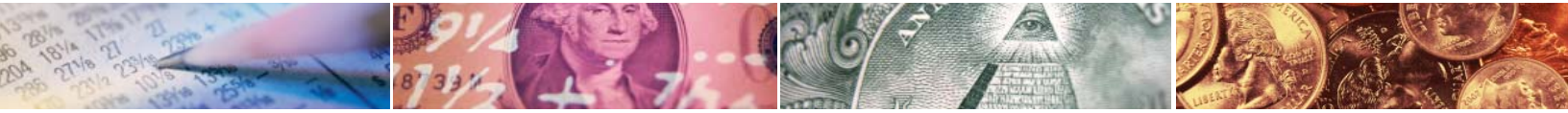




# A Report to Our Members

*Citizen-Centric Report for 2007–2008*



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## 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 94 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 operational issues. The day-to-day operation of the Association is handled by the National Office, headquartered in Alexandria, VA, with 30 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 15,047 members are employed by state and local governments (46 percent), the federal government (29 percent), and the private sector (14 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.

# How We Have Progressed

In 2007-2008



## 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 commenting on proposed standards by AGA's Financial Management Standards Board (FMSB).

Fiscal Year April 1 – March 31	2006	2007	2008
Number of Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) received from federal agencies (CEAR)	18	21	24
CEAR Excellence Award recipients	9	11	17
Number of SEA performance reports received from state and local entities	22	24	25
SEA Achievement Award recipients	11	10	14
Citizen-Centric Reports produced	N/A	4	22
Program Year July 1 – June 30	2006	2007	2008
Number of comment letters on proposed standards by AGA's Financial Management Standards Board	11	11	15

- 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 highest number since the program began.
- AGA's Financial Management Standards Board (FMSB) testified at GASB and FASAB hearings on a variety of subjects, and at FASAB's request, gave input into the FASAB technical agenda.

### Certification

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

Calendar Year	2005	2006	2007
Number of current CGFMs	8,204	8,026	7,909
Total number of CGFM designations awarded by exam since exam inception	601	795	1,040
Number of new CGFMs this year	127	194	244
Number of CGFM Examinations taken this year	606	968	1,229

- In 2007, the number of applications received was 21 percent higher, the number of exams purchased was 39 percent higher, the number of exams taken was 27 percent higher and the number of new CGFMs was 26 percent higher than in 2006.
- The effort to declare March as "CGFM month" continues to grow every year, from 10 states in 2005, to 20 states and local governments in 2006, to 30 states and local governments in 2007 and 38 states and local governments in 2008.

### 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, Education and Government Financial Management Classes.

Program Year July 1 – June 30	2006	2007	2008
Number of published AGA research projects	5	7	4
Average audio conference attendance	1,276	1,507	1,302
Fiscal Year April 1 – March 31	2006	2007	2008
Total number of CPE hours offered	84,775	94,908	105,093
Number of attendees at AGA conferences:			
• Internal Control & Fraud Conference	N/A	394	385
• National Leadership Conference	665	645	724
• Performance Management Conference	200	120	142
• Professional Development Conference	1,631	1,791	1,852

- An average of 100 telephone lines were used during AGA's seven audio conferences, worth 2 CPE hours each.
- New AGA-sponsored training courses are being offered on a variety of topics.
- The research program began in 2005 and now boasts 17 completed reports (including one in 2005), which have been mentioned extensively in the media.
- Held first ever Emerging Issues Forum in February 2008 and published White Paper on the forum proceedings.

### Service

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

Membership Year May 1 – April 30	2006	2007	2008
Number of current members	14,590	14,668	15,047
Overall membership retention rate	87%	86%	86%
Number of new members	2,049	2,106	2,414
Number of AGA chapters	88	90	94

- Members are the lifeblood of our Association. Recruiting new members and retaining current members takes everyone working together. For the third year in a row, membership experienced a net increase.
- Four new chapters were formed and approved this year: Northern Nevada, Aroostook County Maine, Mid-Ohio Valley (WV) and Charleston (WV).

Corporate Partners	2006	2007	2008
Total	57	64	76

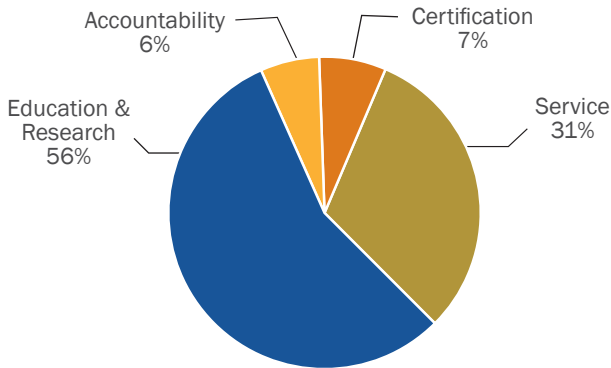
- AGA continues to bring private sector and government executives together to exchange information, support professional development, improve communications and understanding, solve issues and build partnership and trust.

# The Association's Finances

## Revenues and Expenses

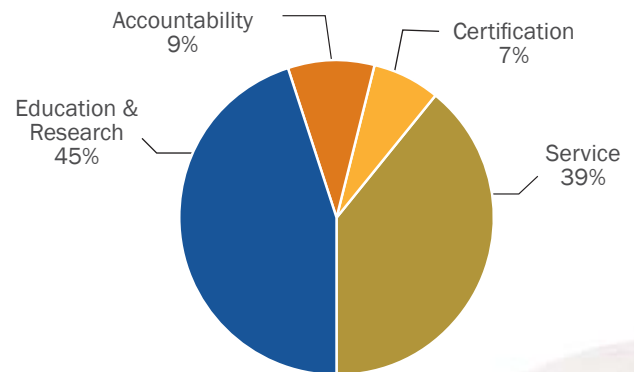
### Primary Association Sources of Revenue

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Revenues By Strategic Goals



### Primary Association Expenses

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Expenses By Strategic Goals



## The Association's Finances in Thousands

### Primary Sources of Revenue

Sources	Actual FY06	Actual FY07	Actual FY08
Registrations	1,812	2,141	2,163
Dues	1,630	1,675	1,664
Sponsors	491	580	799
Application Fees	479	381	367
Exhibitors	241	207	241
Advertising	234	192	217
Research Projects	188	176	102
Other	350	448	560
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>5,425</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>6,113</b>

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

### Primary Functional Expenses

Expenses	Actual F Y06	Actual FY07	Actual FY08
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	1,608	1,859	2,197
Food and Beverage	745	936	907
Onsite Expenses	479	494	618
Printing/Publications	333	363	301
Travel & Training	284	349	409
Contractors	381	365	288
Other	701	568	494
Indirect Expenses	862	731	916
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,393</b>	<b>5,665</b>	<b>6,130</b>

During FY08, the AGA's National Executive Committee approved the use of \$200,000 from its reserves to establish a program to open the lines of communication among federal, state and local governments with the goal of promoting cooperation and improving performance and accountability. A total of \$72,215 was spent this fiscal year to kick off the program, with the remainder expected to be used in FY09. This use of reserves is included in the table of Primary Functional Expenses.

# What's Next?

## Challenges Moving Forward



**Raising AGA's Visibility as the 'Thought Leader' in the Profession**  
AGA must continue taking the lead in addressing issues that affect the future of the accountability profession. In the coming year, how do we effectively assist the new administration (federal, state and local) to focus—and stay focused—on issues of great importance to us in the financial management community?

**Providing Leadership in the Area of Intergovernmental Cooperation**  
AGA has taken the bold step of establishing the Partnership for Intergovernmental Management and Accountability in partnership with the federal Office of Management and Budget. The Partnership is charged with opening the lines of communication among governments. While the Partnership is already making progress and has established two work groups to address high-impact issues, making a concrete difference in intergovernmental relations will take time.

**Raising Public Awareness of Issues Relating to Government Accountability and Transparency**  
Government at all levels is failing to meet the needs of its citizens with regard to financial management reporting, according to the 2008 AGA poll on public attitudes toward government accountability and transparency. The public overwhelmingly believes government has the obligation to report and explain how the government generates and spends its money;

however, government is not meeting expectations in any area included in this survey.

Providing clear, concise information in an easy-to-read four-page document is the rationale behind AGA's Citizen-Centric Reporting Program. The challenge remains to encourage more entities to adopt the four-page report for greater government transparency and accountability. Five hundred and even one thousand reports do not sound out of reach.

Additionally, through the CEAR Program at the federal level and the SEA Program at the state/local level, AGA helps governments produce more effective performance reports. Quality reports improve communication with internal and external stakeholders, leads to better decision making and, ultimately, improves improves services to citizens.

**Increasing Recognition for the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Designation**  
Increasing the number of entities that recognize the CGFM is an ongoing long-term goal, and AGA must continue those efforts in order to expand the CGFM Program. In pursuing the CGFM Program

growth, AGA needs to ensure it has adequate resources to handle the increased volume of applications, exams and reactivations.

### Strengthening Chapters/Expanding Membership

Keeping chapters strong is vital to not only retaining members, but to help increase membership through

local education and training programs, community service events and networking opportunities. AGA must also create new chapters in underserved areas to expand the membership base and grow the organization.



### Using Social Media to Communicate with Our Members and Stakeholders

Facebook, YouTube, wikis, blogs, RSS feeds. What does it all mean

for AGA and our members? AGA must determine how to best engage in this media and remain relevant as well as harnessing these mediums to attract young professionals to the Association.

### Going Green

Reduce, reuse, recycle. We must begin to determine ways to reduce AGA's carbon footprint on the environment both at the physical headquarters of AGA in Alexandria, Virginia and at our national meetings and conferences.



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.