



# A Report to Our Members

*Citizen-Centric Report for 2008–2009*



## Table of Contents

- About AGA..... 1
- 2008–2009 Progress ..... 2
- AGA’s Finances ..... 3
- What’s Next ..... 4

## Mission

*The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.*

## About AGA

### How AGA Operates

AGA operates under a national-chapter partnership with its 100 chapters located throughout the U.S., Guam, Japan, Puerto Rico and Saipan. AGA is governed by a National Board of Directors (NBD), which includes regional leaders and chapter presidents. AGA’s 16-member National Executive Committee (NEC) acts for the NBD, meeting quarterly to discuss strategic issues. The day-to-day operation of the Association is handled by the National Office, headquartered in Alexandria, VA, with 28 employees reporting to an executive director who reports to the AGA National President. More than 800 volunteer members serve the Association through committees, boards and chapters.

### Who We Are

AGA’s 15,235 members are employed by state and local governments (44 percent), the federal government (30 percent), and the private sector (15 percent). The remainder is made up of students, retirees and academicians. The membership crosses most fields and disciplines, including accounting, auditing, budgeting, contract management,

finance, grants management and systems. AGA members are students and entry-level employees, mid-level professionals, senior executives and elected officials.

Membership Year May 1 – April 30	2007	2008	2009
Number of current members	14,668	15,047	15,235
Overall membership retention rate	86%	86%	85%
Number of new members	2,106	2,414	2,564
Number of AGA chapters	90	94	100

# How We Have Progressed

In 2008-2009



## Strategic Goals

AGA's four strategic goals are: Accountability, Certification, Education and Research, and Service. The implementation of all programs contributes to the achievement of these goals. The pie charts located on the next page illustrate how the financial data fit into these four goals. Programs were aligned with each of the four goals based on where their greatest contribution was made.

### Accountability

Promote and advance accountability in government through AGA's Citizen-Centric Reporting Program, Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program, Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reporting (SEA) Program and AGA's Financial Management Standards Board (FMSB), which comments on proposals by various standards-setters.

Fiscal Year April 1 – March 31	2007	2008	2009
Number of Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) received from federal agencies (CEAR)	21	24	21
CEAR Excellence Award recipients	11	17	17
Number of SEA performance reports received from state and local entities	24	25	24
SEA Achievement Award recipients	10	14	16
Citizen-Centric Reports produced	4	22	28
Program Year July 1 – June 30	2007	2008	2009
Number of comment letters on proposed standards by AGA's Financial Management Standards Board	11	15	16

- AGA hosted a black-tie dinner and awards ceremony in honor of 17 federal agencies that were awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR)—the second consecutive year with a record number of award recipients.
- AGA's Financial Management Standards Board (FMSB) members are asked to testify at Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) hearings. FMSB has an annual joint meeting with the GASB, one of only three groups to be invited to do so.

### Certification

Make the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) the government accountability community's preferred professional designation.

Calendar Year	2006	2007	2008
Number of current CGFMs	8,026	7,909	7,802
Total number of CGFM designations awarded by exam since exam inception	795	1,040	1,325
Number of new CGFMs this year	194	244	284
Number of CGFM Examinations taken this year	968	1,229	1,539
Number of states and local governments declaring March "CGFM month"	20	30	46

- In 2008, the number of applications received was 15 percent higher, the number of exams purchased was 29 percent higher, the number of exams taken was 25 percent higher and the number of new CGFMs was 16 percent higher than in 2007.

### Education and Research

Provide comprehensive education and research to meet the changing needs of the government accountability profession. Conferences: Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC), National Leadership Conference (NLC), National Performance Management Conference (PMC), Internal Control & Fraud Conference; Research Projects, Audio Conferences, Education and Government Financial Management Classes.

Program Year July 1 – June 30	2007	2008	2009
Number of published AGA research projects	7	4	7
Average audio conference attendance	1,507	1,302	1,094
Fiscal Year April 1 – March 31	2007	2008	2009
Total number of CPE hours offered	94,908	105,093	107,592
Number of attendees at AGA conferences:			
• Internal Control & Fraud Conference	394	385	223
• National Leadership Conference	645	724	791
• Performance Management Conference	120	142	151
• Professional Development Conference	1,791	1,852	2,007

- An average of 70 telephone lines were used during AGA's 13 audio conferences, worth 2 CPE hours each.
- AGA-sponsored on-site training classes are now offered on 19 different topics in the areas of financial management, internal controls, grant and contract management, ethics and leadership.
- The research program began in 2005 and now boasts 20 completed reports (including one in 2005), with four more under way. Research reports receive media coverage, have been used to inform congressional hearings and are kept as reference tools by the GAO, the Library of Congress and the Congressional Research Service.

### Service

Provide members and customers with quality programs, products and services: Member Services, Corporate Partner Advisory Group (CPAG), Governance, Website, Publications and Public Relations.

- Members are the lifeblood of our Association. Recruiting new members and retaining current members takes everyone working together. For the fourth year in a row, membership experienced a net increase.
- Six new chapters were formed and approved this year: El Paso (TX), Beckley (WV), Circle City (IN), South Dakota, Southern Arizona and West Michigan.

Corporate Partners	2007	2008	2009
Total	64	76	76

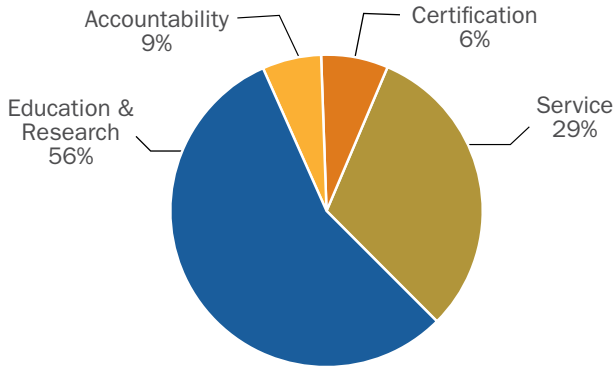
- AGA continues to bring private sector and government executives together to exchange information, support professional development, improve communications and understanding, solve issues and build partnership and trust.

# The Association's Finances

## Revenues and Expenses

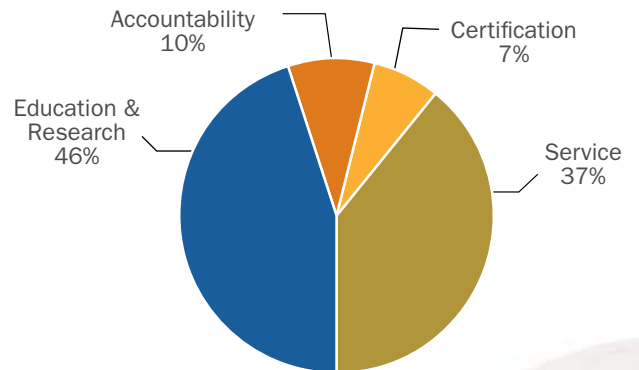
### Primary Association Sources of Revenue

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Revenues By Strategic Goals



### Primary Association Expenses

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Expenses By Strategic Goals



### The Association's Finances in Thousands

#### Primary Sources of Revenue

Sources	Actual FY07	Actual FY08	Actual FY09
Registrations	2,141	2,163	2,461
Dues	1,675	1,664	1,755
Sponsors	580	799	811
Application Fees	381	367	408
Exhibitors	207	241	253
Advertising	192	217	224
Research Projects	176	102	190
Other	448	560	605
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>6,113</b>	<b>6,707</b>

#### Primary Functional Expenses

Expenses	Actual FY07	Actual FY08	Actual FY09
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	1,859	2,197	2,463
Food and Beverage	936	907	1,076
Onsite Expenses	494	618	730
Printing/Publications	363	301	346
Travel & Training	349	409	496
Contractors	365	288	363
Other	568	494	598
Indirect Expenses	731	916	822
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,665</b>	<b>6,130</b>	<b>6,894</b>

**Independent Audit**  
Independent audits of the Association's finances were conducted, resulting in clean opinions.



Complete financial information can be found at  
[www.agacgfm.org/about](http://www.agacgfm.org/about)

# What's Next?

## Challenges Moving Forward



**Here Are Some of the Ways We Addressed Our 2009 Challenges:** Teamwork and thought leadership remained the keys to AGA's success in the 2009 program year. AGA has made bold steps to expand our brand, to attract and retain our membership and to offer programs, educational opportunities and guidance to advance government accountability:

- Developed 19 courses that are taught on-site and entered partnerships with four companies to offer low-cost online courses.
- Developed a new section of AGA's website, "Keeping Track of the Recovery Act" to provide the latest resources on the stimulus effort.
- Launched "Your Money, Your Government" on Federal News Radio featuring seven discussions with leading government finance leaders.
- Created an AGA presence on two social networking platforms, Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Launched a Certificate of Excellence Awards Program for outstanding citizen-centric reports produced by governments.
- Established a new technical assistance website for preparers and reviewers of Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reports.

**Raising AGA's Visibility as the 'Thought Leader' in the Profession**  
AGA has provided its members with the latest information and resources on issues that affect the accountability profession, specifically the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. AGA has offered leadership breakfasts, audio conferences, radio shows, blog essays, a detailed list of resources on our website, and three courses to help our members track and account for the funds with full transparency. AGA will need to continue to provide leadership in this area.

**Providing Leadership in the Area of Intergovernmental Cooperation**  
By publishing risk assessment and monitoring tools, a wide range of resource documents and making concrete recommendations, AGA's Partnership for Intergovernmental Management and Accountability is already increasing cooperation among governments. To the possible exclusion of other projects, the attention of government leaders is likely to be focused on the demands of implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Raising Public Awareness of Issues Relating to Government Accountability and Transparency**  
The number of governmental entities embracing AGA's Citizen-Centric Reporting format by providing financial information in an easy-to-read, four-page document continues to grow. Additionally, through AGA's performance reporting programs at the state/local and federal levels, AGA helps governments produce

more effective performance reports. AGA will need to continue to determine new and innovative ways to reach citizens with information about their governments and will commission a second national survey to capture citizen input.

**Automating the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program Operations**  
Increasing the number of entities that recognize the CGFM is an ongoing long-term goal, and AGA is continuing efforts on many fronts to increase the number of certified professionals. Interest in the CGFM is high, and AGA's Intensive Review Courses are consistently sold out. As the CGFM Program grows, so does the administrative workload and the amount of paperwork. AGA needs to ensure it has adequate resources to handle the increased volume of applications, exams and reactivations. One of the challenges is automating more components of the certification process and streamlining the database operations.

**Strengthening Chapters/Expanding Membership to Young Professionals**  
Strong chapters help AGA not only retain existing members, but recruit new ones through education and training programs, community service events and networking opportunities. AGA must monitor and nurture new chapters to ensure their success. AGA is also using LinkedIn and Facebook as outreach mechanisms, particularly to attract young professionals, as suggested by AGA's Emerging Leaders Focus Group.



We would like to hear from you! Do you like this report? Do you believe it should include different or additional information? Please contact AGA Deputy Executive Director of Programs Susan Fritzlen at [sfritzlen@agacgfm.org](mailto:sfritzlen@agacgfm.org) or 800.AGA.7211.