



# Observations



A monthly publication of the Chicago Chapter, Association of Government Accountants

AGA – Dedicated to serving the community and promoting government accountability

December 2005

Issue 4

## Upcoming Events

**\*January 9\***

Winter Clothing Drive

**\*February 13\***

Greater Chicagoland Professional Development Conference

Presenters:  
David Hayes  
Carole Buncher  
Michael A. Perez

Price:  
\$49 for Members  
\$59 for Others

Eight (8) CPE Credits



## A message from the Editor...

Do you know anyone from the Chicago Chapter who has recently got promoted, accepted an award, retiring, new to AGA? Let us know! We can include them in our newsletter! Please forward your submissions to [alexandria.hayden@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:alexandria.hayden@oig.hhs.gov) so that it may be included in the next issue of *Observations*!

## Update your member information!

Please review and update your personal information at National's website, [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org). You can update your information in the 'Member's Only' page. This allows us to keep you better informed throughout the year!

## In This Issue . . .

President's Message.....	2
December Meeting Information.....	3
2005/2006 Luncheon/ Training Schedule.....	4
Luncheon Speaker Bio.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	6
Miscellaneous.....	7
Guest Columnist.....	8
CGFM Corner.....	10
From the National Office.....	11
Links to website.....	14
Chapter Recognition Credits.....	14
Contact Us.....	15

## President's Message

Last month's luncheon featured Johnny Campbell, "The Transition Man." Johnny's presentation at the Palmer House's French Quarter focused on conflict resolution and attracted a record number of attendees. His dynamic presentation even caught the attention of restaurant patrons and French Quarter employees. Several attendees wanted to learn more and stayed to talk with Johnny after the luncheon. We hope "The Transition Man" will return for our next professional development conference to be held in 2006/2007.

### A Christmas Message of Hope

Christmas gift prices continue to rise with this year's iPod and Xbox 360 each costing \$300-\$400. Before you spend all your money on the latest in technology consider adding a charity to your Christmas gift list. Trustworthy charitable organizations in need of your help can be found by searching at:

<http://www.chicagocfc.org>

For example, you can sponsor a child (about \$25 per month provides food, housing and education) or make a one-time donation.

One particularly heart-wrenching story that was brought to my attention involves a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina who lost their jobs and home only to discover that their 10-year-old son has Leukemia. This family is desperately in need. You can help them by making an online donation and designating your gift to the Drew Chimento fund at:

<http://www.heroesforchildren.org/>

Heroes for Children is a nonprofit organization providing financial and social assistance to families, within the state of Texas, with children (0-22 yrs of age) battling cancer.

During this season of giving, please remember those who are truly in need.

### December Luncheon Returns to the Metcalf Federal Building

Our December 12<sup>th</sup> luncheon will feature Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General for the Social Security Administration (SSA). During FY 2004, the SSA's Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) investigators reported over \$261 million in investigative accomplishments through SSA recoveries, restitution, fines, settlements, judgments and projected savings. SSA's OIG auditors issued 105 reports with recommendations identifying over \$465 million in Federal funds that could be put to better use and another \$1.5 billion in questioned costs. SSA's OIG attorneys reported over \$500,000 in civil monetary penalties and assessments. Under Mr. O'Carroll's leadership, the SSA OIG returned nearly \$25 for every dollar invested in its operations. Throughout his Government career, Mr. O'Carroll has received numerous awards for his service, including the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in FY 2003.

### Hull House Children's Toy Drive 50% Off December Luncheon

Members that bring a toy donation to the December 12<sup>th</sup> luncheon will receive 50% off the regular member's luncheon price and will receive our famous hot buffet and 1 CPE for the amazing low price of only \$5.50.

### Greater Chicagoland Professional Development Conference

The "Greater Chicagoland Professional Development Conference." is quickly approaching. The February 13<sup>th</sup> conference will feature outstanding speakers and award 8 CPE hours for the incredible price of \$49 (\$59 non-members) including lunch and refreshments. As we are anticipating a sellout, please make your reservations as early as possible.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!

*Dan Eckert*

## December Meeting Information

<p><b>Date:</b> December 12, 2005</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 11:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Meeting Topic:</b> Protecting Against SSN misuse and identity theft</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General for SSA</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Metcalf Federal Building Room 2205 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, Illinois</p> <p><b>Price:</b> Price: \$11.00 members \$13.00 guests \$ 9.00 first-meeting</p> <p><b>CPE:</b> 1 Hour</p>	<p>Join us for the monthly meeting of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants, featuring a HOT buffet luncheon, chapter news and information, and an informative speaker.</p> <p>Please call your contact person with reservations before 12:00 P.M. on <b>Wednesday, December 7, 2005.</b> <i>Contact persons should call in the names and number of reservations to Linda Lenzi-Radek at 312/353-2618 or 312/886-4362, or e-mail their data to Linda at <a href="mailto:linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov">linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov</a>.</i> Reservations must be made by the prescribed times in order to get an accurate count. If you must miss the meeting, please contact Linda Lenzi-Radek directly to cancel. This is very important because we must pay for all lunches that we order. If possible, please cancel your reservation by the Thursday preceding the meeting to ensure that we are not charged for your lunch.</p>	<p><b><i>To help the line move faster, please have <u>exact change</u> or pay by check.</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Contact Person by Agency</u></b></p> <p>USDA-OIG Margaret Goudeaux 353-1356 Customs Tom Kudelka 983-9615 DOL-OIG Dawn Schoene 353-8367 ED-OIG Richard Dowd 886-6503 EPA-OIG Lora Schaefer 886-3126 GAO Shirley Ellis 220-7749 GSA-OIG Bob Meyer 353-7781x124 HHS-OIG Linda Lenzi-Radek 353-2618 HUD-OIG Diane Terzian 353-7832 RRB-OIG Mark Knudson 751-4764 SSA-OIG Elaine Harris 353-2237 (inactive) DHS-OIG Kathy Hyland 886-0119 FIA/Members Linda Lenzi-Radek 353-2618 VA-OIG Others Linda Lenzi-Radek 353-2618</p> <p><b>Contact Person changes should be forwarded to:</b> <a href="mailto:Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov">Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov</a></p>
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***NOTE:*** *If any of the contact people listed above have changed, please let me know as soon as possible so that it is corrected. Contact persons should call in the names and number of reservations to Linda Lenzi-Radek at (312) 353-2618 or (312) 886-4362, or e-mail their information to Linda at [linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:linda.lenziradek@oig.hhs.gov).*

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## Come and join us for lunch!

This month Buona Catering will provide another hot economical buffet lunch!

Prices are **\$11.00** for members, **\$13.00** for guests, and **\$9.00** if this is your first meeting. The location will be in Metcalf Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Room 2205, Chicago, Illinois.

**Association of Government Accountants - Chicago Chapter  
2005/2006 Luncheon and Training Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event Speaker and Topic</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Monday, December 12, 2005 1 CPE Hull House Children's Toy Drive	11:30 AM	Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General for SSA	Protecting Against SSN misuse and identity theft
Monday, January 9, 2006 1 CPE Winter Clothing Drive	11:30 AM	Nikki L. Tinsley, Inspector General for EPA	To be announced.
Monday, February 13, 2006  Greater Chicagoland Professional Development Conference 8 CPEs  DHHS Conference Room 233 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 1329 Chicago, IL 60601	8:00 AM	GAO's David Hayes, Assistant Director of IT Security and GAO's Mickie Gray  Carole Buncher, Carol Buncher & Associates  Michael A. Perez, Ph.D, Associate Director Business, Professional, and Continuing Education, College of DuPage	"Developing An Effective Approach to Integrating IT and Financial Audit Teams and Procedures"  "Effective Briefings & Interviews"  "Leadership Styles"
Monday, March 13, 2006 1 CPE	11:30 AM	Professor John W. Gudenas, Ph.D	"Current Issues In Information Technology"
Monday, April 10, 2006 1 CPE	11:30 AM	Professor Ed Poole, Change Management Consultant and Author of "Lessons from the Porch"	"Lessons from the Porch"
Monday, May 8, 2006 1 CPE	11:30 AM	Thomas H. Berliner, Ph.D	"Idea Generation"





**Inspector General  
Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr.**

Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr. currently serves as the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration (SSA). He was appointed as SSA's third Inspector General on November 24, 2004.

In FY 2004, the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG's) investigators reported over \$261 million in investigative accomplishments through SSA recoveries, restitution, fines, settlements, and judgments and projected savings. OIG auditors issued 105 reports with recommendations identifying over \$465 million in Federal funds that could be put to better use and \$1.5 billion in questioned costs. And OIG's attorneys reported over \$500,000 in civil monetary penalties and assessments. As a result, the OIG returned nearly \$25 for every dollar invested in its operations.

Other positions Mr. O'Carroll has held at SSA OIG include Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Assistant Inspector General for External Affairs, Special Agent-in-Charge of Congressional Affairs, and Special Agent-in-Charge of Strategic Enforcement. Prior to his SSA positions, Mr. O'Carroll had 24 years experience at the United States Secret Service.

Mr. O'Carroll received a B.S. from Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and a Master of Forensic Sciences from the George Washington University, Washington, DC. He also attended the National Cryptologic School, the Brookings Institute, Georgetown University, and the Kennedy School at Harvard University. Mr. O'Carroll is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Association of Government Accountants.

Throughout his Government career, Mr. O'Carroll has received numerous awards for his meritorious service, including the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in FY 2003.

## ***Upcoming Events***

### ***Hull House Children's Toy Drive 50% Off Luncheon***

Members that bring a toy donation to the December luncheon will receive 50% off the regular member's luncheon price and will receive our famous hot buffet and 1 CPE for the amazing low price of only \$5.50.

### ***Greater Chicagoland Professional Development Conference***

This February, the Chapter will host its first annual "Greater Chicagoland Professional Development Conference." This conference will feature outstanding speakers and award 8 CPE hours for the incredible price of \$49 (\$59 non-members) including lunch and refreshments.

### ***Winter Clothing Drive \$2.00 Off Luncheon***

Members that bring in a coat, scarf, gloves or other winter clothing in good condition to the January luncheon will receive \$2.00 off the regular member's luncheon price.

### ***Reduced First Year Membership Fees***

Current National plus Chapter membership fees are: Full Government (\$90+\$7), Early Career (\$45+\$7), and Student (\$30+\$7). Become a member and receive 50% off during your first year of membership. With the Chapter subsidy, membership fees will be \$48.50, \$26 and \$18.50, respectively during your first year. Additionally, new members attend their first luncheon free.

<http://www.agacgm.org/membership/communicators/downloads/membershipapplication.pdf>

### ***CGFM Exam Registration Fee Waiver***

The \$85 CGFM exam registration fee will be waived for the first five Chicago Chapter members taking the CGFM exam. These five members will also receive a Chapter scholarship of \$109 to cover the cost of taking the first part of the exam.

### ***New Luncheon Prize Drawings***

In addition to the free lunch drawing, all losing tickets will be entered in a December and May drawing to win a \$25 Gift Card. The more luncheons attended, the greater the chance of winning.

## TRAINING EVENT

**Mark your calendars for February 13<sup>th</sup>! AGA's Chicago Chapter will be hosting its first annual "Greater Chicagoland Professional Development Conference." This conference will feature outstanding speakers and award 8 CPE hours for the incredible price of \$49 (\$59 non-members). **This includes lunch and refreshments!****

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## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Chicago Chapter is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

President- Elect  
Program Director  
Job Referral  
Historian  
Photographer  
Publicity Director  
Membership Chair

If you are interested in these positions or have any questions, please contact a member of the Executive Committee for more information.

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## FAREWELL

*The AGA Chicago Chapter wishes Iesha Winslow (DOL/OIG) good luck and special thanks for her involvement in the Chapter's Executive Committee as Membership Chair. Ms. Winslow has served on the committee for 2 years and will be missed!*

## **A MILESTONE TO BE FORGOTTEN**

*by Ronald Huritz, MBA, CGFM, CFE, CFSA, CBM*

December 31, 2005, will be a notable date for many reasons. In addition to the usual year-end merriment and hopeful anticipation of a better year ahead, that date will also mark the tenth anniversary of the shut-down of one of the most intensely maligned government agencies in American history.

The Resolution Trust Corporation, a forgotten sister of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, ended its monumental task of cleaning up the beleaguered savings and loan industry on the last day of 1995. Along with some 3,000 other stalwarts who courageously stuck it out until the bitter end, I packed up my few remaining RTC remembrances that day and closed my office door on the troubled history of a shattered, criminal-laden segment of the American financial system.

Originally mandated by Congress to have a seven-year life span, the RTC opened for business in August 1989 with a confused and direction-less corps of permanent FDIC staffers who were drafted to start the new agency. The payroll soon ballooned to more than 10,000 following a hiring frenzy to fill chairs in a number of "cluster" offices. In those early days, the agency's policies and procedures were adapted from commercial bank takeovers, soon to be modified by the more peculiar needs of the S&L industry. And peculiar they were.

In the 1980s, the venerable savings and loans, patterned after the old building and loan association and immortalized in such movies as "It's a Wonderful Life", suffered from three basic maladies: the mutual form of ownership, uncontrolled and rampant speculative lending and investment practices, and good old-fashioned greed. Some would add a fourth malady: an ineffective regulatory authority, the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

It didn't take the cadre of RTC employees responsible for managing and closing down the insolvent institutions very long to realize that mutual ownership was a managerial nightmare. We joked that S&L owners awoke each morning, looked in the bathroom mirror and talked to their bosses. They were accountable only to themselves, and considering the financial shenanigans many of them were engaged in, it was inevitable that their institutions were destined to fail. In too many cases, their loan portfolios held an abundance of non-performing mortgages that went bad when real estate markets softened. Some carelessly invested their depositors' money in investments ranging from pricey artwork and golf courses to Kruggerands and pork belly futures.

At one notorious Miami S&L, the chief executive had sculptures in his palatial office valued at nearly \$15 million dollars. His extravagant taste, funded by bleeding the S&L dry, included a yacht so large that neighbors on either side of his home complained about the craft encroaching on their adjoining dock space. His solution: He bought both their homes at prices far above appraised value just for the privilege of comfortably nesting his boat in the expanded space.

Only a handful of the mis-managers did hard jail time as punishment for sinking their S&Ls. The most publicized case was that of Charles Keating who served over four years



in prison for misdeeds at Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Irvine, California. His convictions were later overturned on technicalities.

Creative accounting is not a concept unique to the private sector. Called Regulatory Accounting Principles (RAP) by the FHLB, it was created and condoned by the very agency empowered to regulate the savings bank industry. In attempting to clean up inflated balance sheets, we often encountered mysterious general ledger accounts titled Goodwill, Intangible Assets, and the ever-popular but totally meaningless Other Assets. Among my tasks was converting RAP valuations to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or RAP-to-GAAP adjustments. In unraveling these spaghetti-bowl general ledgers, and in order to make the sometimes significant accounting adjustments as gently as possible to placate investors, we were directed to create a Combination of RAP and GAAP, which naturally became known as CRAP. Need I say more?

In my six years with the agency, I helped fire about two dozen S&L executives, downsized 17 institutions, sat on interest rate-setting committees, and gave newspaper interviews during takeovers. I also supervised the activities of nine managing agents, conducted ethics briefings, and comforted little old ladies with passbooks in hand who descended on intervened institutions in a panic to withdraw their life savings. My colleagues and I labored toward the goal of Restoring The Confidence and Resolving The Crisis, two of the agency's more clever ways of recycling the RTC letters. At times, owing to intense Congressional scrutiny, tons of bad publicity and some very long hours, we used those letters to coin an even more descriptive catch phrase that described our work environment: Really Tough Conditions.

To avoid embarrassment and further controversy for the Clinton administration during the impending 1996 election campaign, Congress passed legislation that chopped a full year off the RTC's life. When the doors finally closed at the end of 1995, the total cost to bail out the S&Ls was estimated at between \$88 billion and \$125 billion. Today, it's hard to identify a remaining S&L because most have changed their charters to commercial banks and changed their names to protect the innocent. Failures have shrunk to a handful with only four institutions going bust since 2000.

The upcoming anniversary of the agency's demise, like most bad memories, will pass basically unnoticed. Even the FDIC won't commemorate the date in any official way, according to a rather terse e-mail I received from its public affairs officer. But those of us whose careers were both enhanced and then besmirched by RTC employment are not likely to ever forget the time and effort we invested trying to resolve the S&L crisis.

The message that emerged from that debacle was clear. Tighten regulatory controls and exercise more prudent banking practices. That might hold in check the first two maladies that caused the crisis. But I seriously doubt that the FDIC, or anyone else for that matter, will ever stamp out greed. That will take a lot more than a government agency and a few billion dollars. So Happy Anniversary to us RTC survivors, and Happy New Year to the rest of you.

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Ronald Huritz, a member of the Washington, DC Chapter, is an Audit Manager with the Corporation for National & Community Service's Office of Inspector General. In addition to the RTC, his 15-year Federal career includes service with the IRS and HUD. He also served a two-year term as President of the AGA Chicago Chapter.

## CGFM Corner



**The Mark of Excellence in Government Financial Management**

### **Why Become a CGFM?**

**Q: What is the procedure for taking the CGFM Examinations?**

**A:** You must first apply for the CGFM Program (for more information on CGFM application requirements, please visit our website at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/>). After your application is processed, you will receive a letter confirming your eligibility to sit for the examinations. This letter will include your candidate ID number. The eligibility letter will provide detailed instructions for purchasing your examinations on the AGA website. You can purchase one, two or all three examinations at this time. Once you purchase your examinations, you can print the authorization letter. This authorization letter provides you with detailed instructions for scheduling your testing appointment with Prometric.

**Q: Do I have to take all three examinations at the same time or in any particular order?**

**A:** No. You may take up to three years to complete all three examinations. You can take the examinations in any order.

**Q: How often are the examinations offered?**

**A:** They are offered six days a week all year round. Some centers may even offer evening hours for testing. After registering and purchasing the exams, you may contact Prometric for exact times and availability.

**Q: How often can I retake the examinations?**

**A:** You may retake an exam as often as you like. If you do not pass the exam the first time, you must wait 30 days before taking the exam again. If you don't pass a second time, there is a three-month waiting period between retakes. You have three years to pass all three exams. Otherwise, you need to reapply and begin again, and all exams that were passed will have to be retaken.



## From the National Office

### AGA'S MAINE CHAPTER HAS LEARNED A FEW THINGS ABOUT BRINGING THE LIVE CGFM TRAINING COURSES TO ITS MEMBERS.

Gathering tips from other chapters, co-sponsoring the courses with the state controller's office, finding free classroom space and keeping prices low helped. The biggest key to success, however, was the support of State Controller Ed Karass, CGFM, who calls himself the CGFM's "biggest cheerleader in state government."

Karass has gone beyond encouraging his employees to earn the credential - he has added the CGFM to the list of certifications for newly opened high-level management positions in state finance. April Newman, financial management coordinator for the Office of the State Controller, who helped organize the courses, said 13 people had signed up before the CGFM was added to the list of minimum qualifications; within a week or two of this change, the courses were filled. "Suddenly, there was a lot of interest in people taking the courses and getting the certification," Newman said.

Karass and Chapter President Karen Doyle, CGFM, director of the Division of Accounting and Finance Services, followed up by speaking to state government leaders on the benefits of hiring professionals with the CGFM designation. So many people signed up for the courses that the price was dropped from \$600 to \$400. State managers paid the entire course fee for the employees they sent to the courses.

"I give them a lot of credit for doing that," Newman said, noting that managers throughout government want to recruit and retain qualified people because a wave of pending retirements is expected to thin the ranks. "This truly opened the doors," she said, "only 20 people are active CGFMs in Maine now, so this was a great opportunity for people who would not have done it otherwise."

Karass has encouraged all 34 state employees who took Courses 1 and 3 last month to go forward and take the examinations and become CGFMs. Eight people from the controller's office attended the courses. Another chapter member offered to organize a study group to help them prepare. Course 2 will be offered in May.

Jody Breton, CGFM, an AGA Immediate Past Regional Vice President for the New England region, and Dave Lachance, CGFM, outgoing chapter president, were also instrumental in bringing the courses to Augusta, Newman said.

Newman admits that the idea of bringing the courses to Maine, which has a small chapter of about 140 members, was somewhat daunting at first, but getting help from other chapters, not to mention the support and encouragement of the state controller, made all the difference. "If anyone had said to me, this could be done, I wouldn't have believed it," she said.

- By Christina Camara

## Earning a Certified Government Financial Manager Designation: A Step-by-Step Guide

When people who are interested in the CGFM designation call the AGA National Office, some of the most common questions center around the process of obtaining the CGFM designation: Where do I start? What happens next? How do I purchase the exams?

[So click here for a step-by-step guide to how you can earn the CGFM designation!](#)

## Need an Extra Incentive to Complete Your CGFM?

This year AGA has introduced a new Intensive Review Course and an opportunity to take the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Examinations at AGA's national conferences. The next event will take place in February at the [Fourth Annual National Leadership Conference](#) in Washington, D.C. The cost of the course is only \$195 for qualified participants, and it offers 16 CPE hours. **Special Bonus: The CGFM Examinations taken during this event are free of charge!** For registration, eligibility and examination information please [click here](#)

## Studying for CGFM Examinations?

AGA now has comprehensive study guides for all three CGFM Examinations—[click here to order your copy.](#)

## Did You Know?

Several states this year have declared March a CGFM month. [See their proclamations.](#) Efforts are under way for more states to join this initiative for 2006. AGA National is supporting the states' efforts by declaring March "CGFM Month" as well.

## Contact Us! We're Here to Help

We hope you'll find this information helpful. As always, please let us know how we can assist you in reaching your goal of becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager! Contact [Katya Silver](#), Director of Professional Certification Administration.

## Registration Now Open for PDC 2006

Make plans now to attend AGA's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC), June 18-21, 2006.

Registration is now open for AGA's 55th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)! Register today and secure your place at the government financial management education event of the year!

[Register online](#) or [Print registration form to send by fax/mail \(Adobe PDF\)](#)



AGA's National President, Sam McCall, CGFM, has challenged every member to recruit at least 1 new AGA member before the close of the membership year, April 30, 2006. *Are you up to the challenge?*

We have made it so easy to participate!

- [Click here to download a membership application.](#)
- Print your name on the "Sponsor's Name" line on the application to receive sponsor credit when your recruits join.
- Follow up with those individuals that you asked to join.

[Click here for all of the details, including prize information.](#) The 2005-2006 Recruitment Campaign runs through April 30, 2006. *Now is the time to swing into action!*

### **N.A.L.G.A. Plans Annual Conference**

The National Association of Local Government Auditors will host its 18th Annual Conference on May 22-23, 2006 in San Jose, CA. [Click here to find out more.](#)

### **Federal Accounting Corner**

#### **Accounting Terminology**

Every area of expertise has its own jargon. One problem with federal accounting is that often our terms come from outside sources, such as private sector accounting, state and local government accounting and the business world in general. Two terms that are frequently used in overlapping ways are *account* and *fund*. —*Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM, CPA.* [Click here to read the entire column.](#)

### **Performance Pay Provides Rewards, OPM Says**

Federal employees who are under pay for performance systems, including demonstration projects and some other special authorities, do see a difference in their pay according to their performance, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has said. In a document prepared in support of its proposal to extend such a system governmentwide, OPM said that in the best known of the demonstration projects, the "China Lake" Navy project, there was a 40 percent difference in pay between average and high performers after 10 years. Similarly, it said, in an Air Force laboratory demonstration project, performance accounted for 25 percent of differences in pay after four years. Annual raises for top performers ranged up to 20 percent in demonstration projects, OPM said, noting that some low performers got no annual raises. Employee organizations and some members of Congress have expressed skepticism that the government

is capable of installing such a system for all employees and administering it fairly, characterizing the demonstration projects as specialized settings whose experiences won't necessarily apply more broadly. Said OPM, "Even where employees did not report high levels of support for the demonstration project, they still reported increased pay satisfaction and a stronger link between pay and performance than under the GS system." —*FedWeek*. [Click here to read the entire article.](#)



*Visit the Chicago Chapter Website:*

[www.agachicago.org](http://www.agachicago.org)

*Also, visit the North Central AGA Regional Website:*

<http://www.adpc.purdue.edu/NCREGAGA/NorthCentral.html>

### Chicago Chapter Recognition Credits as of November 1, 2005

Category	Points To Date	Maximum
Chapter Leadership	2,125	3,000
Education & Professional Development	875	4,000
Certification	500	4,000
Communication	2,330	3,000
Membership	0	3,000
Community Service	800	2,000
Chapter Awards	900	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,530</b>	<b>20,000</b>

## **Executive Committee**

### **President**

Dan Eckert  
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312/ 886-4140  
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### **President – Elect**

Vacant

### **Past President**

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### **Secretary**

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### **Treasurer**

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Vacant

### **Publicity Director**

Vacant

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### **Membership Chair**

Vacant

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### **Job Referral**

Vacant

### **Education Chair**

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### **Community Service**

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### **CGFM**

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### **Job Referral**

Vacant

## **Newsletter Information**

Observations is the monthly newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Observations is published nine times each year. Subscriptions to Observations may only be obtained by joining AGA. This is the **forth edition** of Observations for the **2005-2006** chapter year. To submit material for upcoming issues, contact Alexandria Cepnrich at 312/353-3033 (phone) or 312/353-3814 (FAX). **The deadline for submissions to upcoming issues is the second Friday of each month. To update delivery information, contact Alexandria Hayden at 312/353-3033.** If you are not receiving the Chicago Chapter Newsletter electronically, please send your current e-mail address to: [Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Alexandria.Hayden@oig.hhs.gov)