

# NCMA DENVER CHAPTER

JANUARY 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER WITH MATT GOMER



Seasons Greeting NCMA Members!!

We had a fantastic Holiday party at

Fogo de Chao!! There was amazing food, great networking, and as always, a really fun white elephant gift exchange!! At the party, I had the honor of congratulating Roger Ganger and Dolly Fernandez as they pursue the retirement chapter of their lives. Roger retired on 10/27/11 after 46 years in contracting, and Dolly is retiring on 12/31/11 after 29 years of Federal service. I also had the opportunity to present Roger

with a certificate of recognition for 35+ years of membership!! Thank you both for your dedication to this crazy and exciting career. We wish you the best in your retirement and hope to still see you around at NCMA events.

This is a time of year for reflecting on the things that we are grateful for. Therefore, I want to focus this month's corner article on that. I also want to reflect on a fantastic 2011 and take a quick look at the upcoming New Year.

It was December of 2007 when I attended my first NCMA event. That event was the annual NCMA Holiday party. I had just moved to the Denver area from

Minnesota and was new to the field of contracting. I did not know anyone, but everyone I met was so cheerful and fun that I immediately felt welcomed. From that point on, I knew I wanted to be a part of this organization. It is all of you, our great members, which make the NCMA Denver Chapter so phenomenal. I am very thankful to know all of you. I am grateful for our fabulous board of directors, which work incredibly hard to put on our monthly programs, offer scholarships, write this amazing newsletter, and communicate to our membership. I say **THANK YOU!**

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## THE DENVER CHAPTER WISHES TO THANK OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

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## DENVER CHAPTER OFFICERS & CHAIRS 2011

Gayle Niles— President Emeritus, Fellows & Awards	Cathy Smith— Membership	Dan Kauffman— Programs
Matt Gomer— President	Erin Stewart— Leadership	Ray Lewis— Publicity
Phil Seckman— President Elect, Norminations & Seminars	Duke Henthorn— Employment	Chris Henthorn— Leadership
Stacey Gustus— Secretary & Registrar	Jami Dinsmore— Treasurer	Heather Miller— Facilities
Joseph Dorsey— Scholarship	Arash Heidarian— Sponsorship & Grants	Melanie Burgess— College Outreach
	Taylor Menlove— Education & Certification	Nancy Royce Webmaster
		Brie Staker— Newsletter



## TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Have you checked out the Jobs page on the NCMA HQ website? Go to <http://www.ncmajobs.com/search.cfm>. You can search jobs, post your resume, or search job seekers if you're wanting to fill positions.



## DID YOU KNOW....

The ball that drops in Times Square weighs over 1,000 lbs with over 9,000 LED lights.

[www.2020site.org/fun-facts/New-Years-Eve-Fun-Facts.html](http://www.2020site.org/fun-facts/New-Years-Eve-Fun-Facts.html)



## UPCOMING NCMA MEETINGS

**How Internal Controls Can Help Improve Your Operations, Especially During Government Budget Draw-downs: January 19, 2012, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at Overland Golf Course Bar & Grill**

Speaker: Gary Frazer is a Certified Government Financial Manager with over 25 years of government financial management experience. He is an in-demand instructor for Management Concepts' Federal Financial Management curriculum, conducting classes on subjects such as Internal Controls, the federal government budgeting process, funds certification, and Appropriation Law.

The current economic climate and rapidly shrinking operating budgets within which the federal government (indeed, government at all levels) will operate for the foreseeable future can present significant risks to agency mission accomplishment. This presentation's theme is that implementing even a basic internal control program can reduce those risks and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government programs and help contribute to more cost effective processes. The presentation highlights the importance of implementing an internal control program within government entities, describes the overall internal control process, identifies the key building blocks of an effective internal control program, and discusses the many operational benefits garnered by

implementing sound internal controls.

Why a meeting at a golf course? Colorado has lots of 60 degree days year round! To encourage participation from alumni, small and large business and government employees through a social sporting atmosphere, come out early (6:30 or 7:00 a.m.) to hit off the tee on the driving range for only \$3.00 per bucket of balls with rental clubs available or stay after the meeting for a round of golf. Networking at 7:30 a.m.; breakfast buffet beginning at 7:45 a.m.; speaker at 8:15 a.m.; conclusion at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Overland Golf Course Bar & Grill, 1801 South Huron Street (Santa Fe and Evans), Denver, CO 80223  
Cost/registration: \$16.00; register at <https://www.123signup.com/event?id=cthcr> by January 13, 2012

**Avoiding Errors in Accounting and Reporting Under CAS, FAR and GAAP: February 14, 2012, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at Braun's on Blake**

Speaker: Karla Whittenburg is a certified public accountant. She is a partner in the audit service area of EKS&H and has been involved in pub-

lic accounting since 1993. She provides audit and business consulting services to privately-held companies in a wide variety of industries, including government contractors, high-tech and software, retail, distribution, manufacturing and services.

The presentation will explore common errors encountered in external financial reporting under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). We will discuss the relationship between the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and GAAP. Networking at 7:30 a.m.; breakfast buffet beginning at 7:45 a.m.; speaker at 8:15 a.m.; conclusion at 9:00 a.m.  
Location: Braun's on Blake, 2401 Blake Street, Denver, CO  
Cost/registration: \$16.00; register at <https://www.123signup.com/event?id=cthck> by February 10 2012

**OCIs and TINA: March 21, 2012, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at United Launch Alliance, LLC**  
Speaker: Tom Lemmer, Partner, McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP  
Organizational conflicts of interest ("OCIs") and Truth in

Negotiations Act ("TINA") requirements are key to making many acquisitions a success for both the government and the contractor. Properly managing OCI allows the government to ensure that a level playing field exists, while having access to the right contractors, and allows contractors to maximize their procurement opportunities. Properly managing TINA requirements allows the negotiation of a mutually accepted price that is not subject to after the fact reductions and disputes. These two important areas will be discussed on an interactive basis to cover the basics and to discuss cutting edge issues and best practices.

Agenda – March 21, 2012: registration/networking at 5:00 p.m. (boxed meal provided); session runs from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Location: United Launch Alliance, LLC, Centennial, CO  
Cost/registration: \$50 per member; \$65 per nonmember; register by March 16, 2012, at <https://www.123signup.com/event?id=ctcdq>



Melanie Burgess is our College Outreach chair. Let's get to know Melanie a little bit better.

**BLS:** Tell us a little about your background.

**MB:** I attended Mary Washington College (now called University of Mary Washington) in Fredericksburg, VA. Like many college graduates I wasn't sure what I wanted to do upon graduation and there were not many jobs available unless I stayed in the Northern VA area. So I moved to Austin, TX, for a year to explore different options. With the tech industry's bubble still bursting, Austin was not the best place to find a career building job. I decided to head back to VA and took a job with a defense contractor as a financial analyst. I leveraged this position to become a contracts administrator while at the same time working weekends on submarines as part of a fire watch team. I literally watched guys weld and stood ready with my water bottle to put out any flames. I enhanced my skills by taking a graduate certification course in government contracting at Old Dominion University (ODU). When my opportuni-

ties for advancement became stagnant I moved on to the government site supporting our customer directly. Then an amazing opportunity became available which I jumped on – working as a consultant for a regional accounting firm. My career took off from here as I worked with many different government contractors and learned the intricacies of contracting. During my time there I earned my Master's in Accounting at ODU and CPA license. Recently I started my own consulting business and work out of my home in Boulder.

**BLS:** What made you decide to participate in the Denver NCMA Chapter? What do you hope to gain from your time with the Chapter?

**MB:** When I started working with the accounting firm my boss sat on the board of the Norfolk NCMA Chapter. She was quick to bring me to meetings and I soon volunteered as the chapter secretary. From there I served as the chapter vice president and president. Before moving to CO I touched base with Matt Gomer and knew I was headed to a great chapter. I am impressed with how organized the board is and how enthusiastic everyone is about the career field. I hope to become a better leader by learning from those around me and have the opportunity to meet more of my colleagues in the Denver area.

**BLS:** Congratulations on your

certifications! Tell us about your experience to complete the certification process.

**MB:** I really procrastinated on sitting for the CFCM. I think I first qualified a few years ago but the idea of studying for another test after surviving the CPA exam just made me glum. It was really the Denver Chapter's study group that pushed me to study and sit for the exam. Meeting weekly helped keep me on track and I felt accountable to be prepared and to sit for the exam. I'm looking forward to the next study group so I can sit for the CPCM exam next summer.

**BLS:** What advice do you have for those who are thinking about obtaining a certification?

**MB:** If you are trying to build a career in the contract management field, you should definitely obtain one or all of the certifications NCMA offers. Having a designation shows that you are knowledgeable and are serious about your career. It speaks a lot to your dedication and employers or future employers value this dedication. You need to consider your study habits and your personality but I found that the study group helped as did setting a goal time to sit for the exam.

**BLS:** Where did you grow up?

**MB:** I grew up in Virginia Beach, VA. I am an offspring of a Navy family that was living in VB when my dad

finished his tour of duty. Like so many people in VB, my parents stayed there to raise a family. I lived in the same house until I left for college. My husband and I moved to Boulder, CO two years ago so he can pursue studies in geology at CU-Boulder.

**BLS:** What's your favorite thing about living in Colorado?

**MB:** The sun and the mountains. We live at the Foothills and can be on trails within minutes of walking out our door. I love breathing in the fresh air. I do not love the cold so much, but I love the snow and when it's sunny in the winter I can be outside in a t-shirt.

**BLS:** What are your favorite hobbies?

**MB:** Hiking, jogging, and trying new sports that make my heart race. In VA I surfed but, unfortunately, the boards have been hanging on the wall in our basement since we moved here. I also really like snowboarding and biking but I am balance challenged so I can't really count these among my favorites.

**BLS:** If you could vacation anywhere where would you go and why?

**MB:** The list is so long! Right now we're saving penny by penny to go on a National Geographic cruise to Antarctica.

I think that is an amazing opportunity and I'm not one to sit still so I'm excited that it is educational and I get to participate in studies on the cruise.

**BLS:** What's your favorite movie?

**MB:** I fear my favorite movie changes with my mood but my old stand-by is *Clear and Present Danger*. That's one of Harrison Ford's best. And I love the Bourne Trilogy.

**BLS:** What toppings would be on your perfect pizza?

**MB:** Cheese, cheese, and mushrooms.

**BLS:** What advice would you

give someone who is new to the contracting world and thinking about participating in NCMA?

**MB:** I am a big fan of NCMA and have had so many fantastic experiences that I think everyone involved in contract management should join. At the local level you have the opportunity to attend monthly meetings that are educational and enhance your leadership skills. I feel like it is a great place to improve your networking skills and get to know others who actually understand what you do without explaining yourself for ten minutes. At the national level, you receive monthly

magazines which contain interesting articles to enhance your knowledge. National also hosts the Contract Management Leadership Development Program, which improves the leadership skills of young professionals and puts them on a fast track to leading their contract management team. I also enjoy attending the conferences – on top of the educational sessions you get to network with professionals across the country.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER WITH MATT GOMER, CONTINUED

I am grateful for our board of advisors that help guide us every year. They are always on top of the major issues facing our industry. THANK YOU! I am grateful for our volunteers and speakers that help put on our programs each and every month. That takes so much effort, and I truly appreciate your remarkable work. THANK YOU! I am grateful for our sponsors, McKenna, Long, & Aldridge, EKS&H, and ETI Professionals. Without all of you, this chapter would not be able to put on the programs and offer the great services we provide to our membership. THANK YOU for your continued support!

2011 marks a very successful year for the Denver Chapter. Our chapter hosted several successful programs on various topics, such as protests, negotiations, and small business issues. The chapter had TWO graduates of the Contract Management Leadership Development Program (CMLDP). Erin Stewart and Jami Dinsmore received diplomas at World Congress! The chapter hosted our first NCMA certification study group, which was a huge success! The chapter is building a foundation and created relationships with our local colleges and universities. The Denver Chapter received the National

NCMA honor of Gold Graalman award. Congratulations Denver Chapter on an incredible year!! I look forward at 2012 with enthusiasm, knowing this chapter will continue to do great things!

Lastly, we are going to try a new location for the January meeting. The meeting will be at Overland Golf Course, (1801 South Huron Street, Denver). Gary Frazer will be speaking on How Internal Controls Can Improve Your Operations, Especially During Government Budget Drawdowns. Jan. 19th from 7:30-9:00am. Go to the NCMA Denver webpage to register. Please join us!

NCMA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Susanna Weart	Paul Donovan
Cathleen Book	Matt Gomer
Karen Holden	Scott Porter
Jason Preisser	Neal Huffman
Christie Johnson	Trina Shadley
Chip Irving	Anita Yost
Victoria Nosal	Theodore Watson
Fred Brooke	Darin Williams
Brian Irons	James Larsen
Kathy Prentice	Claudine Dickson
Shelley Gibson	Adam Reeser
Daniel Bardell	
Steven Polutchko	
Gregg Hangge	
Linda Bolmer	
Loretta Cichocki	
Catherine Raymond	
Catherine Henry	

