



# GOVERNMENT E-NEWS

E-NEWSLETTER FOR AICPA MEMBERS IN GOVERNMENT

April 25, 2007— Issue #18



## DEAR MEMBERS

Spring has sprung! Finally after the past few weeks of cold, wet weather here in NJ the change to spring temperatures and blooming plants and shrubs is most welcome. And before you can say AICPA it will be May and time for proms, graduations and two important deadlines for members in government.

May 15 is the deadline for two important programs here at the AICPA. It is the application deadline for volunteer appointments and it is also the nomination deadline for the Outstanding CPA in Government Award. Both these deadlines have been extended from May 1, so please don't delay. The Government Performance and Accountability Committee met in March and has a number of exciting activities planned for the next few years. Now would be a great time to volunteer to get involved. For more information on volunteering see the [story](#) below.

The Outstanding CPA in Government Award recognizes CPAs who have contributed to both the government and the profession. This year, as in 2006, a separate award will be given for each level of government – local, state and federal. If you know an outstanding CPA working in government now is the time to make sure he or she receives the recognition they deserve. For more information on the award and the nomination process see the [story](#) below or visit the [Outstanding CPA in Government Awards](#) webpage.

In March the Government Performance and Accountability Committee (GPAC) met at the new AICPA facility in Durham, NC for the first of its two yearly meetings. The Committee laid out its plan for the next year which includes both the facilitation of a Summit Meeting focusing on key issues in government accounting and an expanded focus on recruiting CPAs for government service to help combat the expected brain drain in the next few years.

Planning is well under way for the National Governmental Accounting & Auditing Update which will be held this year on August 20-21 in Washington DC, and then again September 17-18 in Tempe, AZ. With the release on the updated Yellow Book and new risk assessment standards, audit procedures are seeing significant changes. This conference is a great way to both learn about these changes and to meet and exchange ideas with your colleagues in government accounting.

Read on for updates on all these activities and more.

Best regards,

### IN THIS ISSUE

[Outstanding CPA in Government Award Nomination Deadline Extended to May 15](#)

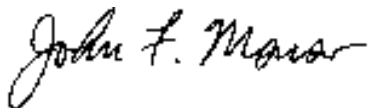
[GASB Adds Project to Assist Governments That Choose to Report Performance Information](#)

[Two New Members Join AICPA Government Performance and Accountability Committee](#)

[Applications being Accepted for 2007/2008 GPAC Committee Openings Deadline Extended](#)

[David Walker on 60 Minutes](#)

[Resources](#)  
[Conferences](#)  
[Webcasts](#)



John F. Morrow, CPA  
AICPA Vice President  
Business, Industry & Government

## TOP STORIES

### Outstanding CPA in Government Award – Deadline Extended to May 15

Do you know a CPA who should be recognized as an Outstanding CPA in Government? Each year the AICPA presents the [Outstanding CPA in Government Awards](#) to members of the AICPA and/or state CPA societies employed in or recently retired from government who have distinguished themselves by having made a sustained and significant contribution to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of his or her government organization and to the growth and enhancement of the CPA profession. Three awards are given—one for local government, one for state government and one for federal government.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 AICPA Outstanding CPA in Government Award(s). Nominations must be submitted by **May 15, 2007**. For more information on the award and submitting submit a nomination please download the [Nomination Criteria and Form](#). We hope to hear from you.

### GASB Adds Project to Assist Governments That Choose to Report Performance Information

On April 6, 2007 GASB announced that it was adding a new project on Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting to its current agenda. SEA Reporting can provide important information to help citizens and their elected representatives better assess how well their governments are achieving their public policy missions. This project is designed to produce suggested guidelines for voluntary reporting by government. GASB does not intend to require governments to report SEA information, or to require specific performance measures or specific levels of performance. More information on this can be found on the [SEA Reporting Project Page](#) on the GASB website.

### Two New Members Join AICPA Government Performance and Accountability Committee

[Last issue](#) we profiled the new members of the AICPA Government Performance and Accountability Committee. In February two additional new members joined the committee. They are:

#### **Mary MacBain, CPA**

Mary is currently the Deputy City Controller for the City of Kansas City, MO where she manages a team of financial systems professionals who are responsible for the operations of the ERP financial applications. Prior to moving to Kansas City, Mary was the Controller for the City of Marco Island, FL where she managed the day-to-day information systems, including the water and sewer utility billing system. Mary has previously served on a number of AICPA committees including the Information Technology Executive Committee, Tech Conference Steering Committee, Work/Life and Women's Initiatives Executive Committee and the National Accreditation Commission.

#### **Jack Person, CPA, MBA**

Jack is currently an Accountant for the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration in Washington DC. He has been with OSHA since 1999. During this time, he has been involved in OMB Task Forces related to Cost Circulars for Grants Management. In addition to Grants Management, he is particularly interested in the application of internal controls under OMB Circular 123, and the transition to Government-wide electronic

accounting systems. From 1996 to 1999, he served as the first controller for the NAFTA Environmental Secretariat in Montreal Canada. Jack is licensed in Virginia and holds a Masters in Business from the University of Chicago

Welcome to both Jack and Mary!

### **Applications being Accepted for 2007/2008 GPAC Committee Openings**

Applications are currently being accepted for the GPAC Committee for the 2007/2008 committee year. The cutoff date for applying for the committee is May 15, 2007. The AICPA GPAC represents CPAs working in all levels of federal, state and local government. It also serves the public who depend on CPAs to help ensure government accountability. The mission of the GPAC is to

1. promote greater government accountability and the integrity of government operations, information and information systems,
2. promote and encourage increased participation and involvement by CPAs in government within the AICPA,
3. enhance the professional image and value of CPAs in government,
4. provide advice and counsel to the Institute on the needs of CPAs in government,
5. serve as a conduit for communications among CPAs in government, the AICPA and other professional organizations.

The committee consists of members from local, state and federal government (from the auditor and preparer communities) along with representatives from academia and a public accounting firm serving government clients. A particular challenge for us each year is attracting members from local government, so we really need to hear from you to keep an appropriate balance on the committee. Committee service is a great way to grow as a professional, learn from government colleagues from throughout the country, and to give something back to the profession – oh yeah, we have fun too! For more information on volunteering on AICPA committees please visit [AICPA Volunteer Central](#).

### **U. S. Comptroller General David Walker on 60 Minutes**

On Sunday March 4, 2007 [CBS News program "60 Minutes"](#) featured an interview with U.S. Comptroller General David Walker, CPA, during which he outlined his concerns about the fiscal health of the government and highlighted his participation in the Fiscal Wake-Up Tour. The Fiscal Wake-Up Tour is designed to educate Americans about our nation's true financial condition and large and growing fiscal imbalance. In this interview Walker outlines his concerns about the fiscal health of the US government and the reasons behind taking these concerns to the public. Click on the link above to watch the interview. More information on the Fiscal Wake-Up Tour can be found on the [GAO website](#).

## **RESOURCES**

### **AICPA Audit Committee Toolkit: Government Organizations**

This version of the popular audit committee toolkit is written to help audit committees of government organizations at all levels (federal, state and local) with best practices for managing and incorporating their role in the organization. This Toolkit offers a broad sampling of checklists, matrices, reports, questionnaires and other pertinent materials specifically tailored to the government sector and designed to make audit committee best practices actionable. The toolkit can be accessed on the [Audit Committee Effectiveness Center website](#)

### **Free Test Drive for New AICPA CPExpress**

The AICPA's popular online learning library has a new name and enhanced functionality. A 30 day free trial of CPEExpress, formerly known as InfoBytes, is being offered to introduce the new features and appearance of the product. For more info click on [CPEExpress](#) and register for your free trial.

## CONFERENCES

### Mark Your Calendar Now — Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update

The agenda is set for the [Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update](#) to be held in Washington, DC on August 20 and 21, 2007 and in Tempe, AZ on September 17 and 18, 2007. This very popular conference offers the government accounting and auditing community the opportunity to learn the latest on standards and legislation impacting federal, state and local government accounting. It is also a great place to meet others CPAs in government. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## UPCOMING WEBCASTS

### Spring 2007 Free Infocast Series

Our Spring 2007 MAG Infocast Series launched in March with ***Strategy Mapping: One Picture Worth a Thousand Words*** and continued in April with ***IT Investments: Capturing the Return***. Both are now archived and available for viewing for free from the [MAG Resource Page](#) on our Financial Management Center.

The remaining presentation in this series is scheduled for Thursday, May 17. ***Internet Marketing: Evaluating the Value Proposition*** will provide an overview of the method for measuring the payoffs of internet marketing initiatives developed from the best practices from marketing, e-commerce, and information technology by Marc Epstein and co-author Kristi Yuthas in the MAG *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Internet Marketing Initiatives*.

This series being offered in collaboration with our two international partners in the management accounting world: CMA Canada, and CIMA (UK based), and the series is sponsored by software giant SAP. These infocasts are **free** and AICPA members have the option to purchase one CPE credit for \$29.95. **Click on the links below to take advantage of this free member benefit!**

While these Infocasts are generally geared more to CPAs in business, much of the information contained in them is also applicable to the business of government so we hope you take advantage of not only downloading the MAGs, but also viewing the Infocasts and or archives. This is an outstanding member value.

The Strategy Mapping MAG and IT Investment MAGs can be downloaded free by members only from the [Management Accounting Guidelines](#) page on our FM Center. The Internet Marketing MAG will also be available shortly after we go to press with this issue and will be available in the same place.