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Northern Virginia  
Chapter

## NEWSLETTER

**WINTER 2024**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



#### **Happy Holidays, NOVAGA Friends!**

As the days get shorter and cooler, it's time to prepare for end of year celebrations with friends and family. I'm thankful for the celebrations that we have shared this year in the NOVAGA chapter, including the fall picnic, fall winery tour, the great monthly chapter events, the CGFM study group, the Winter Workshop, and the holiday party at Hard Rock Café.

These events lead into what I will use as my NOVAGA theme for 2024: Connections. It's hard to believe that in a metro area of over five million people, so many people suffer from loneliness and are starved for human connection. I think that one of the best things about professional associations is how we strength social ties through education events, parties, and excursions. In 2024, NOVAGA leadership will work to strengthen our connections with other AGA chapters, not only in the DMV, but elsewhere in Virginia and Maryland. We also will look to strengthen our connections with the past and future through our awards programs, which will culminate in an awards gala this summer. Look for more information soon about 2024 NOVAGA awards. I encourage you all to resolve in 2024 to find a way to create connections with people in your professional community; if you accomplish this by engaging more with NOVAGA, so much the better!

***President's Message continued on p. 2***

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *CONTINUED*

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for the NOVAGA Board members, committee members, and other volunteers who have worked so hard in 2023 to provide great programming for all our members. I'm grateful for my connections with all of you.

My best wishes for a joyful and peaceful holiday season to you all,

Chris Horton  
President, 2023-2024, Northern Virginia Chapter

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## MEET OUR MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



### Hanan Salahadin, Audit Associate

**Q1:** *Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.*

**A:** I graduated from Boston University in May with a Bachelor's in Economics. Shortly after, I joined RMA Associates as an Associate Performance Auditor and Consultant. I previously interned as a sales intern at a software company and a data science intern at a startup. Auditing and consulting have allowed me to combine my two interests of analytics and client relations. I'm eager to continue growing in my career.

**Q2:** *What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?*

**A:** My first professional role the summer of my junior year of college was a tech sales internship at a leading software company. It was a transformative internship and instrumental in shaping my career by instilling transferable interpersonal and soft skills. The experience empowered me to confidently engage with clients, building trust and lasting relationships. Facing daily rejections and encounters with challenging prospects, it cultivated a mindset of overcoming obstacles and speaking confidently in technical terms. This

internship served as a crucial foundation, underscoring the universal importance of selling in both personal and professional spheres. Recognizing that every job involves a degree of selling, be it oneself, ideas, or a firm, the interpersonal skills acquired have become foundational to my professional journey.

**Q3:** *How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?*

**A:** RMA Associates, the firm I work for, is heavily involved in NOVAGA. My manager and NOVAGA chapter president, Chris Horton, was very encouraging to me joining the Education committee. I would like to thank RMA for their continued support and encouragement in joining AGA.

**Q4:** *What's been the best aspect with AGA with respect to your career development? Are there any membership benefits you have particularly enjoyed?*

**A:** The most priceless aspect of AGA for me is the connections I've built. Being a young professional navigating my career has been challenging at times; however, the AGA community has consistently proven invaluable. Members are always ready to guide me to valuable resources and offer advice that I wouldn't find elsewhere. Having been young professionals themselves, everyone at AGA has a wealth of experiences to share, making their insights indispensable to my career. No course or certification can provide the guidance humans who have lived through similar experiences can offer.

**Q5:** *Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?*

**A:** Absolutely, I would recommend AGA. As a young professional, AGA has been instrumental in connecting me with the broader government auditing field. I've made valuable connections that transcend beyond my firm. The knowledge gained through AGA has been invaluable.

**Q6:** *Do you have any advice for professionals in government who are considering joining AGA or are not active members? How can AGA play a role in their career?*

**A:** My advice is to talk to people that you otherwise would not have, a community like AGA really fosters inclusivity and allows you to do that. AGA is a transformative experience personally and professionally. Support in every aspect of life is crucial and an invaluable asset. AGA provides professional support through a community with shared goals and aspirations of serving the American people. Whether seeking certifications, networking, or professional connections, AGA, is a valuable resource to advance your career.

**Q7:** *What is something most people do not know about you?*

**A:** I speak three languages: English, Arabic, and Tigrinya.



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### Christopher Choi, Senior Manager

**Q1:** *Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.*

**A:** I've been a Virginian resident for over 20 years and have spent most of my life in the Reston/Herndon area. I'm blessed with a very supportive family. I'm the middle child of three, and the sole accountant in a family of chemists! I've been with KPMG since I graduated and am currently a senior manager in the federal audit practice - an incredibly fulfilling experience. Outside of work, I serve as the Membership Chair for AGA and as the Vice President of Community Relations on the board for the Ascend Greater Washington chapter.

**Q2:** *What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?*

**A:** One of my first jobs was working as a bouncer/barback at the Shandygaff bar at Pennsylvania State University (PSU), where I was double majoring in Economics and Accounting. That job taught me a lot of life lessons, including how to lead by example. Our general manager, Mark, demonstrated exceptional leadership and integrity, stepping in during busy periods and even personally removing a difficult customer who was a friend. His actions instilled in me the values of leading by example and maintaining integrity, principles I continue to uphold today.

**Q3:** *How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?*

**A:** Xiaolei Wang (our Early Career Chair) brought me into AGA where I started as part of her and Jacob's committee. What has continued my involvement with NOVAGA are the people. During my time, I've had the opportunity to meet all kinds of individuals from both the public and private sector that I would not have met in my day-to-day job which has been a very rewarding experience.

**Q4:** *What's been the best aspect with AGA with respect to your career development? Are there any membership benefits you have particularly enjoyed?*



**A:** One of the best aspects of AGA has been the opportunity to build perspective by interacting with a diverse group of individuals. Our events, ranging from chapter meetings to winery tours, bring people together and create a space for networking and collaboration.

**Q5:** *Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?*

**A:** In my opinion, the AGA events are a continuance of your education. Learning and taking advantage of the resources available to you is invaluable to anyone's career and with the wealth of individuals and guests speakers who come to AGA events, you are able to build your perspective and network.

**Q6:** *Do you have any advice for professionals in government who are considering joining AGA or are not active members? How can AGA play a role in their career?*

**A:** My advice is to start small and increment. Start by participating in a couple of event and increment once you feel ready to onboard a more active role. Active participation in AGA has allowed me to learn/network with individuals I may not have met otherwise. In my personal opinion, joining AGA will only accelerate your career development.

**Q7:** *What is something most people do not know about you?*

**A:** I'm an avid reader and have a unique habit - I enjoy reading multiple books at a time, often juggling between 10 to 12 books in a day!



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NOVAGA wishes you a  
wonderful and happy new  
year. May 2024 bring you  
peace, joy, and happiness!

2024  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## Upcoming NOVAGA Chapter Events

### NOVAGA Chapter Meetings

Our chapter meetings are held in-person at the Washington Golf and Country Club, located at 3017 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA. Members may also attend virtually. Parking is free, and attendees will receive 1 CPE credit. For additional details and to register, check your email and the chapter's website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Northern-Virginia-Chapter/TrainingEvents/Event-Calendar.aspx>.

NOVAGA has several chapter meetings scheduled for this program year, with great speakers. Save the dates below and check your email for registration information.

- **January 17th** – AI Straight Talk with Chris Kraft, CGFM, PMP, Assistant Administrator, Financial Systems, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mr. Christopher Kraft currently serves as the Assistant Administrator for Financial Systems in FEMA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO). In this role, Mr. Kraft serves as the principal advisor to the CFO regarding the consolidation and integration of integrated mission-essential financial, acquisition, and asset management systems.

In addition to earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Decision Sciences/Management Information Systems from George Mason University, Mr. Kraft holds a Juris Doctor from The George Washington University School of Law. Read Mr. Kraft's bio on FEMA's website [here](#).

- **January 31st** – NOVAGA Ethics Session.  
This virtual session meets the Virginia Board of Accountancy annual ethics requirement. For more information, contact Hanan Salahadin at [h.salahadin@rmafed.com](mailto:h.salahadin@rmafed.com). To register for this event, follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/781100672137?aff=oddtcreator>; link to join will be emailed to participants at least 24 hours prior to the event. All participants meeting registration and participation requirements will earn up to 2 CPE credits.
- **February 15th** – Speaker to be determined (TBD).
- **March 21st** – Speaker TBD.
- **April 16th** – Fireside chat with Teresa Hunter, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

As the CFO, Ms. Hunter is the principal advisor to the IRS Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners. She leads the IRS's financial management programs and oversees financial policies and programs, budget formulation, and execution of a multi-billion-dollar budget. She also manages the multi-trillion-dollar revenue collected annually. Previously Ms. Hunter served as the Deputy CFO at IRS.

Prior to the IRS, Ms. Hunter served at the Department of the Interior (DOI) as the Deputy Director of the Office of Financial Management; as the Assistant Director in the Risk Management and Assurance Division at the Department of Homeland Security; and the Internal Control Manager in the Office of Financial Policy and Operations at General Services Administration.

Ms. Hunter graduated from James Madison University. She is a Certified Public Accountant and has six years of public sector financial management experience at KPMG LLP.

- **May 16th** – Speaker TBD

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## NOVAGA Spring Workshop

NOVAGA is currently planning a Spring Workshop for **April 16**. The event will be a hybrid event and will feature key topics important to accounting and financial management professionals, including the annual ethics training and offer up to 8 CPEs.

Check your email and the chapter website periodically for additional information, how to register and associated costs.

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*Please join us in-person for these networking opportunities! CPE events are offered as in-person or virtual events. Virtual attendees must respond to periodic check-ins to receive CPE credit.*



## Upcoming AGA Meetings & Events

January 2024							February 2024							March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat	Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat	Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

April 2024							May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat	Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

### UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS AND TRAININGS

#### February 28 - 29

##### National Leadership Training (NLT) | In-Person (Washington, DC) or Virtual | 14 CPEs

This is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find new solutions to challenges, network with peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. Featured speakers at this year's event include Curtis Hill, Educator, Inclusion Equity Coach; Siri Lindley, World Champion Triathlete, High-Performance Coach, and Author; and Kevin McCarthy, Best-Selling Author and Ethics Expert.

Early bird registration ends February 2nd. Click [here](#) to learn more / register.

#### April 16

##### ERM Workshop | In-Person (Washington, DC) | 5.5 CPEs

This event provides participants with practical insight from Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) leaders. The workshop includes presentations as well as facilitated table discussions, where we moved from academic discussions to "how-to" explanations and examples. The small, facilitated groups enhanced opportunities for both hands-on work and Q&A.

This event is available only to government members and nonmembers. Click [here](#) to learn more / register.

See AGA's website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Events.aspx> for additional trainings and events.

### AGA WEBINARS

Check out AGA's Training & Events page for upcoming Webinars on AGA's website [here](#). Webinars marked with an asterisk (\*) are free members-only events; all others include a registration fee.

- ♦ January 17 | Uniform Guidance and Grant Accounting | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ♦ January 24 | Finding the Data to Drive Improved Performance: Tips for Government Practitioners | Virtual | 1 CPE
- ♦ February 7 | GASB | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ♦ February 14\* | Free Members Only Webinar – Topic TBD | Virtual | 1.5 CPEs
- ♦ March 6 | RPA / AI | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ♦ March 27 | Cybersecurity / ERM | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ♦ April 10 | Ethics | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ♦ April 24 | CARES Act / ARPA | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ♦ May 8 | Fraud / Data Analytics | Virtual | 2 CPEs

- ◇ May 15 | Free Members Only Webinar – Topic TBD | Virtual | 1.5 CPEs
- ◇ May 22 | Leadership | Virtual | 2 CPEs

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## **AGA'S NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Check out AGA's new professional development sessions from February through May 2024. Each session is a one-hour virtual presentation delivered by Kimberly Jones. Each session is virtual, costs \$30, provides one hour of CPE in the Personal Development field of study. For more information, visit AGA's website [here](#).

- ◇ February 15 | How to Find 'Happy' | 2 PM
- ◇ March 8 | Remove the Roadblocks, Reignite Your Resolve! | 2 PM
- ◇ April 17 | Embracing Criticism: Using Negative Comments to Propel You Forward | 2 PM
- ◇ May 9 | Increase Your Confidence, Enhance Your Career | 2 PM

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## **AGA ONLINE TRAINING PORTAL**

Check out AGA's Online Training Portal page for its Federal Financial Management Course Library contents (<https://aga.learnupon.com/store>). AGA's Federal Financial management Course Library was developed and presented by Wendy Payne, former Executive Director of FASAB, and provides online, on-demand courses. For a nominal charge, AGA members can purchase any of the five courses currently available online.



## New NOVAGA Members

We are excited to welcome new members to the Northern Virginia Chapter; these new members joined our chapter since the last newsletter (Summer 2023).

<b><u>August 2023</u></b>			
Lennox Smith Michelle Vasquez Tamara McLin	Jinnan Chen Habiba Aziz Jamal Sanjeev Mehta	Mujahida Chenzaie Nicholas Broemmel Deron Pope	Christopher Cocco Tyler Gall Elizabeth Yi
<b><u>September 2023</u></b>			
Michael Smith Michael Gaus Mebrahtu Ogbe Alex Torres	Angel Wang Natasha Hoyte- Benjamin Nico Pineros	Sherif Said Thomas Kirven, Jr. Sofia Rivera-Encinas	Tony Duckworth, Jr. Francis McCourt Hanan Salahadin
<b><u>October 2023</u></b>			
Ricardo Carmona Danita Newkirk	My Le Kris Samiley Gonzales	John Lump	Heather Morgan
<b><u>November 2023</u></b>			
Gregory Rothkoff	Susan Ziff	Tomasz Zukowski	
<b><u>December 2023</u></b>			
Barbara Elder	Ilana Gershenson	Vincent Grano, Jr.	Zekarias Nigattu

## Lifetime Members

Lifetime membership is bestowed upon individuals who have maintained active members status for at least 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. This means that as of today, NOVAGA's lifetime members have been active since at least 1981; in fact, NOVAGA has 36 lifetime members, with two that have been active since joining in 1965 – 58 years ago! Our lifetime members have a combined 1,723 years of membership in AGA!



Lifetime memberships are awarded each January, with the next slate of lifetime members to be awarded in early 2024. In January 2022, NOVAGA had 3 members attain lifetime status, bringing our total lifetime members to 36.

To all of our Lifetime Members, thank you for your continued support, and your service to our chapter, and to AGA.

*thank you!*

## NOVAGA Membership Anniversaries

The NOVAGA Chapter recognizes and congratulates our chapter members on their milestone anniversaries from August 2023 through December 2023.

*Thank you for your continued support!*

<b><u>Lifetime Members (40+ Years)</u></b>			
Rex A. Baggett Ronald H. Johnson Charles J. Roy	Christine Baughman Thomas F. Mccarty Douglas R. Smith	John M. Delaware Thomas J. Muldoon B. Anthony Turner	Richard L. Jackson Robert B. Peterson Dale C. Williams
<b><u>30 Years</u></b>			
John C. Craig	Carlos A. Otal		
<b><u>25 Years</u></b>			
Joseph P. Bentz Christopher A. Gayle	David A. Bloom Rosemary M. Jellish	Richard L. Brown Victoria A. Smith	Matthew Farage
<b><u>20 Years</u></b>			
Elizabeth L. Hacquard	Sydney S. Hart	Kimberly S. Jackson	Irfan Satriadhi
<b><u>15 Years</u></b>			
Kenneth I. Aguolu Ericca Yvonne Jones Abiy T. Metchia	Ryan P. Bobby Aaron Lewis	Robert J. Henke Lucy Luo	Steven Holler Diane K. Magrum-Doegah
<b><u>10 Years</u></b>			
Melanie Gribbin Gerald William Litzler Jessica Smith Jeannie Walker-Bridges	Amanda N. Kozak Carol Nguyen Debbi Thomas Mebrahtu Ogbe	Chiau-Yun Kung Oscar A. Perla Jason William Tillet	Presoilo B. Lapada, Jr. Kenneth B. Sessums James Velez, Sr.
<b><u>5 Years</u></b>			
David W. Allen Erik C. Gabriel Eric S. Kaba Byron W. Leeth Rafael J. Munoz Christen J. Stevenson Christopher Fink	Cherisse D. Aquil Scott S. Geary Karlo Vinci G. Katindig Denise R. Marques Stephen R. Nicholson Adam E. Thompson	Willie R. Boykin Cynthia A. Hufty Zachary Kennedy Michael John Martin Garrett Ramela Andrew W. Wright	Steven Chan Angela Yvonne Ivy Peter J. Kocis Christopher A. Meyers Emily G. Steinhagen Alexandria N. Gardner
<b><u>1 Year</u></b>			
James Boakye Jennifer Dubesa Sherri Jordan Bhavna Negandhi Chad M. Willhite Meaghan Marie McDonald Laura Duhan	James J. Cowen William Arthur Forbes Thomas Anthony Mahalek Linda B. Ning Cody Michael Wolfe Meili Niu	Ken Davis Nancy V. Hexmoor Andrew Manson, Jr. Rushang A. Patel Michael Kurtz Michael Parnell	Maria Lorena V. De Leon Jonathan McKinley Jackson Katerin E. Mercedes Franco Tabatha M. Walton Elizabeth Lainhart Joy X. Tu



## WE HELP MAKE GOVERNMENT BETTER

To serve the American people, the federal government needs sound, efficient, and transparent financial management. At Kearney, we're driven by that purpose every day. We provide services across the financial spectrum and have served every Cabinet-level department, all branches of the military, and more than 30 independent agencies. Consistently recognized as a "Best Place to Work," Kearney cultivates a "people-first" culture.

# *Corner*

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM®) certification demonstrates competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. The CGFM® is unique because it not only encompasses a specialized focus on government financial management, but it also has broad coverage of various aspects of financial management at all levels of government.

NOVAGA recognizes and applauds our chapter members who have obtained their CGFM® certification since the last publication of the chapter's newsletter.

For more information on the CGFM, check out the CGFM page on our Chapter's website [here](#).



Ms. Bethany R. Hey – June 2023  
Ms. Lessie Shanks – July 2023  
Mr. Samir Said – August 2023  
Mrs. Jeymy Vanessa Pena Mercedes – October 2023

## **CGFM Events:**

NOVAGA held a study group for the first part of Exam 2 on September 21st; approximately a dozen members attended virtually and in person at RMA's office.

A second session is planned to cover Part 2 of Exam 2 on **January 22nd**. Look for the link in your email, on the Chapter's website for registration information, or register by scanning the QR code on the next page.



## **Tips of the Month:**

### **Tip #1**

There are many resources available for CGFM Candidates on AGA's website. They include content outlines, an acronym listing and sample questions among other things.

### **Tip #2**

As you study for the CGFM exams, note how the topics have appeared in recent news stories.

**RMA** | Associates  
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# BOOST YOUR **CGFM** EXAM PREPARATION WITH OUR STUDY GROUP!

Monday, January 22, 2024 | 4:00-7:00 PM | BDO McLean Office  
3 CPE Credits

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

Join Debbi Thomas and Kevin Shers (BDO) for an RMA-sponsored study group of the CGFM Exam 2 Part 2.



**Debbi Thomas,**  
CPA, CGFM



**Kevin Shers,**  
PMP, CGFM, CDFM  
Manager (BDO)

Topics that will be covered are Accounting and Reporting for state and local governments, federal budgeting and reporting, OMB Circular A-11, and portions of the AFR.

The course will be broken into multiple sessions that target specific areas of the exam to allow the participant to gain knowledge of all areas.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

**In-Person or Hybrid Cost:** \$20.00

**Delivery Method:** Hybrid

**Prerequisites:** None

**Advanced Preparation:** None

**Program Level:** Advanced

**Field of Study:** Accounting (Governmental)

## WHAT TO LEARN



Government Accounting



Financial Reporting

## LOCATION & POC



Note the new location: BDO Office  
8401 Greensboro Drive, Ste. 800  
McLean, VA 22102



c.ung@rmafed.com

## REGISTRATION



Requests for refunds and cancellations must be received **in writing by noon on Friday, January 5th, 2024**. Contact [c.ung@rmafed.com](mailto:c.ung@rmafed.com) if you need assistance.

**NASBA Registration:** RMA Associates, LLC, is registered with the National Association of State Board of Accounting (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education in the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be submitted to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors through its website: [www.nasbaregistry.org](http://www.nasbaregistry.org)

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Early Careers Update

Dear friends,

By joining NOVAGA, you are making an investment in your career journey. You will have access to a wide range of opportunities to learn, network, and grow professionally. NOVAGA offers a variety of resources, including informative events such as our chapter meetings that provide practical knowledge, insights, and skill-building opportunities. Our social events such as our annual winery tour will also provide you with opportunities to meet individuals and build your core support network. Your unique perspective and experiences can add immense value to our community and help shape the future of our profession.

As you embark on the journey of your professional careers, we hope you are filled with excitement, determination, and a desire to succeed. At this stage in your life, it is important to foster a strong network of like-minded individuals who can offer guidance, support, and professional resources. That is why we strongly encourage you to join our professional organization and become an active member.

If you are interested in helping with or have questions about Early Careers, please contact Christopher Choi, Early Careers Chair ([christopherchoi@KPMG.com](mailto:christopherchoi@KPMG.com)) or Xiaolei Wang, Membership Committee Chair ([xwang1@kpmg.com](mailto:xwang1@kpmg.com)).

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## Calling All Skaters!!

Come brave the cold and join the chapter in a fun happy hour and skating event on **Saturday, January 27** at 3pm at the Pentagon Row Skating Rink! Located at 1201 S. Joyce Street in Arlington, VA, Pentagon Row's Outdoor Ice Skating rink is the largest outdoor ice rink in Northern Virginia at 7,200 square feet (and second largest in Virginia!). It features an outdoor dual-sided stone fireplace along with several shops, restaurants, and a coffee shop.



To register for this event, sign up at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aga-northern-virginia-chapter-skating-and-happy-hour-event-tickets-799896541087>.



## Attention Chapter Members!

If you have any pictures taken at any NOVAGA events (virtual or in-person events) or have information that should be included in the newsletter, please email the Newsletter Editors (Naomi Martinez at [naomimartinez@kpmg.com](mailto:naomimartinez@kpmg.com) or Sonia Kessler at [sonia.kessler@sikich.com](mailto:sonia.kessler@sikich.com)).

## Is Your AGA Membership Current?

AGA's program year ends June 30th. Check your membership card or log into your AGA profile today to confirm your renewal date. If you haven't already renewed, consider doing so today!

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your AGA membership gives you many benefits, including education and networking opportunities, discounts on chapter and national events, and access to many resources. In fact, each year, AGA members receive at least 14 hours of complementary training / CPE credit on a variety of topics – FOR FREE!

**FREE  
CPE!**

Membership in the NOVAGA chapter only increases this benefit! NOVAGA is one of 90+ AGA chapters nationwide and supports AGA's core values of service, accountability, integrity, and leadership. The NOVAGA chapter provides networking opportunities within and with other local chapters, CPE credit through chapter meetings and special events, and assists members in obtaining their CGFM® certification by offering study groups to its membership.

To check your membership status, sign into your AGA account at [agacqfm.org](http://agacqfm.org) and renew today!

## Update Your Email

Each year, NOVAGA's Membership Committee plans the various chapter-level events that occur alongside the educational and award events, and the many happy hours, skiing, snowboarding, and other sporting events, and fundraisers. While the events were far fewer in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID restrictions and safety concerns, the Committee began hosting some in-person events in late 2021 and even more in 2022. 2023 promises to be no different!

In this upcoming year, our social, educational, and other events will take place in-person and virtually when possible. Events that are in-person will also depend on COVID-related guidance from CDC and Virginia to ensure that all attendees are safe.

To make sure you receive all updates on future educational and social events from AGA and NOVAGA, check your profile and make sure your email is up to date! And don't forget to check your spam folder – you may need to add NOVAGA as a safe address to receive updates.

## Check Your



# Past Chapter Events

## NOVAGA Chapter Meetings



At its **September 2023** chapter meeting held Wednesday, Thursday, September 14th at the Washington Golf and Country Club, NOVAGA hosted Mr. Vinay Singh, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Ms. Rae Oliver Davis, Inspector General, HUD. Mr. Singh and Ms. Davis spoke on how their offices at HUD are embracing artificial intelligence (AI).

At the **October 2023** chapter meeting held on Wednesday, October 18th, the NOVAGA Chapter hosted Mr. Tom Wojtecki, Research Staff Member, Institute for Defense Analytics at the Washington Golf and Country Club. Mr. Wojtecki provided an overview of the

Institute and its interactions with Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC).



At the **November 2023** chapter meeting held on Tuesday, November 14th, the NOVAGA Chapter hosted a fireside chat with Ms. Sheila Conley, CPA, DCFO at HHS and Ms. Ann Ebberts, MS, PMP, CEO, AGA. Ms. Conley and Ms. Ebberts talked about the challenges and opportunities that exist for today's Federal agency leadership.



For each chapter meeting attended in-person or virtually, participants received 1 CPE credit.

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## Annual Tri Chapter Picnic

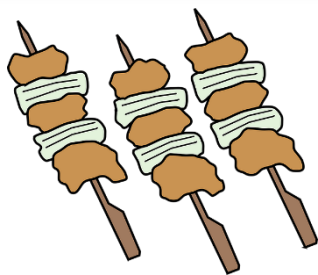
On **Saturday, September 10th** the Northern Virginia Chapter joined other local AGA chapters from DC and Montgomery/Prince George's County for the annual Tri-Chapter Kick-Off picnic at Lacey Woods Park in Arlington, Virginia. Members with family and friends enjoyed food and games, and great fellowship with our sister chapters.



Kudos and many thanks to all of the volunteers from all three chapters, with special thanks to our own Jacob MacDonald and Cherry Ung for helping to plan this amazing event.









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## 2023 Winery Tour

On Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, NOVAGA members held its annual Fall Wine Tour and visited three local wineries in Loudon County. Members met at Pentagon City Mall and took a bus to the Bluemont Vineyard, Quattro Goombas, and The Barns at Hamilton for a day of wine tasting, food, and fellowship.

**Bluemont Vineyard** was established in 2007 when the first grape vines planted by the Zurschmeide family came into full production. Located on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Bluemont Vineyard is home to the Viognier, Norton, and Cabernet Franc. The 951 Tasting Room experience at the Bluemont is designed for the adventurous and

novice wine-lovers and offers both indoor and outdoor seating. See Bluemont's website for more information at

<https://www.bluemontvineyard.com/>.



**Quattro Goombas** is located in historic Loudon County between Middleburg, Haymarket, and Leesburg. Guests will come together to share a glass of Virginia wine, craft beer, and great food and see the views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. See the Quattro Goombas website for more information at <https://quattrogoombas.com>.

**The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards** is a family owned winery located on a refurbished dairy farm located in historic town of Hamilton, Virginia. The site features a restored stone and wood bank barn that has been transformed into The Barn's tasting room. Visit The Barns website for more information at <https://www.thebarnsathamiltonstation.com>.









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## NOVAGA Corporate Sponsors

Thank you to our corporate sponsors for supporting our Chapter and our members during this program year. Through your continued support, we can continue to offer the Becker CPE program at a discounted rate, hold chapter meetings and CGFM study groups, and other networking and membership events.

For information on becoming a corporate sponsor for this program year (2023 – 2024) or the next program year (2024 – 2025), please contact our President and Corporate Sponsor Chair (Chris Horton at [c.horton@rmafed.com](mailto:c.horton@rmafed.com)) or Cherry Ung ([c.ung@rmafed.com](mailto:c.ung@rmafed.com)).

### PLATINUM

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### SILVER

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### STAR

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### IN KIND

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## Contact Us

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (NOVAGA) is an association with almost 1,100 members from the federal, state, local, public and private practices, with a mission statement to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

We would love to hear from you! Feel free to email one of our board members directly, connect with us on LinkedIn, or check out our home page at [www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/NOVAGA](http://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/NOVAGA).



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