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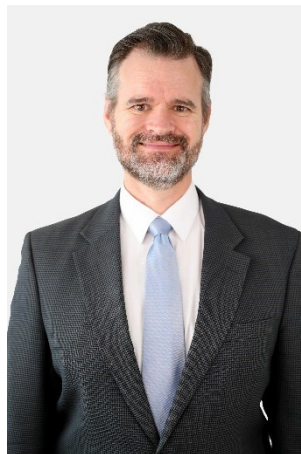


Northern Virginia
Chapter

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear NOVAGA Friends,

It's my pleasure to take the role of President of the Northern Virginia AGA chapter for this program year. As I came back from an impressive PDT in Orlando at the end of the July, I was inspired by what professional associations can contribute to thought leadership, economic development, and professional growth.

This year, NOVAGA is focused on five key areas:

1. **Chapter Meetings** - We hold evening chapter meetings at the Washington Golf and Country Club on a monthly basis. This past year we have had speakers from IRS, FDIC, HUD, and the HUD IG among many others. These meetings offer networking and NASBA-certified CPE in a congenial environment. We welcome in-person attendees and virtual attendees.
2. **Training events** - NOVAGA holds an annual Spring training session in April and plans to offer a winter training session either on its own or in collaboration with another chapter. We also provide study groups for individuals working to obtain their CGFM.
3. **Member events** - NOVAGA holds events that encourage members to network and enjoy one another's company in a relaxed environment. We will be kicking off our chapter's member events with an activity in September 2023 in Arlington.

President's Message continued on next page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *CONTINUED*

4. **Communication** --NOVAGA has a website (<https://www.agacqfm.org/Chapters/Northern-Virginia-Chapter/Home.aspx>) and a LinkedIn group that we encourage you to join. We send out chapter newsletters as well.
5. **Engagement** - NOVAGA is a volunteer-run organization. We are always looking for individuals who are willing to support NOVAGA with their time and talents, and well as companies looking to highlight their contributions and give back through sponsorships.

I was proud to see our former President Joe Hungate accept the Platinum chapter award at the 2023 PDT. Congratulations to all those chapter leaders and members whose dedicated volunteer efforts helped us to achieve the highest award AGA bestows on its chapters. And I want to specifically celebrate Kiera Murphy, our new Board Treasurer, who was selected as the 2022-23 NOVAGA Volunteer of the Year. With members and leaders like Kiera there is no limit to what we can accomplish this year together.

Cheers,
Chris Horton
President, 2023-2024, Northern Virginia Chapter

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I transition to the role of NOVAGA National Council of Chapters (NCC) Representative, I reflect on my year as Northern Virginia AGA (NOVAGA) Chapter President.

First let me start with an expression of appreciation for the tremendous effort of the NOVAGA leadership team and our membership. Without all of you, we could not have overcome the effects of the pandemic with the level of success we were able to achieve, as evidenced by our AGA Platinum Achieving Chapter Excellence (ACE) award for program year 2022-2023. I heartily thank you all! Please join me in welcoming some folks to new NOVAGA roles. Our new president, Chris Horton, who did exemplary work filling in when I was not available due to work conflicts, brings a wealth of association experience to the role. Jake MacDonald, in addition to his current board work, has been selected as

The NOVAGA President-elect, and to Kiera Murphy who will step up from assistant to be our new Treasurer. I am sure Chris will appreciate the amazing support from all the returning board members I enjoyed.

We were all enriched by a return to a full speaker schedule. We heard from the Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Mike Wetklow, Deputy CFO National Science Foundation, Victoria Collin, Chief Compliance and Finance Officer, Office of Recovery Programs, US Department of the Treasury, Andrea Sampanis CGFM, Grants QSMO Solutions and Services Lead U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Cheryl L. Mason, Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Alissa Bookwalter People & Programs Innovator, and Mary Reading Executive Advisor U.S. Department of Transportation. We resumed our social events including the NOVAGA Gala, Quad-Chapter Summer Picnic, Wine Outing, and restarted our training events.

In closing, I thoroughly enjoyed serving as your President. I deeply appreciate your confidence and support that made the job a pleasure. As your NCC Rep, I look forward to another successful year.

Joe Hungate
President, 2022-2023, Northern Virginia Chapter

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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 www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/NOVAGA.

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

- September 14th** – Mr. Vinay Singh, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Ms. Oliver Davis, Inspector General (IG), HUD will discuss the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) in presenting agencies and the audit community the opportunity to revolutionize internal controls on government programs, specifically how internal controls can be tested and strengthened. To realize that potential, both communities need to work together to develop the algorithms and AI training data. This collaboration will accurately identify weaknesses as well as potential or actual fraud events. AI also excels at drawing conclusions about program design and implementation across multiple programs and agencies. AI can be utilized for real-time collaboration on risk ranking and mitigation prioritization for both management and oversight.

Register [here](#) (or copy this link into your browser: <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/7m5RCrkgYWt9EXGBi7zP-Q>) for the event.



Mr. Singh is passionate about process and project management. He has been in numerous leadership roles in the private sector for over 25 years, spanning accounting, finance, technology & operations management spheres. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

He joined HUD as CFO in July 2022 from the Small Business Administration where he helped implement a new mission for the Office of Disaster Assistance. Prior to this he was a Partner and Chief Operating Officer for KPMG in India where he led many teams all aligned to achieving operational excellence.

As CFO, Mr. Singh looks forward to working to achieve the Secretary’s vision and the Departmental mission of creating strong, sustainable, and inclusive communities. He takes his responsibility as HUD’s fiscal steward seriously and will collaborate to continue strengthening compliance frameworks which ultimately enable the Program Offices to deliver on its fundamental mission of affordable homes, for all.

Ms. Oliver Davis serves as IG for HUD. She is the senior official responsible for audits, evaluations, investigations, and oversight of HUD’s programs and operations to promote the integrity, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of these programs. Ms. Oliver Davis serves on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) overseeing more than \$5 trillion in Federal pandemic-related emergency spending and Chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)



Prior to joining HUD OIG, she served as chief investigative counsel for the Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief

Program (SIGTARP) and in the Office of the General Counsel for the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service. Earlier she has served as Assistant United States Attorney, and on the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and the U.S. House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. Ms. Oliver Davis received a J.D. from the University of Memphis, and a BA in political science from Murray State University

- **October 18th** – Speaker to be determined.
- **November 14th** - Speaker for the evening will be Ms. Sheila Conley, CPA, Deputy CFO, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Ms. Conley serves as HHS' Deputy Assistant Secretary for Finance and Deputy CFO. Since 2006, she has been responsible for leading the Department's financial accountability and stewardship efforts including: the preparation and audit of HHS' annual financial statements; modernizing the financial management systems portfolio; strengthening internal controls; and reducing improper payments in our largest programs. She is also leading HHS's implementation of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM).



Before joining HHS, Ms. Conley served as the Managing Director for Financial Policy, Reporting and Analysis at the U.S. Department of State from 2003 to 2006. She held positions of increasing responsibility at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) between 1992 and 2003, where she was charged principally with leading government-wide implementation of the CFOs Act of 1990.

Ms. Conley was a senior manager with KPMG before entering public service, where she provided audit and financial management consulting services for over 10 years to a wide range of clients.

Ms. Conley has received many awards throughout her career including the Presidential Rank Award and HHS Distinguished Service Award. She was recently elected to be a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA).

Ms. Conley is a certified public accountant in the District of Columbia, and a member of several professional associations. She obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration degree (summa cum laude) from James Madison University. She is married and has three energetic sons.



NOVAGA Winter Workshop

NOVAGA is currently planning a Winter Workshop for December 2023. The event will be either a hybrid or virtual event and will feature key topics important to accounting and financial management professionals, including the annual ethics training.

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



NOVAGA CGFM Study Groups

NOVAGA will be holding two study groups for module 2 with the first study session scheduled for **September 21st**. Please save the date and keep an eye on our web page for the link to register which will be available soon!



Beginning in 2022, NOVAGA began using EZFacility to manage communications. If you haven't created your account yet, please contact Katie Labadie (k.labadie@rmafed.com) or Cherry Ung (c.ung@rmafed.com) to set up your account today!

After creating your account, don't forget to make sure your settings / preferences allow for email notifications to receive emails about upcoming events!



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

August 2023							September 2023							October 2023						
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						1	2							1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						

November 2023							December 2023						
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

September 19 - 20

Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training | In-Person or Virtual | 14 CPEs

This event focuses on management’s responsibility for ensuring good systems of internal control and the role of accountability professionals to minimize the risk of fraud, waste and abuse. Leaders in government and private industry discuss the latest discovery techniques, lessons learned, and how governments are cooperating to improve services to citizens. Featured speakers at this year’s event include Major General Brett T. Williams, Former Director of Operations, U.S. Cyber Command, and Melissa Agnes, Crisis Management Expert.

Early bird registration ends August 25th. Click [here](#) to learn more / register.

November 16

Technology Transformation Summit | In-Person or Virtual | 5 CPEs

This event will bring together more than 1,600 government leaders and industry experts to discuss the transformation of mission delivery through IT innovation, personnel, security, and cloud technology. Digital transformation is now, more than ever, a critical aspect of efficient, effective mission performance in government.

This event is free for AGA government members. Private-sector participation is available via sponsorship only; sponsorship details are noted on AGA’s website [here](#). 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.

- ◇ September 27 | Communications | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ◇ October 11* | Members Only Webinar – Topic TBD | Virtual | 1.5 CPEs
- ◇ October 18 | Internal Control | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ◇ November 8 | Ethics | Virtual | 2 CPEs
- ◇ December 6* | Members Only Webinar – Topic TBD | Virtual | 1.5 CPEs
- ◇ December 13 | Risk Management | Virtual | 2 CPEs

October 24

AFFIRM / AGA CFO – CIO Webinar | Virtual | 2 CPEs

This webinar with AGA and AFFIRM will provide an insightful dialogue on the intersection of policies and management issues that impact Chief Financial Officers and Chief Information Officers. Hear how they are working together to improve efficiency and transparency, reduce risk and strengthen their workforce.

This event is free for AGA government members. Private-sector participation is available via sponsorship only; sponsorship details are noted on AGA's website [here](#). Registration is through the AFFIRM website [here](#).



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 (Spring 2023).

April 2023			
Mohamed Ginawi Samir Said	Kimsue Grant Tam Tran	Aaron Haile	Ben Marglin
May 2023			
Jaren McKeever	Andrea Tse	David Whitehead	
June 2023			
Sean Cassidy Simerjeet Mudahar	Andrew Conran Elizabeth Myers	Aubrey Harris, Jr. Kamile Narine	Nikola Lojanica James Wood
July 2023			
Jay Jay Williams Henry Dotson Veronica Harris-Hill Emily Riley	Fredrick Carr Paula Downie Benjamin Moncarz Anita Robertson	Emily Carter Ryan Elsberg Jeymy Vanessa Pena Mercede Hiep Vo	Lucas Castillo Nayda Forteza Rhonda Ragsdale Michael Zuromski

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.

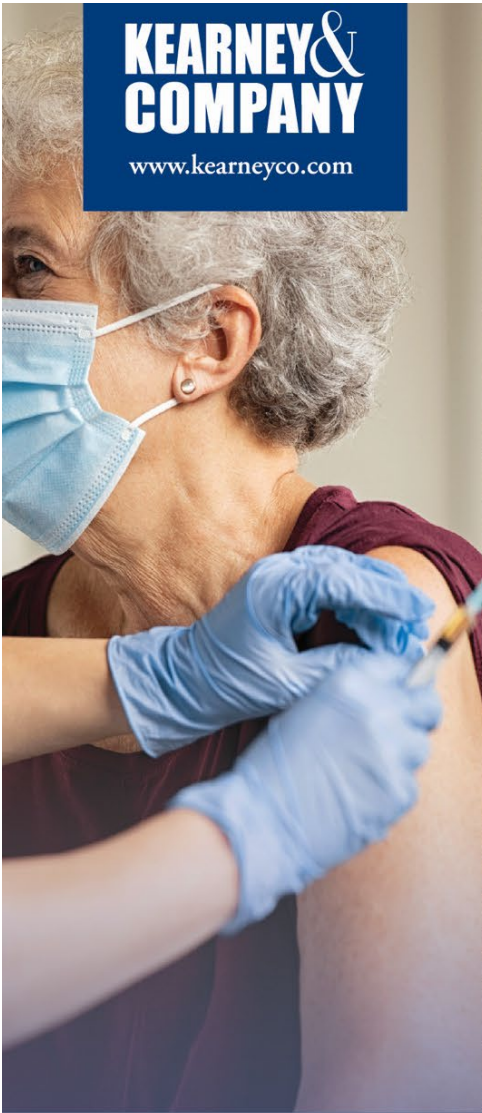
thank you!

NOVAGA Membership Anniversaries

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

Thank you for your continued support!

Lifetime Members (40+ Years)			
NAME FOR NEWSLETTER (SK)	Rex A. Baggett	Karl L. Boettcher	Joseph C. Brown, Jr.
Sheila B. Clark	Patrick J. Fitzgerald	Joyce L. Fitzhugh	Harold R. Gill
Frederic A. Heim, Jr.	Charles M. Hicks	Ronald H. Johnson	N. Carl Jordahl
William J. Keating	Raymond D. Kidd	Philip D. Lavietes	Edward J. Migliore
Thomas J. Muldoon	Robert B. Peterson	Michael Slachta, Jr.	George H. Stalcup
Jeffrey C. Steinhoff	James C. Stewart	Harold L. Stugart	Thomas E. Young
30 Years			
Mary S. Charuhas	Carroll B. Correll, Sr.	Regina G. Dull	Paul R. Stewart
Ruth E. Wolfe			
25 Years			
Joseph P. Bentz	Matthew Farage	Stephen K. Freeman	Leon W. Hutton
Bethany K. Lee	Brenda Walker	Jacqueline A. S. Walker	
20 Years			
Debra Delmar	Lani L. Eko	James P. Gould	Dwayne Grismore
Helen A. Hutchings-Bogart	Kimberly S. Jackson	Ron Polito	Irfan Satriadhi
Kristine P. Sweet	Tashu S. Trivedi		
15 Years			
John Gioeli	James D. Harvey	Steven Holler	John M. Hurley
Doan V. Huynh	Lucy Luo	Daniel Minger	Alice Rice
Scott A. White			
10 Years			
Daniel James Butala	Susan Carter	Connie F. Coffee	Georgina A. Cupp
David W. Galway	Melanie Gribbin	Karen M. Hill	William E. Joe
Amanda N. Kozak	Presoilo B. Lapada, Jr.	Andrea Sampanis	Kenneth B. Sessums
Andrew M. Snyder	Sara Specht	Debbi Thomas	Jason William Tillet
Raymond Urias-Rivera	Eric J. Von Guggenberg	Jill Wagner	Mekdes T. Yifru
5 Years			
Lynor Abetria	Cherisse D. Aquil	Nhia Bolen Mccolgan	Mayra Calle-Santos
Bashar A. Chowdhury	Melanie Colston	Betty Durosier	Erik C. Gabriel
Angela Yvonne Ivy	Shannethia A. Jackson	Denise L. Johnson	Eric S. Kaba
Bradley D. Keith	Peter J. Kocis	Michael John Martin	Simerjeet K. Mudahar
Rafael J. Munoz	Leslie F. Phillips	Garrett Ramela	John M. Slone
Geoffrey T. Tetterton	Jonathan Thomas	Cherry Sancho Ung	Nohaim Valery
Younes Zahr			
1 Year			
Tamer Abofreka	Jyoti Athavale	James Boakye	Sharon O. Byrd
Susan Carrai	Young Cho	Robert Cojocar	James J. Cowen
David-Tito F. Dale	Maria Lorena V. De Leon	Anthony Dizon	Jason Gould
Nancy V. Hexmoor	Hung P. Huynh	Maurice C. Jenkins	Kristopher Kershaw
Kenneth Kidd	Theresa Kohler	Larry Koskinen	Elizabeth Lainhart
Sorrano M. Littleton-Jones	Thomas Anthony Mahalek	Tuba Mansoor	Mulugeta Marye
Katerin E. Mercedes Franco	Bob Misch	Daniel Molina	Lanetha Neal
Bhavna Negandhi	Linda B. Ning	Maria Ocop	Destiny Valencia Houston Posso
Bridget B. Reilly	Steven R. Sabol	Anna Smith	Robert Daniel Speer
Paul Spicer	Amanda Stepp	Aster Teferra	Eric L. Twyman
Deborah-Ann N. Tyler	Tabatha M. Walton	Chad M. Willhite	Norina Zeb



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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. Sara E. Duffy – February 2023
Mr. Charles Reaves – March 2023

Upcoming AGA CGFM® Events:

CGFM Live, Virtual Courses

- Course 1: Governmental Environment
 - September 11 – 12 (deadline to register September 4)
- Course 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
 - October 10 – 13 (Deadline to register October 3)
- Course 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control
 - November 14 – 16 (deadline to register (November 7)



To learn more about CGFM Courses and to register, click [here](#).

Have you checked out AGA's CGFM Online Training Portal? Check it out [here](#).

Tips of the Month:

- The CGFM Study Guides were updated in 2022, with the most extensive updates involved in Study Guide 2.
- The CGFM study guides are a great resource but are not required to sit for the CGFM examinations.

It's Award Season!

The NOVAGA chapter sponsors three awards to recognize public and private individuals for their exemplary work in the field of federal financial management. After a pause from our Awards tradition for the past three years, the NOVAGA chapter is proud to once again recognize its members who have shown outstanding leadership in the field of government financial management.



If you work with or know someone who should be recognized for their outstanding leadership in government financial management, consider nominating them for a NOVAGA chapter award (self-nominations are welcome). Please forward your nominations to our Awards Chair, Raymond Urias at ruriasrivera@kpmg.com. Include who you are nominating, the agency or firm where the nominee is employed, and a brief description of why the nominee embodies the spirit and skill of the noted award.

The Chapter is soliciting nominations for the following three awards.

Jeffery Steinhoff Award for Excellence in Federal Financial Management

In 2003 the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA instituted the Jeffery Steinhoff Award to formally recognize federal professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures. The award recognizes the cumulative achievements of federal professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards. Nominees must be employed by the federal government, however, do not have to be members of AGA.

The first recipient of this award was Jeffery Steinhoff, GAO; in 2019, it was awarded to Thomas Harker, U.S. Navy.

Federal Financial Partnership Award

In 2003 the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA instituted the Federal Financial partnership Award to formally recognize private sector individuals who exemplify and promote excellent through outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, innovative management procedures and partnering with the Federal Government. The award recognizes the cumulative achievement of private sector professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards. Nominees must be employed by the private sector but do not have to be AGA members.

The first recipient of this award was John. H. Hummel; in 2019, it was awarded to Mike Frederickson, RMA Associates.

The Pentagon Memorial Service Award

The award was established in 2002 in memory of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon. The award formally recognizes public service to our nation in the field of financial management. The award recognizes dedication and commitment to improved government operations, financial stewardship and accountability through public service to our nation. Nominees must be a civil servant (federal employee) or a member of the Armed Forces, however, nominees do not have to be members of AGA.

The first recipient of this of this award was LTC Christopher Keefer, U.S. Air Force; in 2019, it was awarded to Shawn Sparks.

*Please forward your nominations to Raymond Urias at ruriasrivera@kpmg.com before the **Thursday, August 31st** deadline. Self-nominations are welcome. Nominations should include specific examples of how the nominee meets the award criteria listed above.*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Multi-Chapter Picnic is Back!

Join NOVAGA and other chapters in our area on **Saturday, September 16th** for a fun day of food, family, games, music, and fun! Meet members of multiple AGA chapters in the DMV area at Arlington Glencarlyn Park, 301 S. Harrison Street, Arlington, VA, Shelter #1.

This event is a great way to meet your Chapter officers and committee chairs and to meet members from other chapters as well.

Questions? Contact Cherry Ung at c.ung@rmafed.com or Jacob MacDonald at j.macdonald@rmafed.com.



AGA
CGFM

2023 Multi-Chapter PICNIC

Arlington Glencarlyn Park – Shelter #1
301 S Harrison St, Arlington, VA 22204

September 16th | 11 am – 2 pm
Free admission when you register by August 31

REGISTER NOW

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!



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!



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 agacgfm.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 **March 2023** chapter meeting held Wednesday, March 22nd at the Washington Golf and Country Club, NOVAGA hosted Andrea Sampanis, Grants Quality Service Management Officer (QSMO) Solutions and Services Lead, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Sampanis spoke on how the Grants QSMO mission offers federal awarding agencies shared IT solutions and services that empower agencies and grant recipients to efficiently and effectively deliver on the annual grants mission.

At the **June 2023** chapter meeting held on Wednesday, June 14th, the NOVAGA Chapter hosted Mr. Mike Wetklow, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, National Science Foundation at the Washington Golf and Country Club. Mr. Wetklow spoke on “Accounting and the Need for STEAM.” Accountants must prepare for a future in which dealing with data, leveraging AI and automation, reducing the cost of risk management, and building an even stronger workforce remain vital aspects of the accountability profession. The federal financial management community, with its history of accomplishments, can build upon past success.

In-person and virtual attendees received 1 CPE credit for attending each event.

CGFM Study Groups

On April 24, 2023, NOVAGA held a pilot study group for Exam 1 of the CGFM exam. This study session was a joint study group with the DC Chapter and covered the governmental environment material.

2023 Spring Workshop

On April 27, 2023, NOVAGA held its first hybrid Spring Workshop. The event was a great success with 19 attendees in person at KPMG’s DC office and 20 virtual attendees.

We had members of the federal financial community speak about emerging issues and trends in the federal government. Workshop sessions included updates from the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) and the Department of the Treasury, an introduction to Environment, Social and Governance (ESG), Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). The workshop featured a great panel discussion on SFFAS 54, Leases, with FASAB, U.S. Postal Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as a discussion on the evolving sophistication of the modern fraudster.

Many thanks to Chris Horton, NOVAGA’s Chapter President who led a discussion on ethics and Christopher Choi, NOVAGA’s Early Careers Committee Chair who participated in a discussion about ERM.

In-person and virtual attendees received 7.5 CPE credits for attending this event.

2023 PDT Awards

At this year’s AGA Professional Development Training (PDT), the NOVAGA Chapter received two awards.

Achievement in Chapter Excellence (ACE)

ACE includes 10 areas for chapters to examine their performance in the six categories of membership, education, certification, communications, community service, and strategic vision. Each objective of the ACE Awards can be achieved in one of three tiers. Points are earned at the level of the tier of accomplishment.

Lower tiers must be completed before moving to the next tier level. In addition, bonus points can be earned throughout the program year. Tier levels and points ranges are:

- Bronze: 1,000 – 1,999 points
- Silver: 2,000 – 2,000 points
- Gold: 3,000 – 4,399 points
- Platinum: 4,400+ points

For the 2022 – 2023 program year, the NOVAGA Chapter earned the ACE Award at the Platinum level. Joe Hungate, Chapter President for the 2022 – 2023 program year, was in attendance to accept the ACE award.



Thank you, Joe, for your leadership and helping the Chapter in making this past program year a great success!

AGA’s Volunteer of the Year Award

AGA’s Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes the hard work and dedication of AGA volunteers who have made a significant impact in their chapter. The award is a national honor presented annually to one member from each chapter, recognizing significant service to that chapter. Each Volunteer receives national recognition, a letter from the National President, a photo and citation on the GAA website, acknowledgement in AGA publications, and is recognized as PDT.



This year, Kiera Murphy, our Chapter Treasurer received AGA’s Volunteer of the Year award. Kiera has served as the NOVAGA Assistant Chapter Treasurer for over a year. Kiera played a crucial role in gathering and submitting NOVAGA’s financials this year and helping us catch up with the financial submissions partially neglected during the COVID pandemic. She did excellent work researching and organizing this year and those COVID years. Kiera is always available to assist board members whenever asked and contributes many excellent ideas for new ways to keep NOVAGA fun and innovative. She is a natural leader, and we look forward to her continued volunteer leadership.

Congratulations Joe and Kiera!

MEET CHRIS HORTON, YOUR NEW NOVAGA CHAPTER PRESIDENT

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

A: Before coming to RMA last year, I spent 21 years conducting performance audits for state and local government agencies. I started my audit career in 2001 with the State of Arizona's Office of the Auditor General. My wife Deb and I moved to Colorado in 2009, just after our twin boys were born, so I could take a position as an audit manager with the Denver City Auditor's Office. I moved to Virginia in 2014 and worked as an audit manager for Fairfax County Public Schools before being hired in 2016 as the County Auditor for Arlington County.

I have been involved heavily in professional associations since I started my work in Denver. I have been a member of the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), where I chaired the Education Committee and served in various roles on the Board of Directors, including serving as President from May 2021-May 2022. I have also been involved in AGA, IIA, the Virginia Local Government Auditors Association, and now the American Society for Military Comptrollers. I deeply believe in the mission of professional associations to develop and support members in having thriving, purpose-driven careers.

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

A: Before I became an auditor, I served for two years as a high school teacher in Phoenix. I did not have training as a high school teacher; I was hired for my graduate degree. The most important lesson that I learned was how good it feels to make a difference in someone's life. I have spent the rest of my career trying to reproduce the deeply satisfying feeling of making a difference to someone else. That's probably why I gravitate so readily to opportunities to volunteer and train for professional associations.

Q3: *How did you get involved with the AGA and NOVAGA chapter?*

A: I have been a member of AGA and NOVAGA since 2017. I had attended several AGA conferences by that time and was deeply impressed with the administrative maturity of the association. I joined to better understand how I could use the AGA template to help me in my role in ALGA leadership.

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 best part of AGA has been the group of like-minded individuals that I have come to know. AGA is chock full of smart, educated, ambitious, service-oriented professionals, and I have relished the opportunity to work with and learn from so many of them. I have also enjoyed the various opportunities to present or moderate at AGA sessions, where the quality of discourse is uniformly high.

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

A: AGA offers an outstanding array of service opportunities, networking opportunities, and learning opportunities for those in the audit world and for the broader financial management community. It's a great place for young professionals to engage in career building as well, through volunteer opportunities and getting to know more seasoned professionals.

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: You do not have to be a member of AGA to obtain the CGFM. So, I would recommend that non-members start there (although AGA membership provides a discount on the test). The CGFM is an outstanding credential and is well-recognized throughout the federal government. Once they see the quality of the CGFM, I'm confident that non-members will be inspired to sample more of what AGA has to offer. For those who would like a pure ROI reason to join, the free-to-members training offered through AGA every year more than makes up for the annual cost of membership.

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

A: At one point I considered going to school for a graduate degree in ministry. I have delivered the Sunday sermon on numerous occasions, and reading the Bible and works of theology are among my favorite pastimes. I love reading books by C.S. Lewis and Dallas Willard.

Q8: *What would you like to accomplish during your tenure as NOVAGA President this program year?*

A: My goals are to make the work of the NOVAGA Board more accessible to the chapter members, to help improve chapter members' engagement with the work of NOVAGA, to expand the educational offering we provide, and to improve our value proposition to our current and future chapter sponsors.

Q9: *What are you looking forward to this year as NOVAGA President?*

A: I look forward to working with the great servant leaders on the NOVAGA chapter Board, reaching out to our chapter members in a survey this fall, re-instituting the NOVAGA Winter training, and meeting many chapter members throughout the year.

Q10: *Introduce us to your family.*

Here's a picture of (from L-R) my son Landon, me, my son Zachary, and my wife Deb.

The first member (Board members and Committee Chairs are not eligible) that emails me (c.horton@rmafed.com) with the location of where this picture was taken will win a free registration to the September 2023 chapter meeting!



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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) or Cherry Ung (c.ung@rmafed.com).

PLATINUM



SILVER



STAR



IN KIND



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President	Chris Horton	c.horton@rmafed.com
President-Elect	Jacob MacDonald	j.macdonald@rmafed.com
Immediate Past President	Joseph Hungate	j.hungate@rmafed.com
Chapter Vice President	VACANT	
Secretary/Historian	Sonia Kessler	sonia.kessler@sikich.com
Treasurer	Kiera Murphy	kieramurphy@kpmg.com
Correspondence	Zak Kennedy	zachary.kennedy@rmadvisory.com
National Council of Chapters Representative	Joseph Hungate	j.hungate@rmafed.com

COMMITTEES

Accountability / Outreach	Brian Grega, Chair	bgrega@kpmg.com
Awards	Raymond Urias-Rivera, Chair	ruriarivera@kpmg.com
CGFM®	Kevin Shers, Chair	kjshers@gmail.com
Chapter Recognition	VACANT	
Community Services	VACANT	
Corporate Sponsorship	Chris Horton, Chair	c.horton@rmafed.com
	Cherry Ung	c.ung@rmafed.com
Education	Kevin Love, Chair	Kevin.Love@CohnReznick.com
Early Careers	Christopher Choi, Chair	christopherchoi@kpmg.com
	Xiaolei Wang	xwang1@kpmg.com
Programs	VACANT	
Membership	Xiaolei Wang, Chair	xwang1@kpmg.com
	Christopher Choi	christopherchoi@kpmg.com
	Irfan Satriadhi	isatriadhi@kpmg.com
	Richard Frank	rcfrank@kpmg.com
Newsletter Editor	Sonia Kessler	skessler@cottoncpa.com
	Naomi Martinez	naomimartinez@KPMG.com
Special Events	Katie Labadie, Chair	k.labadie@rmafed.com
	Katrina Samiley	k.samiley2@rmafed.com
Webmaster	Zak Kennedy	zachary.kennedy@rmadvisory.com

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.agacqfm.org/Chapters/NOVAGA.



Northern Virginia
Chapter

