

New Orleans Chapter

LeJournal de Nouvelle Orleans

Volume 21 No. 2

www.nfc.usda.gov/aga

February 2002

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Christopher Cutitto, CPA
President
255-5903

Pam B. Lincoln, CGFM
President-Elect
255-4664

Ronald J. Parent, CGFM, CPA
Treasurer
255-6589

Dawn B. Wagener, CGFM
Secretary
243-4058

Linda Lewis
Membership
255-5902

Lila M. Thompson
Co-Editor
255-6123

Barbara C. Smith, CGFM
Co-Editor
255-6276

Betty Salisbury, CGFM, CPA, CMA
Education
255-2344

James J. Julian, CGFM
Programs
255-6801

Vincent Parenti
Meetings
255-6412

Kerry P. Wagener
Historian
528-3428

Johnny R. Barron, CGFM
Publicity
670-2179

Marcie A. Tureaud
Co-Public Service
255-7818

Freida H. Scott, CGFM
Co-Public Service
255-5706

Bonnie Parker, CGFM
Awards
255-4352

Shelda T. Melancon, CPA, CGFM
Immediate Past President
255-5444

Dinner Meeting Doug's Restaurant Thursday, February 21, 2002

**348 Robert Blvd.
Slidell, LA**

**Social 5:30
Dinner 6:00**

Featuring

Don Carroum
Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration

**TOPIC: Social Security Retirement Benefits as They
Relate to Both FERS and CSRS Employees**

Mr. Don Carroum will discuss: How Social Security Retirement Benefits are Computed, Reduction Factors for Early Retirement, Government Pension Offset, Windfall Elimination Provision, the Social Security Benefit Statement, and Medicare. This informative talk will last approximately fifty minutes and will qualify for one hour of professional education credit.

Mr. Carroum will have a question and answer session for items of interest not addressed in his presentation. He enjoys audience participation and does not mind clarifying or answering questions during the presentation.

Please join us for an informative and enjoyable event.

FROM THE
PRESIDENT

I would like to start by extending a special thank you to all who attended the January luncheon

at the NFC. We had more than ninety attendees which included six guests and five new members. I also want to welcome our new members and say we are proud to have you. We hope that you'll join in our efforts to improve and uphold the professionalism and pride of government financial professionals. Please join us in Advancing Government Accountability!

I would first like to remind everyone of our upcoming educational event. AGA will be sponsoring a course titled "Stress Management Workshop for Extraordinary Times." Two sessions will be offered on Wednesday, February 27, at the National Finance Center, Conference Room 12. This is a very worthwhile course for those of us, like me, who feel stressed out from fiscal year end activities or from the tragic events of recent days. Please contact Betty Salisbury as soon as possible to sign up as space is limited. Also, I want to remind everyone to please contact Betty with any training ideas for the upcoming program year. The officers will be holding a Chapter Executive Committee meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss upcoming education.

And don't forget the annual AGA Professional Development Conference (PDC) is scheduled for July 7-10 in Atlanta, Georgia. This is the time for all professionals to learn about government accounting, systems, and technology from experienced arms of government as well as private industry. It is also an opportunity for Certified Government Financial Managers and Certified Public Accountants to fulfill the majority of their

continuing professional education requirements. I suggest that if you think you may attend, make your hotel reservations now before the host hotel is fully booked. You can always cancel your reservations later if you decide not to attend. The conference this year will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, telephone (404) 577 - 1234.

I also want to remind everyone of our next community service project. Volunteers are needed in March and April to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program where we assist Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama taxpayers to prepare 2001 tax returns. We need volunteers for March 5 - April 9, each Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., at Clearview Mall. Please contact Freida Scott by February 5, to volunteer. This program not only provides a rewarding experience, but like all of our community service projects, it is a fun time.

Our next dinner meeting will be at Doug's in Slidell. Our speaker will be Mr. W. Don Carroum with the Social Security Administration. Mr. Carroum will be speaking about Social Security Benefits and their effects on federal retirees, both CSRS and FERS employees. I regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting as I will be out of the country. I want to thank Pam Lincoln, our incoming president, for agreeing to conduct the meeting in my absence. I'm sure she will do a wonderful job just as she has done all year as president-elect. I will miss everyone but look forward to resuming business when I return.

Until then,

Chris

AGA's JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

The January monthly meeting was called to order by President Chris Cutitto. Chris introduced Shelda Melancon who led everyone in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Chris introduced Jullin Renthrope and announced that Jullin has been nominated for AGA's National President-Elect office for the year 2002 - 2003. Chris welcomed everyone and introduced the head table and guests in attendance. Chris also introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Aaron Steele from the Internal Revenue Service.

Chris introduced Linda Lewis who gave a membership report. The New Orleans Chapter has 179 members, to include two new members, one member who transferred and two members reinstated. Linda also explained to the members the incentive awards for sponsoring new members. Be sure to have your name on your new member's application so National will credit you.

Chris then introduced Betty Salisbury who gave a brief announcement concerning the upcoming seminars on "Stress Management for Extraordinary Times." There will be two sessions on February 27, 2002.

Chris announced that Vita Volunteers are needed from March 5 through April 9. AGA will be at Clearview Mall on Tuesday evenings answering questions and assisting with simple tax returns. Contact Freida Scott or Marcie Tureaud if you are interested in helping with this worthwhile cause. Chris also reminded everyone that the Chapter is still collecting can goods. The meeting broke for lunch.

Jim Julian introduced Mr. Aaron Steel from IRS. Mr. Steel went over many tax changes for this year and others that are forthcoming in future years. He discussed the tax rate reductions, child tax credits, marriage penalty relief and education incentives. Mr. Steel answered questions from members and was presented with a gift from the Chapter. He gave a few IRS items to some of the members.

Chris reminded everyone that the next meeting would be February 21 at Doug's Restaurant in Slidell. The meeting was adjourned.

Dawn Wagener, CGFM, Secretary

EDUCATION

Stress Management Seminar

There will be two sessions of a Stress Management Workshop for Extraordinary Times which relates to coping with the heightened security concerns and sense of loss felt after the attacks within our borders and the war overseas. Each session will be one and a half hours with no more than 15 participants in each session. The cost is \$30.00 per participant. See the attached flyer for more information.

Please contact Betty Salisbury at (504) 255-2344 or betty.salisbury@usda.gov with any questions.

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS

VITA

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) volunteers are needed to assist Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama taxpayers to prepare 2001 tax returns. We need volunteers for March 5 through April 9, 2002, Tuesday nights from 6:30pm-9:00pm at Clearview Mall. Let us know if you are interested in being a volunteer for VITA by February 5, 2002.

VITA is an important service done each year. We need your support.

Contact Freida Scott @ 255-5706 or Marcie Tureaud @ 255-7818.

We need **CANNED GOODS and/or NON PERISHABLE ITEMS**. If you forget to bring them to the monthly meetings, you can bring them to my desk. I'm located on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 350, Post S-46.

2001 AGA CALENDAR

March - 15-16 National Executive Committee Meeting, AGA National Office, Alexandria, VA.

May 8 - Third Annual GASB 34 Tele-conference.

July 6 - National Board of Directors and Chapter Leadership Meetings, Atlanta, GA.

July 7-10 - AGA's 51st Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition,

Atlanta, GA.

Sept. 22-23 - AGA/NASACT 11th Annual State & Local Government Leadership Conference, Richmond, VA.

NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 27, 2002 Five Happiness Joint Meeting with ASWA

April 25, 2002 Middendorf Joint Meeting With B.R

May 10, 2002: Social Event (Location to be determined)

NATIONAL NEWS

Survey of Financial Management in Government

Published in Government Executive Magazine January 29, 2002

Policy, program and operating officials have primary responsibility for financial management of the federal government. As such, they require timely, consistent, accurate, reliable and comparable financial information to fulfill those responsibilities. To assist in better understanding the types of financial information required, the Association of Government Accountants and Government Executive magazine are sponsoring a web-based survey of the needs of such officials. The anonymous survey also asks about current sources of financial information, the value of cost management information and the use of

audited financial statements to provide needed financial information.

We encourage all federal officials to complete the survey and to encourage your counterparts to complete the survey as well (it should take about 15 minutes). The results of the survey will be published by AGA and Government Executive and will be discussed in numerous forums and seminars.

To take the survey go to:
www.improvefinancialmanagement.org

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Southern University at Baton Rouge
Internal Auditor**

Southern University at Baton Rouge (SUBR) invites applications for the position of Internal Auditor.

Responsibilities:

The Internal Auditor is responsible for the development of the internal audit function for Southern University at Baton Rouge. The Internal Auditor also prepares long-range plans, initiates special audits and performs studies, evaluates the effectiveness of internal controls and maintains a follow-up system on deficiencies noted in audits.

Qualifications:

The Internal Auditor must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). A Master's degree in Accounting, Business Administration or a related field is preferred. The Internal Auditor must have four

years of professional experience in auditing or accounting plus four years of professional experience in auditing or accounting at the advanced journeyman level for public higher education institutions.

To apply:

Send a letter of application, vita, transcript and three references to:

**Office of the Chancellor
P.O. Box 9374
Baton Rouge, LA 70813**

Southern University at Baton Rouge is an equal opportunity employer.

CHAPTER RECOGNITION POINTS

Recognition Categories	Max Points Per Category	Points Thru Oct. 2001
Administration	2,000	1,770
Meetings	2,000	400
Newsletter	2,000	810
Education	3,000	1,300
Membership	2,000	-----
Public Service	2,000	1,925
Awards	1,000	300
Total	14,000	6,505

Welcome New Members

Our Chapter of AGA wishes to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Colonel John Catalanotte
Trina Davis
Leah M Falgout
Darlene F Howard
Griselda Taylor

The New Orleans Chapter of AGA offers all of its new members of the 2001-2002 fiscal year with a complimentary dinner meeting. We extend a warm invitation for you to join us as soon as possible.

AGA Information

Whether you are looking for AGA merchandise, or just searching for knowledge about what AGA has to offer, log on to <https://www.agacgfm> for value-added information. You may log on to the Member's Only site to update your personal information such as email address or name changes.

Thank You!

We appreciate your efforts with the growth of the New Orleans Chapter of AGA. The following list includes sponsors from the previous month and year to date.

Sponsor's Honor Roll

Ronald Parent	1
Edna Harrell	2
Chris Cutitto	2
Lila Thompson	1
Patrick Foret	1
Jullin Renthrope	5
Linda M. Lewis	2
Shelda Melancon	1

Congratulations

To **Jullin Renthrope** on his selection to be the National President-Elect for program year 2002 - 2003.

Please share news about yourself or other AGA members. Contact Linda M. Lewis at 255-5902 or linda.lewis2@usda.gov

Chapter's Financial Status

The chapter's Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2002 has assets of \$14,783.75 and no Liabilities.

The Income Statement from August 2001 through January 2002 has income of \$17,534.39 and expenses of \$17,495.31 for a net income of \$30.07.



*P.O. Box 29186
New Orleans, LA 70189-0186*



**TIME VALUE MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE**

Please contact Linda Lewis (255-5902) with address corrections.

**DINNER MEETING
Thursday, February 21, 2002
Doug's Restaurant**

**348 Robert Blvd
5:30 p.m. - Social/Cash Bar**

**Slidell, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. Dinner**

Entrees

**Fresh Seafood
Paneeed Baby White Veal
Grilled Ribeye Steak**

**The above served with Soup, Salad, Baked Potato
Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce or Lemon Ice Box Pie
Ice tea Coffee**

Cost \$18.00

For **reservations** contact, Vincent Parenti (255-5350) at vincent.parenti@usda.gov
by **NoonFriday, February 15th**.
If possible, please pay Ron Parent in advance.