

# The Baltimore Ledger

October 2015, Issue 2

Association of Government Accountants  
Baltimore Chapter  
[www.agabaltimore.org](http://www.agabaltimore.org)



## Monthly Training Information

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

**11:30am - 4:00 pm**

**Matthews 1600**

**1600 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD  
21228**

**Register  
Online**

**3 CPEs**

### **Topics:**

***Working with People  
at Work***

***Abigail Wurf, Abigail Wurf Coaching LLC***

***The Data Act***

***Jeff Steinhoff, KPMG***

**Cost \$35 Members  
\$65 Non-Members**

**Reservations:  
[www.agabaltimore.org](http://www.agabaltimore.org)**

**\*\*Sorry—No Refunds for  
Cancellations\*\***

#### Menu

- Warm Rolls
- Caesar Salad
- Hot Vegetable Du Jour
- Chicken Parmesan
- Beef Stroganoff
- Seafood Rosa
- Dessert Sampler

# October Speakers



**Abigail Wurf, M.Ed, PCC**, founder and president of Abigail Wurf Coaching, LLC, specializes in private and group coaching for professionals, entrepreneurs, and small business owners affected by ADHD or Executive Function Issues. She also conducts self-directed programs, webinars, teleseminars, workshops and speaking engagements. She has given sessions at national meetings of major organizations in the ADHD field and now has published *Forget perfect: How to Succeed in Your Profession and Personal Live Even If You Have ADHD*. Her clients credit her with asking strategic questions that motivate them to take action and for having a wonderful sense of humor that helps them deal with tough situations.

After completing her BA in history, Ms. Wurf pursued her passion for the arts as a dancer, choreographer, teacher and co-founder of Arts in Motion in St. Louis and assistant director of the Mid American Dance Company. A serious back injury and unsuccessful surgery ended her dance career. She earned her M.Ed, learned to manage chronic pain, and sought a second career in the field of coaching, with an emphasis on ADHD. A serious back injury and unsuccessful surgery ended her dance career, and Abigail sought a second career in the field of coaching.

Abigail Wurf received her Professional Coaching Certification (PCC) from the International Coaches Federation. She received her Master's in Education at Temple University. Abigail lives in Washington, D.C.



**Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA**, is the Executive Director of the KPMG Government Institute and a Managing Director in KPMG's Federal Advisory Services practice. He also serves as the KPMG Executive Fellow to the Federal CFO Academy. He is a past National President of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and founded AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager program. In 2010, he was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and chairs its Audit Committee.

In 2008, Jeff retired from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) after a 40-year federal career, 21 years of which were served in the Senior Executive Service. For the last 9 years of his federal career, he served as Assistance Comptroller General of the United States for Accounting and Information Management and Managing Director for Financial Management and Assurance. He headed GAO's largest audit unit, with responsibility for oversight of financial management and auditing issues across the federal government. He served on the

staff of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and was a principal architect of the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act of 1990. He was involved with government-wide implementation of the CFO Act and a range of other financial management improvement legislation, such as the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 and the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996, for which he was also a principal architect.

The recipient of 42 professional awards, in 2006, Jeff was named the Outstanding CPA in the federal government by the AICPA. A three-time recipient of the Comptroller General's Distinguished Service Award, he received the Comptroller General's Award, GAO's highest honor in 2007. In 2000, he was one of the only 26 individuals recognized by AGA for significant contributions toward advancing government accountability in federal, state, and local government over the previous 50 years.

Jeff is a widely recognized national spokesperson on government auditing, internal controls, financial management, and information management issues, having spoken at hundreds of professional conferences and events across the nation. He has testified extensively before the U.S. Congress on a wide range of financial management issues and legislation. He has published numerous professional journal articles, essays, research reports, and white papers and is one of the authors of the May 2012 book, *Governing to Win: Enhancing National Competitiveness Through New Policy and Operating Approaches*.

# August Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 3, 2015 **Time:** 2:00-3:00 **Location:** Social Security Administration

## Call to Order

## Approval of prior meeting minutes

The minutes from May 2015 were approved with changes.



## Budget Review

The annual budget and financials were sent to the Board last week for review. Kelly noted that there are bigger expenditures this year to allow for NASBA certification for the chapter as well as a redesigned website. We are projecting a deficit this year but will have the surplus of approximately \$7,000 from last year to pull from if necessary. We have approximately \$25,000 on hand currently. The sponsorship committee stated that it can also assist with covering any shortfalls by reaching out to more sponsors. Other minor adjustments to the budget included a reduction in awards from 3 to 2 and the addition of memberships for college professors. The budget was approved as revised.

## Committee Updates

**Accountability**—Citizen Centric Report (CCR) was drafted and sent to Kelly for review yesterday (8/12/15). We may change the format/design of the report. Johnny noted that the City of Baltimore issued a CCR and we can claim for that for our AGA chapter.

**Activities** – The 1<sup>st</sup> report is due to National on September 30, 2015 which will cover the period from June through September. All committees should review chapter recognition guidelines and report to Milton anything that is missing.

**Awards** – This year's activities are in line with last year's:

- ♦ 2 scholarships for \$1,000 each will be awarded – The Awards committee will select from students at 40 different 2 and 4-year colleges and universities.
- ♦ Chapter service award for nonmembers issued as a paper certificate – For enhanced AGA/Government accountability
- ♦ Chapter service award for members issued as a paper certificate – For enhanced AGA/Government accountability
- ♦ Awards for Officers and Board Members at the discretion of the President will be issued as a cut glass certificate
- ♦ Leadership & President awards at the discretion of the President will be issued as a cut glass certificate

In addition to the above, the Board can also recommend other awards/certificate types. Johnny noted that we can coordinate having someone nominated for a National award.

## Committee Updates (Continued)

By-Laws & Procedures – We will have someone from the City of Baltimore assisting with this committee. Also discussed having our By-Laws updated to be consistent with updated made by National. The revised By-Laws will be provided to the Board for review. The plan is to finalize by the end of the year.

Editorial/Publicity – Working on the October newsletter. Received pictures from Community Service. Tamekia Davis requested others to send pictures as well. Shelvon also requested to be informed of events so that she can post to the Chapter's social media accounts (working on creating/updating Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter accounts). All social media links will be provided in the Newsletter.

Community Service – Kelly thanked those who volunteered for the Habitat event held last year. The next scheduled event is the BARC's 5K event on Saturday, October 11, 2015 to benefit the animal shelter. Participants can sign up to race or just donate pet supplies. Supplies will be collected at the September meeting.

Education and Programs – The September meeting has been finalized and will be held at Matthew's. There will be 1 general session with 2 breakout sessions following. The October topic is on the Data Act. Jeff Steinhoff will be the featured speaker. We're currently working on a general topic for that meeting. The speaker for the December joint meeting with ISACA will be selected by ISACA this year. Paul is looking for an evening speaker for October. We are currently working to have the Chapter NASBA certified and will need documentation as part of the application process of our CPE policies.

Meetings – The following is the meeting locations finalized for the year:

- ♦ Matthews: September, October 21<sup>st</sup> (and potentially the October evening meeting), November 18<sup>th</sup> and January 20<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Overhills: December
- ♦ Rolling Road Golf Club: March and April
- ♦ Maritime: May (Fraud Conference)

Membership – We held a meeting at Loyola last week and met with a professor there who will encourage students to be engaged with AGA. We are also planning to continue holding events there.

Sponsorship – We are trying to get all sponsorship contributions in by September 30 which is the end of the sponsorship year. Sponsorship payments should be accepted by check whenever possible as Paypal charges a large fee. We're also working to get a listing of all non-government members to invite them to sponsor the Chapter.

Webmaster – In process of re-designing the webpage. We were waiting on the budget to be approved before incurring the designer expense. We will remove all newsletters older than 2 years from the website. All other content will remain the

# 2015-2016 Calendar of Events

Date	Location	Topic/Speaker	CPE'S	Member Cost	Non-Member Cost
10/21/15 Wednesday	Mathews 1600	<p>Topic - The Data Act Speaker: Jeff Steinhoff, KPMG</p> <p>Topic - Working With People at Work Speaker: Abigail Wurf, Abigail Wurf Coaching</p>	3	\$35	\$65
11/18/15 Wednesday	Mathews 1600	<p>Topic - Internal Controls Speaker - TBD</p> <p>Topic - The Impact of Information Technology in Financial Audits Speaker: Johnny Ramsey, KPMG</p>	3	\$35	\$65
12/2/2015	Mathews 1600	<p>Evening Meeting</p> <p>Topic - A More Analytic Role = Highly-Valued Business Advisors Speakers: Douglass Glenn, U.S. Dept. of Interior Ken Cavagnolo, KPMG Tim Gribben, SBA Moderator: David Fitz, KPMG</p>	2	\$25	\$35
12/9/15 Wednesday	Overhills Mansion	<p>Joint Meeting with ISACA</p> <p>Topic - TBD Speakers: TBD</p>	3	\$55	\$85
1/20/16 Wednesday	Mathews 1600	<p>Joint Meeting with ASMC</p> <p>Topic - TBD Speaker: TBD</p> <p>Topic - Effective Writing Speaker: Jennifer Elder, The Sustainable CFO</p>	3	\$35	\$65
2/17/16 Wednesday	Mathews 1600	<p>Topic - New OMB Uniform Guidance for Grants Speakers: Jack Reagan and Tennyle Walker, Grant Thornton</p> <p>Topic - The Future of Government Accounting and Auditing Speaker: Andrew Lewis, KPMG</p>	3	\$35	\$65
3/16/2016 Wednesday	Rolling Road Golf Club	<p>Early Careers Meeting</p> <p>Topic - TBD Speaker: TBD</p> <p>Topic: TBD Speaker: TBD</p>	2	\$25	\$35
4/20/16 Wednesday	Rolling Road Golf Club	<p>Awards Meeting</p> <p>Topic: TBD Speaker: TBD</p>	1	\$10	\$20
5/18/16 Thursday	Maritime Institute	<p>All Day Ethics and Fraud Training Speaker: Gary Bauer</p> <p>Topic - Ethics Speaker - John Homan, National President of AGA</p> <p>Topic - Issues &amp; Challenges in Government Accountability Speaker - TBD</p> <p>Topic - TBD Speaker - TBD</p>	4 1 1 1	\$160	\$200



# Recap of September Meeting

**Nat Alston— Time Management**, Nat Alston of The Horizons Group, LLC presented a lively and interactive discussion on “Time Management: Planning Your Day.” He asked meeting participants to think about how much time they spend a day/week sleeping, eating, commuting, working, and playing. Mr. Alston suggested that we break our tasks down into the following categories (as seen in *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey):

1. Urgent and Important
2. Not Urgent and Important
3. Urgent and Not Important
4. Not Urgent and Not Important

The categories should be worked from 1 to 4 to plan your day, week and month. He also suggested using technology to prioritize and schedule out reoccurring daily, weekly, and monthly activities. Mr. Alston concluded the presentation stating that time is our most precious gift, but we must also be respectful of other people’s time.



**Robin Gilliam—FASAB Update**, The second portion of the training event was a presentation to federal employees on FASAB updates given by Robin Gilliam. Ms. Gilliam discussed the following topics FASAB is currently researching, working to address and issue guidance:

1. Leases – FASAB and GASB are collaborating to develop standards for government organizations. There is a tentative decision to establish a single model where leases create assets and liabilities. Interest costs associated with leases should also be identified. An exposure draft is scheduled to be released in early 2016 for comment, with the final anticipated in early 2017.
2. Department of Defense Implementation Issues – Working to resolve issues with opening balances for (1) Inventory, Operating Materials, Supplies and Stockpile Materials, and (2) General Property, Plant and Equipment. Guidance on both issues should be issued by the end of March 2016.
3. Internal Use Software – Work group meeting to discuss this issue. Costs associated with each software development phase should be reported. Work group believes that a change to the standard that does not completely remove the reporting requirements within the financial statements and notes would cause agencies to incur costs that would exceed the expected benefit. Exposure draft is due for release in September 2015.
4. Risk Assumed – The objective of this project is to determine what risks the government assumes when implementing policy initiatives. The project is divided into three phases: (1) Insurance programs, (2) Entitlement programs, and (3) Commitments and Other Risk Areas. An exposure draft is expected to be released in early 2016 for Phase 1.
5. Public-Private Partnerships (also known as P3s) – In Phase 1 of this project, the team will develop a definition of P3s with exclusions and risk-based conclusive and suggestive characteristics. The statement is to become effective in FY 2019 (subject to change).
6. Reporting Model – The team is researching user needs through surveys, focus groups, and roundtable discussions. They have determined that users of reports want the following items (1) cost of programs or functions, (2) understandable budgets, (3) program results, and (4) integrated cost, budget and performance information. The team is currently developing a concepts statement that should guide development of an ideal reporting model.
7. Tax Expenditures – This project is examining income tax code provisions that decrease tax liabilities or credits to taxpayers.

# Community Events

**5K Run and 1 Mile Walk**  
to benefit the **Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter (BARCS)**  
**Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> 11 am to 3 pm**  
(rain date is October 11<sup>th</sup>)  
**Patterson Park, Pagoda Side, Baltimore, MD**  
**This is a dog-friendly event!**

**Ready...**



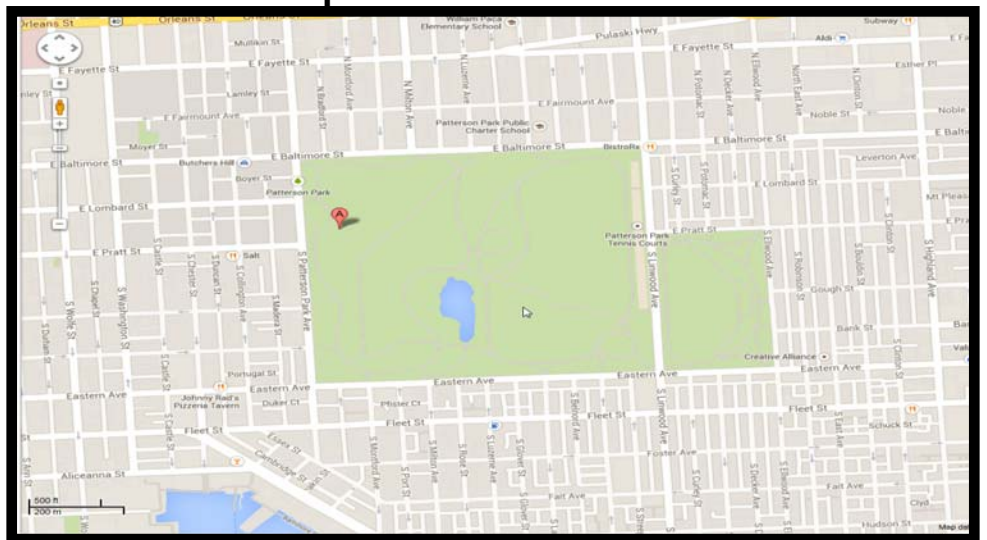
**Set...**



**Sniff!!**



**Map of Patterson Park**



We will also be collecting monetary donations and supplies. Please contact [Lori.Lee@ssa.gov](mailto:Lori.Lee@ssa.gov) if you would like to donate or you can contribute to our 5k team by going to:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/aga-baltimore>

## AGA WEB CONFERENCES

Looking for a way to stretch your training budget? AGA Webinars make earning CPE hours easy and affordable for groups and individuals. Webinars feature experts on a variety of relevant and timely topics. Further, the last 20 minutes of each program is devoted to call-in questions, which provides interaction between the listeners and speakers.

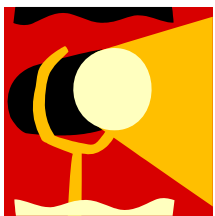
The webinars are held on Wednesdays from 2–3:50 p.m. ET.

AGA also offers free members-only webinars on a wide range of topics. The free webinars are held from 2-3 p.m. and offer 1 CPE.

## AGA NATIONAL 2015-2016 WEBINAR SCHEDULE

<b>October 7</b>	<b>Government Innovation: An Imperative, Not an Oxymoron</b>
<b>October 21</b>	<b>Fraud Prevention</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>The New OMB Super-Circular: What is the impact on the grant community?</b>
<b>November 18</b>	<b>DATA Act –Free Members Only</b>
<b>December 2</b>	<b>Ethics</b>
<b>December 16</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>January 13</b>	<b>Evidence Based Policy Making– Making the Right Decisions to Improve Programs</b>
<b>January 27</b>	<b>Government Financial Management</b>
<b>February 3</b>	<b>The Federal Budget Process– Free Members-Only</b>





# Member Spotlight: Antoinette Amoureux Sekou, CPA

## 1. What do you do, and how long have you been doing it?

I am currently retired from the Baltimore City Government for which I worked for 27 years as an Accountant II responsible for managing the budget for grant funded programs.



## 2. What was your first job?

I was employed as an office worker by the California Federation of Teachers in Oakland, California at the age of 18.

## 3. Where did you complete your formal education?

St Elizabeth High School – Oakland, California

Coppin State University – Baltimore, Maryland Bachelor of Science Degree

Morgan State University – Baltimore, Maryland Master of Business Administration

## 4. How long have you been a member of AGA and why did you join?

I joined AGA in 1995 in order to keep abreast of current accounting issues and to increase my knowledge.

## 5. What is your favorite perk of AGA membership?

Attending informative seminars earning continuing professional education credits.

## 6. What is something most people do not know about you?

I became a first time grandmother on July 10, 2014. My grandson, Ryan Jordan Sekou lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## 7. If you did not have to work any longer but still received your current income, what would you do with your time?

I would teach accounting or GED classes at the secondary level and/or college level because I would like to be in the position of uplifting and inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

## 8. What is your favorite travel destination and why?

The country of Senegal in West Africa because the people are warm and friendly, the cool sandy Atlantic Ocean beach and the delicious Senegalese cuisine (fish).



## 9. What is the quality you most admire in others and why?

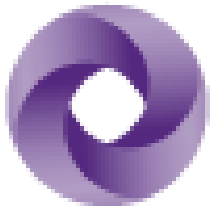
I admire people who persist and overcome challenges because they represent the hope that all of us can eventually become winners in spite of difficulties.



**T**HANK YOU  
*FOR YOUR SUPPORT!*

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# Grant Thornton

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Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact [Chante Brady](#) for more information.

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Thank you to all of  
our volunteers and  
board members.  
The Baltimore  
chapter's success  
would not be  
possible without  
your dedication.

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# Thank You!