, the Accounts Receivable balance, and Payroll Liabilities account. I am investigating the best method to correct these issues.

If anyone knows a QuickBooks expert that might want to donate an hour of time to a worthy cause, please contact me at [nicole.e.whitaker@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.e.whitaker@gmail.com).

On the right is the chapter's balance sheet as of September 27, 2011. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Save the date and plan to attend our Fall PDC, to be held jointly with the Richmond Chapter in Williamsburg December 1 & 2. As noted below, our chapter relies heavily on the revenues generated at our two annual conferences to sustain our chapter operations. We could use a few good sponsors, as well as lots of attendees!

## WE NEED YOU



### AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter

### Balance Sheet

As of September 27, 2011

	<u>Sep 27, 11</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Towne Bank	11,919.43
Total Checking/Savings	11,919.43
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	-411.00
Total Accounts Receivable	-411.00
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	-75.00
Total Other Current Assets	-75.00
Total Current Assets	11,433.43
Fixed Assets	
Office Equipment	314.49
Total Fixed Assets	314.49
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>11,747.92</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	250.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	250.00
Total Current Liabilities	250.00
Total Liabilities	250.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	2,857.53
Retained Earnings	12,477.69
Net Income	-3,837.30
Total Equity	11,497.92
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>11,747.92</u></b>



### Wanted: A Few Good Sponsors

In efforts to make more opportunities available to you, our members, for personnel development and training at an affordable price, we need your help in finding sponsors to subsidize our cost. We've developed a sponsorship program that gives our sponsors maximum exposure throughout the year.

AGA has a proud tradition of partnering through sponsorship with companies doing business with state, local and federal agencies, as well as companies whose products or services enhance or contribute to the professional development and careers advancement of our members.

If you know of any such companies or organization with whom we could partner with, please tell them about us or have them contact Curtis at [cjoachim@tjgcpas.com](mailto:cjoachim@tjgcpas.com). You can get a copy of our sponsorship program at our website [www.agavapen.org](http://www.agavapen.org).

Companies -- partner with the Virginia Peninsula Chapter of AGA to enhance your marketing program and recruit experienced professionals to meet your business needs. We have a variety of sponsorship opportunities and are very excited about working with your organization. We would very much appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with your business to help achieve your goals and support our mission. With your support, we can continue to provide experienced, professional government financial managers to the public and offer you a new venue to share your message with a receptive, knowledgeable audience.

- Curtis Joachim

# Beyond the Chapter

AGA National News

## Register Now: AGA's Government Finance Case Challenge

The best undergraduate accounting/financial management/business students in the country are invited to compete in the fifth annual Government Finance Case Challenge. Student teams will collaboratively analyze and offer a written response to a case centered on how a U.S. city government creates a Citizen-Centric Report.

The registration deadline is Oct. 19, 2011. All members of the three highest-scoring teams will receive a scholarship to attend AGA's National Leadership Conference, set for Feb. 16-17, 2012 in Washington, D.C. [Learn more.](#)

## Consider the Challenge of AGA National and Regional Leadership

AGA's National Nominating Committee is currently seeking members for volunteer leadership positions as:

- National President-Elect
- National Treasurer-Elect
- Senior Vice President for Regional Services
  - Section IV\* (*Note – this is OUR section!*)
- Regional Vice Presidents (RVP)-Elect\*

Nomination Deadline is Monday, October 31, 2011.

\*Please note that the 2012-2015 terms are based on the updated chapter and regional governance alignment. Please pay close attention to the [nominations brochure](#), and contact [Louise Kapelewski](#) if you have any questions.

## AGA Offers Classroom Training

AGA offers a variety of classroom-type training courses to meet your staff's training and education needs. These AGA sponsored courses can be designed around your particular requirements and are presented at your facility by experienced and knowledgeable financial management professionals. Participants are awarded from 8 to 16 CPE hours at the conclusion of each course. [Click here for the course catalog.](#)

### UPCOMING NATIONAL CONFERENCES

#### Federal Performance Conference

November 3-4, 2011

Seattle, WA

#### National Leadership Conference

February 16-17, 2012

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, D.C.

#### Professional Development Conference & Exposition

July 29-August 1, 2012

*Navigating the Winds of Change*

San Diego, CA



## Certification News

By Steve Reagan, CGFM Director

### **Are YOU ready to become a CGFM?**

Anyone interested in participating in a study group should e-mail Steve Reagan at [sreagan01@verizon.net](mailto:sreagan01@verizon.net). Be sure to include which exam you are studying for. Click the following links to learn more about the CGFM!

[CGFM Application](#) and [CGFM Certification--Learn More](#)

### **Apply NOW for your CGFM and get a \$20 rebate!**

From now until December 31, 2011, AGA is offering a rebate of \$20 for CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters.

In order to receive a \$20 rebate,

1. The complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and copy of the transcript) must be received by AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of September 1 through December 31, 2011.

2. The CGFM application form **must have the promotional phrase: "CGFM chapter promotion – VA Peninsula" written at the bottom of the form.** If the application is submitted online, the applicant must put this phrase in the last question: "How did you learn about the CGFM Program?" The rebate check will be sent to you by mail in January.

### **Already a CGFM?**

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. In addition, to continue using the CGFM designation after their name, CGFMs must be in an active status.

To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFMs are required to:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year.
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects (within the designated two-year cycle).
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

By submitting their annual renewal payment, CGFMs affirm that they have and will continue to abide by AGA's *Code of Ethics* and that they have fulfilled the minimum CPE Requirements.

[Click here for detailed information on CGFM CPE requirements.](#)



## A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

**Mark A. Morehouse, MBA, CGFM**  
Regional Vice President-Elect for the Mid-Atlantic Region

### What is a CCR?!

What exactly is a CCR? Some would immediately recognize the abbreviation as that of *Creedence Clearwater Revival*, a rock band of days past. In our world of professional financial management, it stands for Citizen-Centric Reporting. This four page short, concise and to the point report is a relatively new way for you to report to the public. It is a summary which describes any organization to the public. It allows the audience to grasp the who, what, when, and where of your organization.

Much has been written about CCRs, primarily at the AGA national website, which provides templates for organizations to use in developing their first CCR (<http://www.agacgfm.org/citizen/>).

Through our chapter and region, there are several resources to help you put one together for your organization. We have a regional coordinator specifically tasked with chapter assistance on CCRs, Dellareese (Della) Morton-Smith. She may be contacted at [Dellareese.Morton-Smith@ssa.gov](mailto:Dellareese.Morton-Smith@ssa.gov).

Also, our chapter has an Accountability Chair, Helen Brooks, who along with Mary Peterman, just put together a CCR for our chapter. Thanks to these ladies, our chapters earned an incentive of 500 bonus points for completing our CCR before the end of September.

Completed CCRs should be e-mailed to the National Office's Evie Barry, another great CCR resources at [ebarry@agacgfm.org](mailto:ebarry@agacgfm.org).

Ps: If you wish to read about the other CCR, go to <http://www.creedence-online.net/>. ☺

### AGA Seeks CEAR Reviewers

The AGA is looking for senior-level individuals who can volunteer their time and expertise to serve as a Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program Reviewer for the Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) and/or the Agency Financial Report (AFR). The PAR is due to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on or before November 15, 2011 and the AFR is due in February 2012.

Those individuals who serve as members of the CEAR review teams will:

1. Read one PAR or AFR;
2. Evaluate it using AGA's Reviewer's Guidelines;
3. Develop detailed recommendations for improving the report;
4. Discuss all recommendations during a team meeting; and
5. Vote on presenting the Certificate of Excellence for the outstanding PAR or AFR.

#### Mid-Atlantic Regional Team

**Regional Vice President**  
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**Chapter Dev & Assistance Regional Coordinator**  
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**Community Svc Regional Coordinator**  
Dellareese Morton-Smith (Baltimore Chapter)

**Early Careers Regional Coordinator**  
Rashad A. Holloway (Baltimore Chapter)

*Want to join our team? The region is always looking for new leaders. Please contact Mid-Atlantic RVP Denise Wu at [denise.wu@cliftoncpa.com](mailto:denise.wu@cliftoncpa.com) or RVP-elect Mark Morehouse at [mark.morehouse@navy.mil](mailto:mark.morehouse@navy.mil) to find out how you can get involved in our region's leadership.*

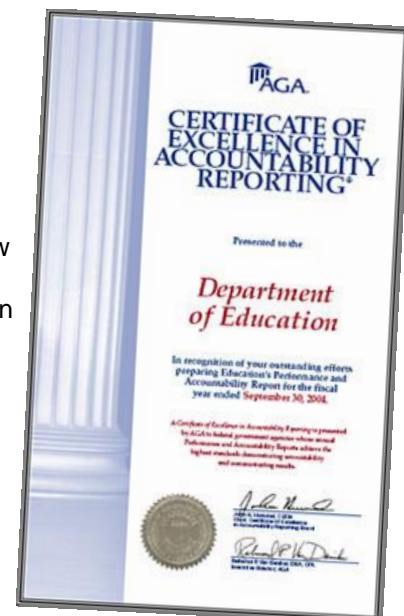
If selected, you will gain valuable knowledge and experience that is beneficial to you by:

- Gaining exposure to the broad range of current document practices;
- Maintaining and sharpening your technical skills;
- Staying aware of the latest developments in authoritative standards affecting accounting;
- Better understanding financial reporting and performance measures for the federal government;
- Making a valuable contribution to improving the quality of agency documents; and
- Receiving free training.

[Click here](#) to find CEAR program reviewer information and an application form. Training will be in early December 2011.

Please let your chapter and me know if you are selected to be a Program Reviewer. This is definitely a win-win situation! Sign up today!

Thank you,  
*Dellareese (Della) Morton-Smith*  
Mid-Atlantic Region,  
Accountability and Outreach  
Coordinator  
[DellaMS732@gmail.com](mailto:DellaMS732@gmail.com)





# The Virginia Peninsula Chapter Board of Directors 2011-2012

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

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Honorable  
Mention

*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  
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