

THE COMMUNIQUE NEWSLETTER

November Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2009
with

Leon Young, Teacher, Trainer, and Motivational Speaker
Associate Professor (adjunct), University of Maryland, University College

"Communication Skills for Today's Workplace."

Time: Reception: 6:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
Dinner and Meeting: 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
(approximate ending time)

Cost: \$30 for members and nonmembers. Cash or check made payable to "AGA" and **credit cards accepted.**

Location: Hilton Hotel, formerly the Double Tree Hotel, (1750 Rockville Pike in Rockville, MD. 301-468-1100). See our Web site at www.marylandaga.com for directions. Self-parking is complimentary in the hotel garage. Metered parking is available behind and on either side of the hotel.

RSVP to Jimmy Hauer, 202-533-3624.

You may also RSVP for the dinner meeting by visiting our Web site.



SPEAKER BIO

Leon Young

Teacher, Trainer, and Motivational Speaker

Associate Professor (adjunct), University of Maryland, University College

Mr. Young is a motivational speaker and professional facilitator for ethics and leadership throughout the United States. He is a recognized expert in the area of Ethics in organizations in both the public and private sectors. He is known for his ability to present serious subjects with humor and to involve his audiences in the subject through interaction.

Mr. Young is the author and creator of Ask Leon, an Ethics Q and A, for the *Journal of the Association of Government Accountants*. His column appears in each issue of the publication.

An educator, Mr. Young is an Associate Professor (adjunct) at the University of Maryland University College where he teaches in Behavioral and Social Sciences and teaches and does academic evaluations in the Experiential Learning Program.

He also conducts training in the areas of leadership, communications, conflict, and negotiations. Leon was employed by OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, for five years where he trained both the program and financial staffs in all of the federal regions in monitoring recipient spending and programs.

Leon has served on the boards of directors of the Mental Health Association, the Crises Center, Abused Persons (Chair), and Emergency Medical Services (Chair).

Mr. Young received his MA degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a BA degree from Roanoke College, Salem, VA .



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Chapter Members:

It's hard to believe that November is already here; the leaves are changing into their fall colors, and the hours of sunlight are getting shorter by the day. It can only mean the following: The busy season for our external members in the federal sector is closing soon, the federal fiscal year audits are almost completed, and we are well into our Chapter year!

As we start new challenges in the government arena going from 2009 into 2010, I am reminded of the need to always keep our "clients," the taxpayers, whether individuals or corporations, informed with accurate and relevant accounting and financial information for decision making. Our National Office has made this a theme at several of its national events. Without such continued diligence on our part, trust

in information provided by government will decline. We are also faced with an ever-increasing list of compliance requirements from the legislative branch of government. Such requirements are a necessary component in our government to ensure applicable policies and procedures are adhered to and help support the integrity of the accounting and financial information used by our "clients". This month's issue of the newsletter contains some thoughts about the concept of compliance management. I think you will find it interesting and relevant.

I hope that you will find the time to attend training and networking offerings during the remaining weeks of 2009.

The following are the Chapter's upcoming monthly programs highlights. Please see Upcoming Chapter Events below or visit our Web site at <http://www.marylandaga.com/meetings.cfm> for more details.

Our November Monthly Program Event on November 18 will feature a presentation by Leon Young, teacher, trainer, and motivational speaker. The November event will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Rockville, Maryland.

I would like to thank our Education Committee chairs Carol Boothe and Hector Maysonet for their hard work in putting together our winter workshop to be held in December. The agenda for the workshop is posted on our Web site at www.marylandaga.com. It should be an outstanding and engaging day.

I would also like to thank our corporate sponsors. We appreciate your continued support of and commitment to our Chapter and its members!

I encourage everyone with questions, suggestions, or ideas to make our Chapter the best it can be to let me know. The Chapter serves you, and we are always looking for ways to improve our services to you. So please, keep the feedback coming. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Angela Walter, CPA
President, AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter

AGA EVENTS

Hotel Reservations Now Being Accepted for 2010 PDC in Orlando

Make plans now to attend AGA's 59th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC)--the premier education and networking event of the year!

Dream. Learn. Achieve. The PDC has it all! Join us **July 11-14, 2010**, in Orlando, FL, to hear dynamic speakers, participate in informative sessions, learn about the latest research, share best practices, discover innovative management techniques, and see the technological tools that can aid efficiency and improve effectiveness.

In addition to an outstanding technical education program, and the ability to earn 24 CPE hours, AGA's PDC is packed with opportunities to network with colleagues from around the country and make new friends. While you're here, be sure to experience all the attractions, shopping, fine dining, and recreational activities Orlando has to offer.

Information about the agenda, speakers, travel discounts, and registration is coming soon. In the meantime you can reserve your spot at the official conference hotel.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Orlando World Center Marriott to accommodate PDC attendees. The rate is \$108 per night (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. ***However, rates are only guaranteed until June 18, 2010, or until the room block is sold out.***

Reservations received after June 18, or after the room block has been filled, will be made on a space-available basis, and may be subject to significantly higher rates. Rooms sell quickly...we encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

To make a reservation, please call the Orlando World Center Marriott at 800-621-0638 and mention you are attending the "AGA PDC" to receive the discounted rate.

MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER EVENTS

Welcome New Members

On behalf of our chapter, we would like to welcome our new members! We are excited that you made the decision to join our Chapter. We put our members first in this Chapter! There are a lot of great events planned and many opportunities to earn free CPEs! Hope to see you at our next dinner meeting on November 18.

Fellow members please join us and welcome the following new members:

Kevin Case	May 2009	
Jing Huang	May 2009	Clifton Gunderson LLP
Katherine Lambert	May 2009	Federal Transit Administration
Robert Mathews	May 2009	Dept. of Justice-UFMS PMO
Carla Mewborn	June 2009	Dept. of Health and Human Services
Evelyn Baker	July 2009	Dept. of Homeland Security
Jessica Blazer	July 2009	KPMG LLP
Dona Colonne	July 2009	Clifton Gunderson LLP
Claudia Donovan	July 2009	Dept. of Treasury
Sunday Okurume	July 2009	Dept. of VA OIG
Kevin Reagan	July 2009	Bureau of Economic Analysis
Eric Strong	July 2009	Deloitte Consulting
Rebecca Tritschler	July 2009	KPMG LLP
Chad Ellis	August 2009	
Denise Romano	August 2009	NARA
Keriann Skawski	August 2009	DHHS
Calvin Woodhouse	August 2009	GSA
Linda Bogaczyk	August 2009	STG
Samuel Collins	September 2009	Deva and Assoc PC
Kenneth Dean	September 2009	
Troy Hailey	September 2009	Clifton Gunderson LLP
Darryl Henry	September 2009	Department of Justice
James Merrill	September 2009	Ernst and Young LLP
John Moeller	September 2009	Deva and Assoc PC
James Nesbitt	September 2009	BDO Seidman LLP
Bhavin Patel	September 2009	Dept of Health and Human Services
Arrington Smith	September 2009	Clifton Gunderson LLP
Bonita Smith	September 2009	NIH
Kareen Johnson	October 2009	PNC Bank
Brenda Kyle	October 2009	Dept. of Labor
Fernanda Pilataxi	October 2009	
Indre Ryseviene	October 2009	CHS

Thanks from your Membership Codirectors! Please contact us at membership@marylandaga.com with any questions or comments.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER RESEARCH, ARTICLES AND BOOK REVIEWS

The Chapter encourages volunteers to provide newsletter articles on relevant subjects. We encourage all members to consider providing information that can enhance our knowledge base.

Compliance Management – First in a Series

By: Jim Merrill, CPA

Introduction – This is the first of an ongoing series of brief essays on the concept of compliance management in the government sector. We believe it is important to be aware of the public expectations and the internal management challenges in the area of compliance management.

Background – Government organizations of all sizes, ranging in size from small townships to county executives to state agencies all the way to the immense federal agencies that contribute to the fabric of our social structure in the United States, are all subject to operating within frameworks established and codified in thousands of pages of laws passed by legislators in the past 230 year-plus duration of the republic. As experience grows with laws in place, changes are made directly by rule-setting organizations or put to a vote by the people. Due to the intrinsically wide range of responsibilities assigned these government organizations by the very people and other bodies, such as private corporations, they intend to govern, the number of laws and regulations, interpretative positions, exceptions, etc., can be staggering. Compliance management is the “art” or business of taking a top-down approach to organizing and controlling the compliance with all these laws and regulations in an orderly and economic, efficient manner. Another complicating factor is the increased presence of outside commercial organizations that are hired to perform an ongoing government responsibility; An example is a Medicaid fiscal agent, typically a commercial insurance claims processor who is hired by the state to process Medicaid claims; the fiscal agent is subject in part to the same laws and regulations and oversight by the cognizant agency that owns the Medicaid process, be it the state or the relevant federal agency.

First Steps – For any government organization to implement a compliance management function, the initial step is to identify, in broad categories, the responsibilities assigned to it. For example, a small township may have a fairly limited number of operational responsibilities assigned to it, such as property tax collection, fire and police functions (frequently shared with other townships), planning and zoning boards, and other related personal services. The other extreme is a federal agency with hundreds of thousands of employees, numerous locations globally in multiple countries, and interfacing with other sovereign nations’ equivalent agencies. No matter how small or large, a governmental organization has to be mindful of its compliance with established laws and regulations. Measurement of such compliance, to be discussed in a future article, is also an ongoing requirement.

Once the organization has mapped out its broad responsibilities, one of the next steps is to determine the existence of compliance functions that already may be in place, usually mandated by some external requirement. Frequently, upon investigation, there may be several compliance functions already in place; the challenge by the government management team is to determine their effectiveness, identify redundancies, and determine the types of reports being delivered and related action plans. The goal would be to tabulate the compliance functions and analyze them for quality and usefulness to the government organization.

To be continued – assessing the results of the first steps

ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL NIGHT AND JOB FAIR

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) in partnership with University of Maryland University College Office of Career Services invites you to attend our Accounting Professional Night and Job Fair on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, from 6:00–8:30 p.m. at the UMUC Inn and Conference Center in Adelphi, Maryland.

Join us for the Accounting Professional Night and Job Fair, which will consist of a one-hour panel discussion regarding career paths for accounting professionals and a job fair. The job fair will give you the opportunity to network with employers hiring accounting professionals. The event is open to all AGA members and UMUC students and alumni. If you plan on attending the event, RSVP to careerservices@umuc.edu.

If you are interested in participating as an employer to recruit accounting professionals, please visit http://www.umuc.edu/careerservices/acctemp_jobfairinfo.shtml for more information and to register. It is free of charge to participate as an employer if you are an AGA member.

CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS CORNER

The following are the Chapter's upcoming monthly program highlights. Please visit our Web site at <http://www.marylandaga.com> and click the **Chapter News and Events** for more details.

November 17

Accounting Professional Night and Job Fair

Location: UMUC Inn and Conference Center in Adelphi, Maryland

Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.

AGA in partnership with University of Maryland University College Office of Career Services invites you to attend our Accounting Professional Night and Job Fair.

Contact: UMUC

The event is open to all AGA members and UMUC students and alumni.

RSVP to careerservices@umuc.edu.

November 18

***FREE* AGA Audio Conference: Auditors' Role in Government Performance Measures**

Event Description: AGA is pleased to announce its latest audio conference on the Auditors' Role in Government Performance Measures.

Date and Time: This conference is scheduled on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 from 2:00–3:50 p.m. EST.

Location and Cost: Clifton Gunderson has agreed to sponsor this event *free of charge* for our chapter members. Earn 2 Free CPEs.

The conference will take place at Clifton Gunderson's corporate offices (1710 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300, Calverton, MD 20705).

Contact: Elizabeth Robinson

Phone: 202-533-3624

November 18

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Event Description: Presentation to be given by Leon Young, teacher, trainer, and motivational speaker. He is an associate professor (adjunct) at the University of Maryland University College.

Reception: 6:00–6:30 p.m.

Dinner and Speaker: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (approximate ending time)

Location: Hilton Hotel (formerly the Double Tree Inn) at 1750 Rockville Pike

Cost: \$30 per person—Checks made payable to "AGA"

Metro and Parking: The Doubletree Hotel is located across the street from the Twinbrook Metro Station (Red

Line). Self-parking is complimentary in the hotel garage. Metered parking is available behind and on either side of the hotel.

RSVP to Jimmy Hauer.

Phone: 202-533-3624

December

December 10

Winter Workshop

Location: University of Maryland, University College, Shady Grove Campus

Date and Time: Thursday, December 10, 2009, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

Ethics; Changes in Treasury; Accounting Standards Update

Panel Discussion: Preventing Fraud, Waste, and Abuse – Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina and Louisiana Road Home

Cost: AGA Members – \$75; Nonmembers – \$100; Federal & Faculty – \$75; Students – \$25

Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments will be provided.

Parking is free!

CPEs: 8

For more details about this workshop, visit our Web site. To register, e-mail education@marylandaga.com.

December 16

FREE AGA Audio Conference: Latest Trends in Occupational Fraud

AGA is pleased to announce its latest audio conference on Latest Trends in Occupational Fraud.

Date and Time: This conference is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2009 from 2:00 p.m.–3:50 p.m. EST.

Location and Cost: KPMG LLP has agreed to sponsor this event ***free of charge*** for our Chapter members.

Earn 2 free CPEs.

The conference will take place at KPMG LLP's Washington, DC office (2001 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036).

Please contact Maria Rossel to RSVP for this event, 202-533-6396 or mrossel@kpmg.com.

January 2010

January 20

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Al Runnels, deputy chief financial officer of the Department of the Treasury, will discuss the "Results of the 2009 Audit, TARP and Recovery Act."

For additional information and to register for any of the above Chapter events, please go to our Web site at www.marylandaga.com.

Our Chapter wishes to thank the following corporate sponsors:

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Bronze Sponsor

