

## President's Message



Hi, all:

I am writing this from a cruise ship just leaving Kauai and we missed the rains last week. Sorry about that! (not really).

However, things are still active with the SF Chapter. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 19. We didn't hold last month's meeting because the registrations were too low. That could have been because of the potential recurrence of the federal shutdown, or because I was the scheduled speaker. We will test the situation. This month there isn't a risk of the shutdown, so I will schedule myself as speaker again and see what happens.

We have had more cases of low registrations at the monthly meetings this last couple of years. I know that many employees don't come into the city every day any more. They are able to work at home. Accordingly, a trip to the city for a luncheon meeting may take just too much time.

On the other hand, we do have an 8-hour training session coming up this month. Chuck Hester will be covering the new Yellow Book in a full-day class on March 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are a government auditor, you need to know the Government Auditing Standards. This is your chance to get the changes at a very low cost and from a knowledgeable instructor. That's definitely worth a trip to the city.

Even though I am in the process of fully retiring, I plan to attend Chuck's presentation. Hope to see many of you at the monthly meeting and at the training session.

-Sefton

### March 2019 Issue

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## Is Artificial Intelligence a Threat to Government Accountants and Auditors?

By Donny C. Shimamoto, CPA, CITP, CGMA

Artificial intelligence (AI) receives ample attention these days as many people contend it is one of the technologies that will cause the demise of the accounting profession. Two other predicted “culprits” are blockchain and big data. However, this contention is completely wrong.

In truth, AI will allow accountants and auditors to eliminate a lot of menial and repetitive work and focus instead on higher value tasks, such as driving analytical insights, designing more effective controls, and helping to improve the performance of the organizations served. In the government sector, this shift is especially meaningful because financial practitioners can help departments and agencies better utilize today’s limited resources to serve constituents and communities and to fulfill missions.

### LEVERAGE AI WITH NON-FINANCIAL AND FINANCIAL DATA

One of the first keys to realizing the value of AI is possessing a large, broad data set from which to work and then ensuring it contains both non-financial and financial data. The non-financial data must include operational driver data as well as outcomes and impact data. Imagine, for example, a local environmental services program becomes fully automated. In this scenario, the operational drivers would include data on the number of garbage trucks deployed and number of hours worked by the truck drivers.

Outcomes and impact data would include the number of tons of trash collected. If the trucks also picked up recyclables, the dataset would contain the weight (in tons) of recyclable waste diverted to recycling plants instead of being dumped into landfills. Additional operational data might include the number of days allocated to trash pickup versus recyclables pickup; the number of tons of trash picked up each day; the scheduled holidays with no trash or recyclables pickup; population density in each area covered, etc. Entering such wide-ranging data would help government agency personnel better leverage AI to improve service and reduce cost for taxpayers.

By using AI to optimize waste pickup schedules and staffing, the agency could more readily manage the cost of providing services and, possibly, augment the total amount of waste collected in each truck run. Although traditional data analytics could probably provide the same result, the difference is that a human staffer would need to run the analysis periodically, as various data points would change. With AI in play, the ongoing optimization of scheduling over time would be automated, significantly freeing up the analyst, especially when various data points changed, such as total population or the number of homes in an area.

While such a system traditionally has been considered part of the operations domain, the data used to inform decisions that lead to change should come from accountants.

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Likewise, accountants would confirm the integrity of the analysis used to reach the numbers, and the financial manager would ensure the accuracy and completeness of the data provided to operations.

Though AI would be part of the analysis process, human accountants would still be needed to guarantee that AI is performing as expected and providing a return on the government's investment. Standards are already in place for the collection and reporting of non-financial data within government accounting. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board provides guidance in the form of the Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) reporting standard. Governments currently using this standard may already have some of the base data needed to start leveraging AI. (A good example can be found in the SEA report for the City and County of Honolulu.<sup>2</sup>) The standard is well worth adopting for an area in which AI is anticipated because it helps clearly quantify the value of AI and the impact of its use on constituents.

### **NO WORRIES ABOUT BEING REPLACED**

On September 6, 2018, the annual seminar of AGA's Hawaii Chapter included a session on "How AI is Impacting Government Accountants." Participants examined AI in depth, especially machine learning, and ways it could be used within the context of accounting and auditing. After exploring the meaning and impact of AI and what it could potentially replace, organizers polled the audience to see if the accountants had become worried about being replaced by AI. One-third of respondents were not worried at all and 40 percent were only mildly worried; so, collectively, 73 percent of these accountants were not worried about being replaced by AI.

### **POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF AI**

The session also covered AI's overall potential in government and ways in which accountants and auditors would be able to help their organizations manage risks associated with using it. Notably, the presenters explored ways accountants could help to improve governance and to design internal controls related to AI. In addition, they discussed the work of auditors (both internal and external) and how it could be augmented (not replaced) by AI. Examples of possibilities included:

- Using AI to identify exceptions and anomalies in transaction data sets;
- Using AI's "learning" function to clear exceptions automatically, in the same way an auditor manually clears them.

Such AI applications would change the auditor's role, of course, from testing transactions to testing algorithm analysis and monitoring algorithm effectiveness. After exploring the broader implication of AI, the audience was polled again to determine individual participants' feelings about the impact AI would have on government accountants. Sixty percent reported they were excited about the changes AI would bring, and an additional seven percent said AI would significantly impact and be a boon to the profession.

### **TRANSCENDING AI TO PROVIDE VALUE**

AI will be a boon to the government financial management profession and help to elevate the role accountants and auditors play in government work. While it will remove some of the day-to-day work on the desk, AI will allow personnel to expand on the human values and unique traits they bring to the workplace that no machine, no matter how intelligent, can offer. In this way, government accounting practitioners can transcend AI<sup>3</sup> and continue to add value to the organizations and constituents served.

Article Retrieved from: [AGA Newsletter: Winter 2019: Technology Threats, Trends and Tools \(pages 13-16\)](#)

## Interviewing – The Power of Two

Monthly Luncheon | One Hour CPE

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019 | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**San Francisco, CA**

Far too often, auditors conduct interviews without a partner. That auditor then has to seriously multitask: ask questions, record answers, repeat or reword questions when receiving inadequate responses, follow-up on indications of problems, and be alert to body language. Interviewers cannot be aware of body language when they are looking at a paper, recording answers. The speaker will discuss the benefits of having two auditors present for all interviews.

**Presenter:** Sefton Boyars, CPA, CGFM

**Location:** San Francisco Federal Building

90 7th Street (between Market and Mission Streets), Suite 4-400, Fourth Floor Annex

**Cost:** With lunch: free for SF Chapter members, \$10 for non-members

Without lunch: free for SF Chapter members, \$5 for nonmembers

**RSVP:** Register by contacting Lela Wong and Connie Tan at [agaluncheon@gmail.com](mailto:agaluncheon@gmail.com). If you register for the meeting, but find that you cannot make it, please email Lela and Connie before the close of business, Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

### About the Presenter:

Until his retirement in October 1996, Sefton Boyars, had been the Department of Education's Regional Inspector General for Audit in Regions IX and X for sixteen years. During his 35-year career, Mr. Boyars worked for a variety of federal government audit agencies and a California county.

Mr. Boyars is active in his profession. He is a member of the California CPA Society and was a long-time chair of his chapter's combined committee on Accounting Principles and Auditing Standards and Government Accounting and Auditing. He served on the Qualifications Committee of the California State Board of Accountancy for three years. Mr. Boyars is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Government Financial Manager. Mr. Boyars is the current president of the San Francisco Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants.

## Update on the 2018 Government Auditing Standards Revisions

In Person Training | Eight Hour CPE

**Monday, March 25, 2019 | 8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

**San Francisco, CA**

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued the July 2018 revision of Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS), also known as the “Yellow Book.” Last revised in 2011, GAGAS is designed to help government auditors at the Federal, State, and Local levels produce high-quality audits that reflect competence, integrity, objectivity and independence.

The GAO first issued the Yellow Book in 1972, and the current version was issued in 2011. The amendments modernize GAGAS and include developments in the auditing, accountability, and financial management professions since the 2011 Revision.

Key amendments include:

- A new format that differentiates requirements from application guidance;
- Updated independence requirements for auditors who prepare the financial statements of an audited entity;
- Revised peer review requirements for audit organizations;
- New guidance to address waste and abuse as defined under Government Auditing Standards; and
- Updated internal control guidance for performance audits.

The 2018 standards supersede the 2011 revision, the 2005 *Government Auditing Standards: Guidance on GAGAS Requirements for Continuing Professional Education* and the 2014 *Government Auditing Standards: Guidance for Understanding the New Peer Review Ratings*.

The revised standards effective for financial audits, attestation engagements, and reviews of financial statements for periods ending on or after June 30, 2020, and for performance audits beginning on or after July 1, 2019. **Early implementation is not permitted.**

**Presenter:** Charles W. Hester, CPA/CFE/CGFM

**Location:** San Francisco Federal Building  
90 7th Street (between Market and Mission Streets), Suite 4-400, Fourth Floor Annex

**Cost:** The AGA chapter will provide lunch (sandwiches and sodas) and morning coffee. The fee for this course is **\$125 for AGA Members, \$150 for non-members**

**RSVP:** If you would like to attend this training, please contact Chuck Hester via e-mail at [CharlesHester@msn.com](mailto:CharlesHester@msn.com). Space is limited and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you register, and discover you cannot attend, please notify Chuck no later than March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**About the Presenter:**

Charles (Chuck) Hester, Sr. served as the Western District Inspector General and Audit Manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) until his retirement on September 30, 1995. Chuck currently conducts training sessions for numerous organizations, including the Association of Government Accountants' Education and Research Foundation, and various other professional accounting and auditing organizations. In addition, Chuck has served as the Team Leader for External Peer (Quality Control) Reviews for Various national, state, and local government audit agencies.

Chuck is a member of various professional auditing and accounting organizations and has written several articles that have been published in professional journals. Chuck currently serves as member of the Qualifications Committee for the California Board of Accountancy.

Chuck is the recipient of the Faculty Excellence Award from the Graduate School. Chuck has also received numerous other awards including the Jack Birkholz Leadership Award presented by the Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum and the Education and Training Award presented by the National Association of Government Accountants.

## Grants Management Class

In Person Training | Up to 1.6 CEU

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019 | 7:00 am – 4:40 pm**

**Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 7:00 am – 4:40 pm**

**Location | Oakland, CA**

If your agency receives or plans to receive government grants, this class is for you. Beginning and experienced grant managers and administrators from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. You *do not* need to work in the same profession as the host agency.

**Presenters:** City of Oakland and Grant Writing USA

**Location:** City of Oakland - Human Resources Department

150 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor - HR Office Oakland, California 94612

**Cost:** \$565 with code "CAASSN"

**Registration:** Enroll using the following [link](#)

### **Itinerary and Location:**

This workshop is March 20-21, 2019, 9:00 to not later than 4:00 both days with lunch on your own from noon to 1:00. View a map of the [workshop location](#), [learning objectives](#), or a sample [email confirmation](#) like the one you'll receive immediately after you register. The training location is easily accessible via the 12<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station.

### **Tuition:**

Tuition is \$595 per person and includes everything: two days of world-class instruction and a 500 page participant guide and reference binder. You will also have lifetime, free access to our exclusive [Alumni Support Forums](#).

### **CEU Credits:**

Various CEUs and university credit are available for this class. For complete details click [here](#).

### **Payment Policy:**

Payment by credit card at the time of enrollment is preferred; however, you may pay later by check. Our registration system will auto-generate a personalized invoice/receipt for you immediately after you enroll. If you choose to pay by check, it is your responsibility to print the online invoice and guide it through your purchasing channels. We do not mail invoices. Payment by check or card is required by the workshop date unless other arrangements are made in advance.

### **Purchase Orders:**

If you work for a government agency and want to pay by purchase order, when you register online, choose the "pay by check" option. The web site will auto-generate a printable invoice. Print the invoice, give it and your purchase order to your purchasing department and they will send the check. That's it!

**Cancellation Policy:**

Withdrawals are allowed up to one week prior to the workshop. Tuition refunds - less a \$30 admin charge - are made by check and mailed within 5 working days of receiving your cancellation. If you cancel within one week of the workshop or if you are registered for a workshop and fail to show up, you are obliged to submit your tuition in full. After that, you are prepaid for, and welcome to attend any future workshop we offer within one year of the workshop you cancelled. If you register within 10 days of the class, you may cancel your registration up to 5 days after by notifying us via email at [cs@grantwritingusa.com](mailto:cs@grantwritingusa.com). Your tuition refund will be made by check and mailed within 5 working days of receiving your cancellation notice or will be refunded to your credit card.

**Contact:****Janet Darling**

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## AGA Women's Leadership Series: The Power of Being You: Insights, Influence and Innovation - A Dialogue with Women Leaders in Government Financial Management

Webinar | 1 Hour CPE

Thursday March 14, 2019 | 10:00am – 11:30am PST

<b>Program Level:</b>	Overview
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	None
<b>Field of Study:</b>	Personal Development (PD)
<b>Cost:</b>	Free for AGA Members

### Learning objectives:

The focus of this webinar is leadership, career and work/life enhancement and advancement for women in government financial management. The learning objective is to share best practices to enhance the skills and potential of women leaders within the government accountability community. Senior-level women will share their experiences and methods, best practices and advice on how women can secure their future in this complex and ever-changing world.

### Speakers

- Sheila Conley, CPA, Deputy Assistant Secretary & Deputy CFO, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Megan Gaillard, CGFM, Director of Audit, Palm Beach County OIG
- Peggy Sherry, CGFM, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
- Gwen Sykes, MPA, CGFM, Chief Financial Officer, US Secret Service
- LaToya Thomas, CGFM, Comptroller, WMATA

### Moderator

Tracey Walker, National Director Government Affairs; Culture, Diversity and Inclusion, RSM US LLP

**Registration:** [Registration Link](#)

**[For more information click this link to see the training announcement on the AGA Website.](#)**

## Cybersecurity - Protecting and Utilizing Government Data

Webinar | 2 Hour CPE

**Wednesday March 27, 2019 | 11:00am – 12:50pm PST**

<b>Program Level:</b>	Overview
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	None
<b>Field of Study:</b>	Computer Software & Applications (CS)
<b>Cost:</b>	Members: \$49 Non-members: \$69

Government agencies have never had access to so much data, or the modern capabilities to access and use data. Increased value of data can be obtained by turning it into manageable and usable information, while leveraging modern technologies to protect data from cyber security breaches.

Government agencies continue to face challenges from legacy systems, resulting in vast amounts of data not being fully leveraged and heightened cyber security risk. Snatched from 2018 headlines: “. . . federal agency data is under siege,” with 57 percent of federal agencies experiencing a data breach in the past year, over three times the number of agencies reporting breaches two years ago. How can government agencies better protect and use data to drive enhanced decision making and taxpayer transparency?

### **Learning objectives:**

This webinar will explore techniques to secure data while also implementing data automation techniques to help support government programs and operations in a more effective and efficient manner.

### **Moderator**

Tony Hubbard, Partner, KPMG Government Cybersecurity

**Registration:**      [Single Attendee Registration](#)  
                             [Single Group Registration](#)

**[For more information click this link to see the training announcement on the AGA Website.](#)**

## Ethics

Webinar | 2 Hour CPE

**Wednesday April 10, 2019 | 11:00am – 12:50pm PST**

<b>Program Level:</b>	Overview
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	None
<b>Field of Study:</b>	Behavioral Ethics
<b>Cost:</b>	Members: \$49 Non-members: \$69

This is a real-life example of fraud and the lessons that can be learned about the importance of controls, segregation of duties, system controls, processing controls, physical safeguards, controls in a time of change and the reality of the fraud triangle. In this webinar, we will cover a number of strategies to prevent fraud including fraud awareness training, ethics training, forensic analytics, internal control framework testing, goal setting, core values, fear of failure, transparency, and positive organizational behavior and how those would have affected this fraud.

### Learning objectives

Participants will be able to identify:

- What was missing at ING that allowed the Fraud?
- Lack of segregation of duties (Check Retrieval)
- Lessons learned on prevention
- Importance of controls
- Physical safeguards (Checks, inventory)

### Speaker

Nathan Mueller: Fraud & Ethics Awareness Speaker, Co-author of *Lessons From An \$8 Million Fraud*

**Registration:** [Single Attendee Registration](#)  
[Single Group Registration](#)

**[For more information click this link to see the training announcement on the AGA Website.](#)**

## Job Announcement

### Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Inspector General – Office of the Inspector General

#### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

A job at the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) offers the satisfaction of providing an invaluable public service, while accomplishing your own career goals, earning highly competitive pay, and enjoying an unparalleled benefits program. BART, one of America's premier heavy rail public transit systems, has over 3,800 employees and an operating budget in excess of \$900 million annually.

Headquartered in the heart of downtown Oakland, California, BART has a service area covering the 4 county area of San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa, a total population of over 4 million people. BART's current fleet of 669 railcars allows it to achieve an average weekday ridership of over 420,000 passengers throughout its 49 stations. BART, a wonderful career opportunity.

#### THE POSITION

##### *Inspector General*

Plans, directs, and manages the independent oversight of all District activities and operations to ensure the effective use of District resources; ensures that the District operates efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with applicable federal and state laws; conducts independent audits and investigations; collaborates with BART's Board of Directors regarding priorities; provides reports of findings to BART's Board of Directors, the California State Legislature, and the public.

This is an executive level management classification nominated by the BART Board of Directors and appointed by the Governor to serve for an initial four-year term. The Board shall have the option to renew the term at will. This classification oversees the operations and activities of the independent Office of the Inspector General, which detects, investigates and prevents fraud, waste and abuse, and identifies opportunities for efficiencies in the administration of BART programs and operations.

##### The Ideal Candidate

The successful candidate will have a Bachelors degree and (8) years of (full-time equivalent) verifiable professional financial, operational, business performance, criminal or administrative investigation, audit or prosecution/defense experience which must have included at least four (4) years of management-level experience or higher. Possession of a valid certificate as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) or possession of a Juris Doctorate (JD) from an accredited law school is desirable.

##### Essential Job Duties

1. Establishes an independent office that implements a programmatic process for conducting system wide inquiries / audits that are prioritized in accordance with the District's most critical needs.
2. Assumes full management responsibility for the departmental operations and activities of the Office of the Inspector General, including the examination of the operating practices of the District to identify and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and opportunities for efficiencies and effectiveness in the administration of BART's programs and operations.
3. Ensures that BART Administration, Board of Directors, and the public are fully informed of the findings of the Office of the Inspector General.
4. Works independently to ensure that inquiries and investigations are conducted without conflicts of interest, while maintaining a professional and collaborative relationship with the Board of Directors, General Manager, other Board Appointed Officers, and District management staff to ensure that BART is utilizing its resources as efficiently and effectively as possible and providing the highest quality of service to its customers.
5. Recommends new policies or changes to existing policies after findings in an effort to promote efficiency and effectiveness in programs and operations.

6. Reviews and recommends best practices that the District should follow to maintain positive and productive relations with its employees and the collective bargaining units representing those employees.
7. Advises the BART Board of Directors, as codified in statute, on the District's conformance with federal and state laws to ensure that the District makes effective use of bridge toll and other revenue and operates efficiently and effectively.
8. Determine District-wide goals for the OIG and develop long and short-range plans to attain these goals.
9. Establishes a hotline to receive complaints; investigate complaints and proactively initiates reviews of alleged fraud, waste and/or abuse of District resources; reports to Board of Directors, California State Legislature and other authorities as appropriate.
10. Conducts, supervises and coordinates audits and investigations relating to the district's programs and operations, including, but not limited to, toll-funded programs.
11. Prepares and reviews reports of investigations and audits and distributes to Board of Directors, executive management, and other stakeholders.

## Benefits

BART offers one of the most comprehensive compensation and benefits programs you will find anywhere. We pay at rates that are strongly competitive in the labor market, and complement our pay program with an outstanding benefits package. Benefits include:

- **Retirement Programs**
  - BART's pension plan is through the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS), and provides for a 2% @ 62 formula for new employees who are also new to public retirement systems. Newly hired employees who are members of CalPERS or a reciprocal retirement system will receive the "classic" retirement formula of 2% @55.
  - Deferred Compensation Plan (IRC 457) is offered.
  - BART does not contribute to Social Security. However, Medicare contributions are made.
- **Medical Benefits**
  - Benefits include CalPERS pension; excellent medical (effective January 1, 2018 current employee cost \$147.14 monthly for most plans).
- **Dental Benefits**
  - Principal Financial Group. \$2,000 per person per calendar year with no deductible. \$2,000 limit can be shared with other family members. Orthodontia—lifetime max of \$3,500 (not part of family bank).
- **Vision Benefits**
  - Vision Service Plan (VSP). Standard and enhanced plans available.
- **Vacation**
  - Three weeks of paid vacation after one year of service. Four weeks after five years of service. Five weeks after 15 years of service. Six weeks after 19 years of service.
  - Holidays
  - Nine paid statutory holidays per year
  - Five floating holidays per year
  - Vacation and holiday hours can be carried over, bought back or banked for use upon eligible termination
- **Sick Leave**
  - Twelve days per year

- **Life Insurance**
  - Up to four times annual base salary. The District provides coverage in the amount of two times base salary. Additional coverage equal to two times base salary may be purchased.
- **Disability Benefits**
  - Long and short-term disability benefits are provided at no cost to employees.
- **Other Benefits**
  - Assault Insurance
  - Bereavement Leave
  - Credit Union Membership
  - Education Assistance
  - Employee Assistance & Counseling
  - Jury and Witness Duty
  - Military Leave
  - Survivor Benefits
  - Travel Accident Insurance
  - Flexible Spending Plan
  - Free BART Transportation

## HOW TO APPLY

Internal and external applicants may only apply by submitting resume and cover letter to [gmoser@kapartners.com](mailto:gmoser@kapartners.com). Resumes must be complete by the closing date and time listed on the job announcement (listing closes when selection is filled).

## SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be screened to assure that minimum qualifications are met. Those applicants who meet minimum qualifications will then be referred to the hiring department for the completion of further selection processes.

The selection process for this position may include a skills/performance demonstration, a written examination, and/or an individual or panel interview.

The successful candidate must have an employment history demonstrating reliability and dependability; provide copies of certificates, diplomas or other documents as required by law, including those establishing his/her right to work in the U. S.; pass a pre-employment medical examination which is specific to the essential job functions and requirements. Pre-employment processing will also include a background check. (Does not apply to current full-time District employees unless specific job requires additional evaluations)