# AGA GUAM CHAPTER **GUAHAN GASETA**



# AGA GUAM CHAPTER OGRAM YEAF



SECRETARY TREASURER-ELECT



INTERESTED MEMBERS SHOULD CONTACT THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE OR EMAIL US AT AGAGUAMCHAPTER@GMAIL.COM



Partner, Audit & Assurance Deloitte & Touche LLF

2022 PROFESSOR JOHN M. PHILLIPS EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AWARD WINNER



Fitzgerald is recognized for his work as an auditor on various government entities and for his contributions within the profession through training and guidance.



AGA ADVANCING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY by supporting future professionals! Guam Chapter

Fall 2022 Scholarship Recipients!

HERMINIA DIERKING

Denzyl M. Ngiralmau

**Professional Business** 



#### AGA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP



Isabella M. Serrano GCC Accounting Major

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Updated training opportunities
- Dan Fitzgerald 2022 John **Phillips Award Winner!**
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- See our Fall 2022 Scholarship **Recipients**
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- See AGA's CCR
- And more...



Congratulations Cheryll T. Estrada on passing the CGFM Exam!



|  | GA  | CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPOR   |
|--|---|---|
| Guam   | Chapter   | AGA GUAM CHAF<br>PROGRAM YEAR 2021  |
|  |   |   |
| REPORT   | CONTENTS  | ABOUT US  |
| 2 OU<br>3 OU<br>4 OU<br>MISSIO   |   | The Guam Chapter provides several educational programs an<br>protessional development seminars which had influenced<br>governmental financial policies and practices within the island<br>The Chapter has since grown its membership and continues<br>advance government accountability and the profession throug<br>various activities, including but not limited to the following:  |
| leadership<br>protession   | rs learning, certification,<br>o and collaboration for<br>hals and stakeholders<br>d to advancing government<br>bility.   | <ul> <li>Offering CPEs during general membership meetings or othe<br/>training sessions,</li> <li>Speeking at student organizations and offering scholarship</li> <li>Offering support for C@FM candidates and scholarships to<br/>members that pass the C@FM exam,</li> <li>Providing avards for government entities that prepare Citiz</li> </ul>   |
| VISION   |   | Centric Reports   |
|  | premier association for   | 2021-2022 CHAPTER OFFICERS  |
| MEMBE<br>General in<br>every four<br>starting a<br>Our mont<br>guest spe<br>emerging | g government accountability.<br>RSHIP MEETINGS<br>benebership meetings are held<br>th Wednesday of the month,<br>II 30AM.<br>hy meetings feature special<br>okers to discuss pertinent and<br>issues that affect the<br>y our government, and the | EVENDENCE OFFICERS     EVENDENCE OFFICERS     EVENDENCE OFFICERS     EVENDENCE OFFICE     EVENDENCE     EVENDENCE     EVENDENCE     EVENDENCE     EVENDENCE     EVENDENCE     EVENDENCE   |
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### ADVANCING GOVERNMENT

Solmars M. Torcelino **UOG Business Admin Minor** UOG Accounting Major

PORT APTER

Citizen

# AGA GUAM CHAPTER GUAHAN GASETA ISSUE 04 | OCTOBER 2022

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A better version of ourselves in pursuit of our dreams and life's purpose.



A few weeks ago, my two daughters asked me what my topic will be for my October 2022 President's Message. I thought to myself, why would they ask? Was it a compliment? Were they interested? My family is my best critic, and I always ask them for their opinion when composing my President's Message to share with me any comments or takeaways they have. Whatever my daughters' intention was in asking about the topic I'm planning to write about, I responded and said, "Let me surprise you." My husband chimed in and said, "Perhaps you should talk about yourself this time,

so it is more relatable and easily remembered." It made sense so here we go:

Have you ever heard of the saying, "Whatever your mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve" by Napoleon Hill? Our brains are hard-wired, and as we are all amenable to it, it is difficult to form a habit, such as studying, getting things done, focusing, exercising, or eating a healthy meal. But how do we shift that mindset and force ourselves to have that mental commitment?

#### The Throwback:



on the right (Keisha, Kim, Almira and Gelli) was my extraordinary/autopilot accounting team bonding before dinner at the golf driving range. Bowling was closed at that time so they got no choice but to consider my therapeutic sports. They seem to like it though.

During one of our mentorship sessions, my mentee asked, "If there is anything you could have changed in your past in terms of your career, what would that be?" My initial thought was, perhaps it is the multiple shifts of companies I worked, so I could easily say that I have been in this or that company for 10 years+/- or I could have maximized my leave credit hours based on my tenure. Taking a hard look at it, I don't regret it because it gives me many opportunities to see different practices, processes, and perspectives among different spectrums of industries. The accounting and finance profession is always

2 | October 2022 Leveraging Perpetual Learning and Diversity to thrive in today's rapidly changing world.

portable whether it be within the department or any other department in an organization.

It was almost 6 years ago when I attended one of the AGA Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) meetings in one of the Thai restaurants in Hagåtña. At that time, I was about to transition to a new place of work and asked the CEC for their input because I consider most of them as my mentors and role models. It was when I was about to join the Archdiocese of Agana (AOA) and accept the position of Archdiocesan Finance Officer position. I received divided advice, and some - those who have known me for years jokingly said they will bet that I will only last for six (6) months. The factors considered are the rising number of sex abuse lawsuits and the stability of the church finances due to existing contingencies. Despite deferring opinions even from my family and friends, I followed my heart and intuition, and today, I never regretted that as it was one of the most rewarding paths I have ever taken. In 2019, the church filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after a few years, just in time, after we instituted standardizing and automating financial reporting and implementing many other SOPs. The almost 4-years of bankruptcy proceedings had stretched many of my accounting team, including those that work at the parishes and schools. The monthly operating reports, legal discovery demands, and sporadic depositions schedules were tough. Thankfully, we are in the process of exit, and we can foresee some sense of normalcy after the federal court ruling was received approving the 5th Amended Plan of Reorganization. There is more work to be done, but this eventful experience teaches us, accountants, perseverance, endurance, strength, and hope for better days.

In my personal view, staying in one company or making multiple bold moves truly depends on you. Seizing opportunities and finding meaning in your work or calling is something. There will always be pros and cons regardless of the choices that we make, but no matter what path you choose, remember one of the popular quotes by Steve Jobs, "Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking."

#### In The Now:



I missed the AGA General Membership Meeting on September 28, 2022. I traveled to Washington DC to take advantage of my conference scholarship and attended the annual Diocesan Finance Officer conference. Thanks to our President-Elect, RG Palingayen, and Awards Committee Chair, Vince Duenas, who spearheaded the meeting and our program crew, Ms. Pilar Pangilinan (National Chapter Council Rep), and Danica Batac (Education Committee Co-Chair).

While AGA Guam Chapter is nonpartisan, and there is no way the organization signifies the

#### GUÅHAN GASETA

endorsement of any of the attending firsttime candidates to this forum, we are thankful for the Guam First Time Electoral Candidates that were in attendance. They were Roy Anthony Benavente Quinata, Dwayne Thomas Diaz San Nicolas, Darrel Ghristoher Barnette, Jonathan J. Savares, Bistra Ivanova Mendiola, Thomas J. Fisher and Ian Dale Catling. Hearing their candidacy platforms and advocacy inspire us and allows us to re-valuate our chosen career paths or some may call it, life's calling, whether it be at present or in the near future.

This month, we also have the 1st Coffee Klatch of the program year which was held by Ms. Maripaz Perez, Past President, with her Committee Co-chairs – Royelle Carter and Thyrza Bagana. It was a fruitful discussion of sharing progress and initiatives to encourage more CGFM exam takers and plans of incorporating CGFM review on the upcoming GPDC. On another note, congratulations to our New CGFM – Ms. Cheryl Estrada!

Last August was another memorable event for my eldest daughter, Nikkie, who is entering her clinical years as she is now in her 5th year in dentistry. When we went up to the stage to wear her white coat and sign her pledge of commitment to Dental Medicine, it was a very emotional moment at the stage. I whispered to her to be reminded of its deep meaning and symbolism. There is a long way to go, and there comes a time when she calls me and vents about the difficulty of her exams, memorization, repeat cases, and prototypes. She would tell me she should have taken accounting instead. I jokingly said that if you become a doctor of dentistry, you will only need to account for 20 primary teeth and 32 secondary (permanent) teeth during a human's lifetime, while in accounting, there are many numbers involved and various items to account for. In life, there are no shortcuts. There is no elevator to success, and oftentimes, you need to pass many hurdles to get there.

#### Take Aways:



On my trip to Washington DC for the annual Diocesan Finance Officer conference, I actually traveled with my family. My work-life integration was tested because of my conflicting obligations between my professional development and my family. I had to book their tour, schedule their plans while I am attending the conference, and squeeze some adventures in between. I realized that my two daughters, as they grow old, prefer to do different things when they travel. My eldest, Nikkie, wants scenery and to take lots of photos. My youngest, Miah, is serious and wants to spend the whole day at the Museum and National Library.

I needed to create a happy medium between their varying wants. I was able to squeeze in a day trip to New York and grant their wish to see Times Square and The National 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Hitting multiple birds with one stone, I also checked off from my bucket list, walking at the Brooklyn Bridge with my family. In my first office in Guam, I bought an acrylic painting of the Brooklyn Bridge to hang on my office wall. I was often asked what its' significance to me was, and I told them, I will go there one day. I was practicing the power of words, and the law of attraction, and for some, it is creating a visionary board. How about you? Do you have a vision board or is it time to create one?

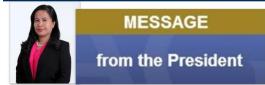
It was a hectic week, and I could not imagine how to survive. Waking up as early as 3 am and sleeping as late as 11 pm at night. It was, indeed, a self-inflicted schedule, as I needed to prepare to take another professional certification. I call it my last hurrah (to be continued in my next President Message). Thank God it was over, but I can't deny that I have not fully recovered from the shift in schedule. It has taken a toll on my health, and I felt very exhausted. I promised myself then, that after giving a good fight, I will re-program myself and develop good habits, particularly instilling regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle as I do what I love to do. Yes, it is difficult to re-program my hard-wired brain, but this time around, I will give it my best shot as I institute Mel Robbin's 5-second rule – shifting the brain to do what it hates doing by counting 5-4-3-2-1, just like launching a rocket ship. Or to implement Nike's famous slogan, "Just do it."

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Jourandlam

Josephine "Josie" Guico-Villanueva MBA, CPA, CGMA, CGFM, CSAF, SHRM-CP, PMP AGA Guam Chapter President

#### Message from the President



See also the President Welcome message on the AGA Guam website for more information.



#### **General Membership Meetings**

General Membership Meetings are typically held every fourth Wednesday of the month. For this program year, as restrictions ease, we hope to have more in-person events to give us an opportunity to network and meet one another. See below for our projected schedule of speakers. Kindly note dates/topics may be subject to change.

| Date                | Торіс                                       | Delivery Method    |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| July 27, 2022       | Energy Leadership with an EDGE; Explore,    | Virtual            |
| 11:30am-1:00pm      | Dream, Grow & Excite (1 CPE)                |                    |
|                     | Pam Sherman                                 |                    |
| August 24, 2022     | A.B.C.'s of Behavioral Forensics: Applying  | Virtual            |
| 11:30am-1:00pm      | Psychology to Financial Fraud Prevention    |                    |
|                     | and Detection (1 CPE)                       |                    |
|                     | Dr. Kelly Richmond Pope                     |                    |
| September 28, 2022  | Guam First Time Electoral Candidate         | Virtual            |
| 11:30am-1:00pm      | Forum - in Career Planning & Leadership     |                    |
| October 26, 2022    | Tips & Tricks in MS Excel when dealing with | In-Person/Virtual  |
| 7:30am-10:30am      | numbers - Working Smart Not hard (1 CPE)    | (RIHGA Royal       |
|                     | Chris Duenas                                | Laguna Guam        |
|                     | Knowing Your Niche & Maximizing Your        | Resort – Breakfast |
|                     | Earning Potential                           | Metting/Training)  |
|                     | Jane Kwok                                   |                    |
| November 23, 2022   | Financial Modeling and Valuation            | Virtual            |
| 11:30am-1:00pm      | Techniques (1 CPE)                          |                    |
|                     | Vivek Kumar, FMVA                           |                    |
| December 2022       | Christmas Party                             | TBD                |
| January 25, 2023    | Be your own Boss and maximize your          | Virtual            |
|                     | retirement savings                          |                    |
| February 8-10, 2023 | *Guam Professional Development              | In-Person          |
|                     | Conference (GPDC)*                          |                    |
| March 22, 2023      | Ethics Training, Govt. Accounting, Personal | Hybrid             |
| 8:00am-12:00pm      | Help (4 CPEs)                               |                    |
|                     | ТВА   |                    |
| April 26, 2023      | Self-Help; Work Life Balance (1 CPE)        | Virtual            |
| 11:30am-1:00pm      | Panel - TBA                                 |                    |
| May 24, 2023        | Procurement Best Practices and Common       | Virtual            |
| 11:30am-1:00pm      | Pitfalls (1 CPE)                            |                    |
|                     | TBA/GSA                                     |                    |
| June 28, 2023       | Project Management (2 CPEs)                 | Hybrid             |
| 8:00am-10:30am      | Jojo Guevara                                |                    |

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



Join us for our October 2022 General Membership Meeting at **RIHGA Royal Laguna Guam Resort**, which will feature two guest speakers and earn **2 CPEs**.

WED, OCTOBER 26, 2022 7:30AM-10:30AM Working Gmart Not Har

#### MS Excel Tips & Tricks & Useful MS Office Functionality & Other Platforms & Applications

#### Learning Objectives:

- Learn MS Excel tips & tricks useful to finance & accounting professionals
- Explore what's new in MS Office and useful in the daily office routine
- Learn available platforms and applications helpful for accounting & finance

#### Field of Study:

Computer Software & Application - Non-Technical





Cost: In-Person (breakfast buffet and CPE) AGA/GSCPA Members - \$35 Non-members - \$40 Virtual: Free (availability will be dependent on the Wi-Fi connection)

All participants will need to log into: https://agaguam.cnf.io/

Presentation of the John Phillips Award and UOG/GCC Scholarships will also take place.



Seats are limited, reserve yours today!

#### Knowing your Niche & Maximizing your Earning Potential

#### Learning Objectives:

- Learn the story of successful entrepreneurs
- Capitalizing on your niche and how to prepare a strategic plan
- Understanding steps to make it your own and maximizing earning potential.

#### Field of Study:

Communications & Marketing – Non-Technical **CPE:** 1 hr.



JANE KWOK, MSC Certified Small Business Advisor/Associate Network Director - Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network

### General Membership Meetings, continued

This month we will have our first in-person meeting for the program year, and our first breakfast meeting/ training.

While the focus will be on the training, the meeting agenda will include presentation of the John Phillips Award and the Hermia Dierking/AGA Guam Chapter Scholarships to the UOG and GCC student recipients.

We will continue using the **Conferences I/O** platform for our meetings. Be sure to check-in/out of the session to ensure you get your credit.

To view the approved minutes of past meetings, click <u>here</u> for the link to the website.

## Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) Meetings

**CEC Meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at 12:00pm.** Click <u>here</u> to view approved CEC Meeting minutes.



# **REGIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**



# NATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AGA National offers four training events – (1) **2022 Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training** was held in September. (2) **2022 Technology & Transformation Summit** (8 CPEs), which will be held on December 8 in Washington, D.C. This is a free event for AGA members and is being offered inperson or virtually (kindly note the time difference if attending locally). (3) **2023 National Leadership Training** (14 CPEs), which will be held on February 22–23 in Washington, D.C. Student members have an opportunity to attend at no cost through AGA National's National Collegiate Leadership Program Scholarship (see Student Connections section). (4) **2023 Professional Development Training** (24 CPEs), which will be held on July 23–26 in Orlando Florida. Young Professional members may apply for the Young Professionals PDT Scholarship (applications will open in March 2023), which will cover registration and hotel costs, as well as other benefits.



December 8 | Washington, DC 8 CPEs

#### **Registration and Fees**

|                       | Online |
|-----------------------|--------|
| In Person             |        |
| Government Member     | Free!  |
| Government Non-member | \$135  |
| Virtual               |        |
| Government Member     | Free!  |
| Private Member        | Free!  |
| Government Non-member | \$135  |
| Private Non-member    | \$259  |
|                       |        |

**Register Now** 

#### 2022 Technology & Transformation Summit

More than 1,600 government leaders and industry experts will come together in **Washington**, **DC** to discuss transformation of mission delivery through IT innovation, personnel, security and cloud technology. AGA members who live outside of the commuting area can participate virtually. **FREE\* for AGA members!** 

\*In-person registration is free for AGA members who work directly for government. In-person private registration is available via <u>sponsorship</u>.

Questions? Please contact meetings@agacgfm.org.



Leveraging Perpetual Learning and Diversity to thrive in today's rapidly changing world.

AGA National also offers four complimentary "members-only" webinars. See below for the remaining courses available for this program year.



The schedule below shows only webinar topics. Titles may change as we get more details from speakers.



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## CALL FOR HELP: RED CROSS EFFORTS

Hurricane Ian was a large Category 4 storm that produced 150-mph winds that hit Western Cuba and the Southeast United States, leaving communities and families now struggling to cope and slowly recovering. American Red Cross disaster relief volunteers including volunteers from Guam have been working around the clock with partners and local officials to provide emergency assistance.

AGA asks for your help to provide some relief for the families that have been affected by Hurricane Ian. Here are some ways in donating:

\* From now through Tuesday, November 15, Docomo Pacific customers can text "ARC" to 4357 (HELP) for a donation of \$10.100% of the funds will be donated directly to the American Red Cross Guam Chapter.

\* American Red Cross is accepting donations through Alexa with Amazon Pay. This service enables you to make donations through voice using the following steps: Tell your Alexa device, "Alexa, make a donation to the American Red Cross." Your donation is processed with amazon pay using the information already stored in your Amazon account.

\* Donate directly to the American Red Cross Guam Chapter by calling (671) 472-6217/9 or (671) 688-0280. Please make sure to make checks payable to the American Red Cross with the designation to 'Hurricane Ian'.

AGA welcomes any amount but donations of at least \$50 will count as community service credit. Please provide us proof of donation for the Hurricane Ian relief via email to Vanessa Valencia at vdrvalencia@hotmail.com, Steve Terlaje at steveterlaje@gmail.com, and Romar Tapeceria at romartapeceria@gmail.com.

# **UPCOMING CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The call for officers for next program year will be opening on **November 1, 2022** until January 1, 2023. If you are interested in being a leader for our Chapter, consider trying out for a position. See the flyer below for details.

To be eligible for office as President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, or Secretary, a member must be in good standing. The Chapter Nominating Committee shall ensure that the professional background of the nominees is commensurate with the duties of these positions.

Elections will be held during the February 2023 general membership meeting and that nominations will be taken from the floor.

Reach out to any current or past officer if you have any questions or email the chapter your inquiries at **agaguamchapter@gmail.com**.





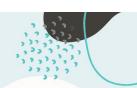
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| 24 YEARS                    |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Romana L. Blailes           | Palau Office of the Public Auditor               |
| Satrunino Tewid             | Palau Office of the Public Auditor               |
| 13 YEARS                    |  |
| Clariza Mae G. Roque, CGFM  | Joint Region Marianas                            |
| 12 YEARS                    |  |
| Dr. Artemio Hernandez, CGFM | Guam International Airport Authority             |
| Caroline Senda              | Deloitte and Touche LLP                          |
| 5 YEARS                     |  |
| Elsa C. Flores              | University of Guam Business Office               |
| Danica Lagman               | NAVFAC Marianas                                  |
| Michael S. Moreno, CGFM     | Public Defender Service Corporation              |
| 3 YEARS                     |  |
| Elise J. Ma                 | Ernst & Young LLP                                |
| 2 YEARS                     |  |
| Aileen J. Pangelinan        | Student Member                                   |
| Dr. Pamela Peralta          | University of Guam                               |
| 1 YEAR                      |  |
| Christel Espiritu           | KPMG   |
| Jamerie E. Paras            | Pacific Engineering Group & Services (PEGS), LLC |
| Lester Dominic D. Pasion    | Student Member                                   |
| NEW                         |  |
| Paige Sablan                | -not listed-                                     |





Have you or another member accomplished something you want to share? Let us know and we can feature it in our newsletter and/or social media.

Email us at: agaguamchapter@gmail.com

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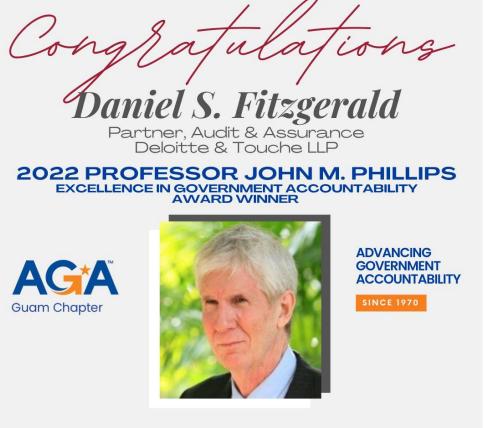


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# **CONGRATULATIONS: DAN FITZGERALD!**

The 2022 Professor John M. Phillips Excellence in Government Accountability Award Winner is... Daniel S. Fitzgerald!

Fitzgerald, Mr. Audit & for Assurance Partner Deloitte & Touche LLP, has been involved in the public sector for many years and oversees the audits of organizations such as the Government of Guam, the the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Guam Public School System, the University of Guam, the



*Fitzgerald is recognized for his work as an auditor on various government entities and for his contributions within the profession through training and guidance.* 

Guam Community College and many others. Throughout his over 37 years of public accounting and auditing experience, Mr. Fitzgerald has displayed professionalism, objectivity, accountability, and trust, and he has served a mentor and advisor for many in leadership positions throughout Guam and Micronesia.

The AGA Guam Chapter gives this award to a professional who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government, outstanding standards, and leadership, high ethical innovative management procedures. It recognizes the cumulative achievements of a government professional that has, throughout their public career, served as a role model for others and has consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.



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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MEET YOUR CEC TEAM

#### **MEET THE TEAM**



# PILAR O. PANGELINAN

# NCC REPRESENATIVE & ACE CO-DIRECTOR

(1) What does AGA mean to you?

The new tag line resonates with me -- Advance Grow Accelerate. Many students and even myself felt that only accountants could be in AGA, now we can include into our membership others who value accountability.

(2) What advice do you have for others to make the most out of their membership?

Get involved... we can be your community service project. Plus, the network of professionals, you meet can become your mentor, colleague, best friend and maybe your future boss.

(3) What's a quote or motto that motivates you?

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." Ruth Bader Ginsburg

(4) What do you do in your committee?

As the ACE Co-director, I have been blessed with Director Taling -who is very experienced with the Achievements in Chapter Excellence targets. She has been great at reminding the CEC directors of the deadlines and the goals, we hope to achieve to maintain our chapters Platinum status.

As the NCC Representative, I am our chapter's liaison with the National Governing Board. I have shared in the NCC's Microsoft Team Chat our latest newsletter (September) and solicited their input on best practices as we revise our chapter by-laws. Our next meeting is a virtual one on November 1, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns that you would like brought up to their level.

#### AGA GUAM CHAPTER

https://www.aga.guam.net/

ROGRAM YEAR 2023 -

# NEW MEMBER INITIATIVES: YP PROMOTIONAL RATE

# YOUNG PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

# ATTENTION PROSPECTIVE YP MEMBERS:

AGA Members in the Young Professional Category may receive a 50% reimbursement (\$25) of the membership fee.



#### ADVANCE. GROW. ACCELERATE.

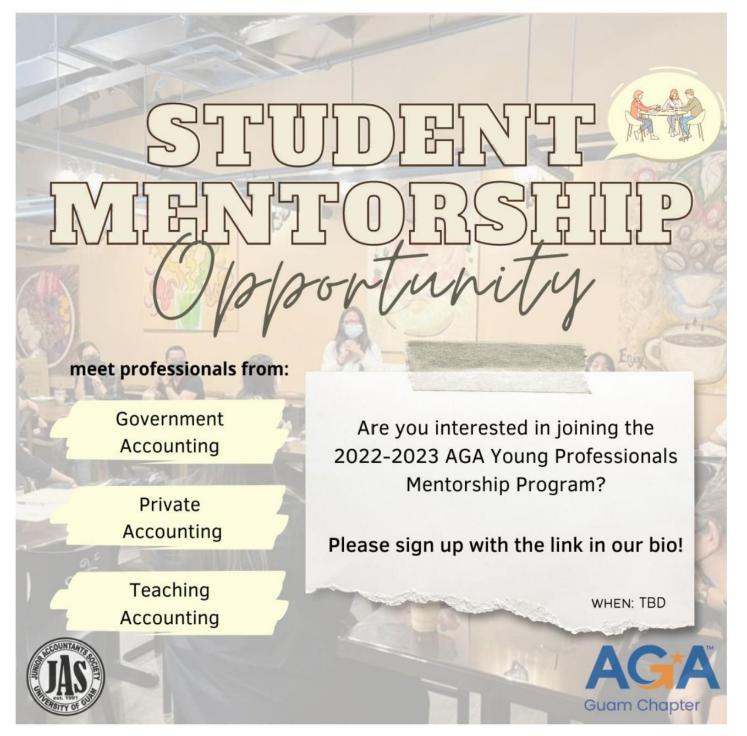


Visit the AGA Guam Chapter website for the mechanics and the forms. Limited to 30 reimbursements only.

## **MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

For any members interested in participating in this year's mentorship program, please sign up at the link below:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cQZeTHDmU2HDzyoCUiTcIdP9Z4GDmgo4TNVOZBHFs0/edit?usp=sharing



#### GUÅHAN GASETA



# Certified Go

# **CHAPTER SUPPORT**

If you are interested in the CGFM scholarships offered by the Chapter or would like to borrow one of the study guides, visit our Chapter <u>website</u> for the updated forms.

To assist our Chapter CGFMs in meeting their required CPEs, upcoming training opportunities will be emailed by the Certification Director.

# **COFFEE KLATCH**

Thank you to those that attended our first face-to-face Coffee Klatch for the program year on Saturday, October 8, 2022.





# **CONGRATULATIONS: CHERYLL ESTRADA**

Congratulations to Cheryl, the latest member to pass the CGFM Exam! We asked her to share a little bit about her journey. Here's what she said:

#### Name and designations

Cheryll Taisacan Estrada, MBA, CFE, CGFM

A quote or statement on why you sought out the CGFM designation or how you feel it will help you with your career:

I enjoy being part of a greater cause and I figured being a CGF M is a great way to show support for public service being a government employee.

# How did you learn about the CGFM designation:

I learned about it during my internship at Deloitte while taking classes at UOG.

#### What was your journey like? How long did you take to pass, how did you stay focused?

My greatest challenge was unlearning what I know and starting from the beginning to absorb most or all that are in the study guides. It took me about one year to finish all three exams.

# What challenges did you face and how did you overcome it?

Finding time to study and remembering what I read. I reminded myself that it is about applicability of all that are in the study guides.

What advice would you give anyone who would like to pursue the certification? Read the study guides, and if need be, read it again.



Congratulations Cheryll T. Estrada on passing the CGFM Exam!

# **VIRTUAL STUDY SESSIONS**

Virtual study sessions have resumed for those studying for the CGFM or any other professional certification. See the flyer below for more information.

# WORKING TOWARDS A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION?

# JOIN AGA'S VIRTUAL STUDY SESSION

Start your day with colleagues workings towards similar goals to stay focused and disciplined.

Log in between 4AM and 6AM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 821 9047 5443 Passcode: 423079

For more information, email josiegv@gmail.com. Or send a WhatsApp message to 671-685-8832 to join the Future CGFM Chat Group.



# NATIONAL SUPPORT

#### Free CGFM Exam!

To show appreciation during the Thanksgiving season, AGA National is offering a free CGFM exam voucher to the attendees of the virtual Course 2 being held November 7-10 - a \$135 savings! Participants will also receive complimentary access to the online CGFM study guide. Secure your spot today!

Virtual Courses are as follows:

**Course Schedule and Registration** 

- Course 1 ("Governmental Environment")
  - December 1-2, 2022, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. ET each day
  - \$325 per person
  - <u>Register</u>
  - Deadline to register or cancel November 24, 2022
- Course 2 ("Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting")
  - November 7-10, 2022, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. ET each day
  - \$725 per person
  - <u>Register</u>
  - Deadline to register or cancel October 31, 2022
  - Special November Course Bonus: Participants get a free CGFM exam voucher—a \$135 value!

Details: The voucher can be used as payment for any CGFM exam and can only be utilized by CGFM candidates. Vouchers will expire on January 31, 2023 – exam must be <u>taken</u> by this date. This expiration date will <u>not</u> be extended. The voucher will be emailed to registered participants five days before the class start date.

- Course 3 ("Governmental Financial Management and Control")
  - January 11-13, 2023, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. ET each day
  - \$525 per person
  - <u>Register</u>
  - Deadline to register or cancel January 4, 2023

# **ACCOUNTABILITY NEWS**

The AGA Guam Chapter published the Program Year 2021-2022 Citizens Centric Report. Click here to view the report on our website.



opportunities for them.

3. Technology Maximization

Guam Chapter Leaders

involvement/volunteerism.

CCR

AGA

Digital migration of AGA records and the use of technology and application in pieces of training, conferences, and using QR codes.

4. Succession Planning for future AGA

Cross-training and involving young professionals to develop leadership skills and acumen through committee



Used to fund the scholarships to UOG and GCC students. The Annual Kk was cancelled in Pr20 and Pr21 due to the pandemic. Revenues recorded in Pr20 relate to the June 2019 5K Pr22 revenues relation to the July 2022 KF, commy never (Pr) 2021 and only one lunch meeting was held in Pr22. No In-person meetings was upended for Pr21 and resumed in Pr22.

opportunities

meetings.

Meet your PROGRAM YEAR 2022-2023 Officers!



trainings, certification scholarships, young professional mixers, community service outreach, and PDT raffles.

2. Very limited face-to-face engagements and networking

3. Upscaling the CEC's capabilities to provide an enhanced

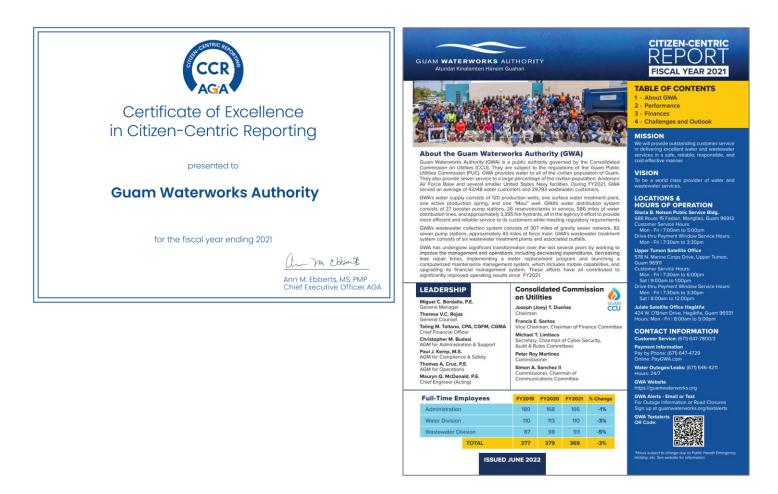
4. Connecting with student members to ensure that they

virtual experience for attending trainings and monthly

continue to be members after they graduate

# **CONGRATULATIONS TO GWA**

Congratulations to Guam Waterworks Authority for receiving AGA National's Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting for Fiscal Year 2021. You can view other completed government or chapter CCRs on the AGA National website by clicking <u>here</u>.



| AGA        | 754           |          |            |              |             | Search    | <b></b> Q |
|------------|---------------|----------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Membership | CGFM          | National | Continuing | Research &   | Standards & | Tools &   | Corporate |
|            | Certification | Events   | Education  | Publications | Guidance    | Resources | Partners  |

AGA Chapter CCRs

# Standards & Guidance

Government CCRs

#### Completed Citizen-Centric Reports

AGA offers a Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting to recognize the preparation and distribution of a high-quality Citizen-Centric Report (CCR). To be eligible for the certificate, the report must reflect the program's high standards of content, visual appeal, readability, distribution and timeliness in reporting.

Since the program began in 2007, local, state and federal entities have produced more than 400 CCRs in striving for greater transparency. Many of AGA's chapters also produce CCRs to demonstrate their accomplishments and financial transparency for their members.



Leveraging Perpetual Learning and Diversity to thrive in today's rapidly changing world. Octobe



## **MEET THE FALL 2022 JAS OFFICERS**



24 | October 2022



# FALL 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS





## HERMINIA DIERKING SCHOLARSHIP



Solmars M. Torcelino UOG Accounting Major



*Denzyl M. Ngiralmau* UOG Business Admin Minor -Professional Business Pathway

## AGA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP



*Isabella M. Serrano* GCC Accounting Major





#### GUÅHAN GASETA

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



### About The Scholarship

The National Collegiate Leadership Program (NCLP) is a scholarship program that provides students with the opportunity to engage with and learn from leaders in government financial management at AGA's annual National Leadership Training (NLT).

#### Details

The NLT will be held on **February** 22-23, 2023 in **Washington**, D.C. How to Apply

Create an account on <u>Submittable</u>, then complete the online application by **Friday**, **November 4, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. AGA will select up to ten scholarship recipients this year. Recipients will be announced by Friday, December 2, 2022.

Visit the scholarship section of agacgfm.org for more details.

#### **Application Requirements**

- Sign up for a FREE student membership.
- Be a junior or senior in college. (GCC & UOG students are eligible!)
- Major in accounting, finance, information security/technology, business, or other related fields.
- Provide an unofficial transcript that shows 60+ credit hours completed.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

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- Display leadership experience on campus or through another affiliation.
- Have at least a 3.2 GPA.



#### Attend AGA's 2023 National Leadership Training for free (all-inclusive)!

Gain valuable one-on-one experience with senior government leaders and private sector accounting executives and hear how leaders are leveraging their diverse teams to achieve excellence. Learn more about challenging careers in government financial management!

## **Scholarship Benefits**

- Complimentary registration for the entire event.
- Airfare and hotel expenses covered.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days of the event.
- One-on-one mentor assigned to guide the recipient around the event.
- Recognition during the NLT awards ceremony, including a certificate of participation.
- Invitation to the annual NLT young professionals session.
- Headshot, short biography, and link to Linkedin profile displayed on AGA website for one year.
- Featured in future AGA publications and social media.

26 | October 2022 Leveraging Perpetual Learning and Diversity to thrive in today's rapidly changing world.

# **LINKS & RESOURCES**



and other member benefits



AGA members enjoy multiple free learning opportunities throughout the year. Members-only webinars are 75-minutes long and offer 1.5 CPEs. Click **Free Members-Only Webinars** for more information.

**Recordings Available** Did you miss the last webinar or want to review some key takeaways on effective intergenerational communication? The recording is now available in **My AGA**, along with all our other free members-only webinars and select other recordings. Check them out today!

The Fall 2022 Journal: Government and the Pandemic: Financial Outcomes is out! Click here to read.

Want to contribute to **The Journal**? View the <u>Editorial Calendar</u> for the upcoming themes or view the Submission Guidelines for more information on articles for consideration.



"<u>Accountability Talks</u>" is a podcast focused on the government accountability community. These conversations will enlighten and inspire you as you navigate your career, provide fascinating insights from government thought leaders and encourage you to take part in this vibrant community.

Current Episode is Episode 105: YPs at the 2022 PDT

Guests: Leigh Anne Stacklin and Douglass MacArthur, AGA Young Professionals

On this episode, two YPs, Leigh Anne Stacklin and Douglass MacArthur, about their experience at the 2022 PDT! Check out the video Podcast at <a href="https://youtu.be/PkzAIRaDM\_s">https://youtu.be/PkzAIRaDM\_s</a>.

# **LINKS & RESOURCES**



AGA, in partnership with Kearney & Company, unveiled its latest <u>survey report</u> of the oversight community – 2022 Inspector General Survey: Sustaining Change. The survey highlights difficulties brought about by the pandemic and includes interviews with oversight officials in state government who were, in many cases, the first line of defense against fraud, waste and abuse in these federal pandemic relief programs.



#### Emailed on October 17, 2022

#### Survey Shows Pay is Not the Only Reason for Government Retention Problems

A recent survey of 25,000 federal employees conducted by the Merit Systems Protection Board indicates paychecks are not the top drivers of retention problems in the federal government. The 2021 Merit Principles Survey found lack of respect in the workplace and limited opportunity to advance may be greater factors. The results mirror findings in a recent <u>Pew Research survey</u> on reasons people quit their jobs.

#### Most Americans Distrust All Branches of Federal Government

According to a <u>Gallup poll</u> released October 11, the majority of Americans lack trust in all three branches of the federal government. The poll, conducted over the first half of September, revealed increasingly partisan gaps in the perception of the federal government. <u>The Journal of Government</u> <u>Financial Management</u> will explore the topic in its Summer 2023 issue. If you have an idea for a story, start writing! The deadline for submissions is March 6, 2023.

### AGA Topics, continued...

#### Emailed on October 4, 2022

#### Federal Government Agency Priority Goals Published

<u>Performance.gov</u> published the quarterly Agency Priority Goal update (APG) to its website. Agencies across the Federal Government are working to advance more than 80 APGs, and are making strides in customer experience, equity, and dozens of other focus areas.

# The Grants Quality Service Management Office Launches Public-facing Grants QSMO

The Grants Quality Service Management Office (Grants QSMO) is excited to announce the launch of its public-facing <u>Grants QSMO Marketplace</u> of validated Federal shared solutions/services for use by all Federal agencies that award grants and/or cooperative agreements!

#### New to the Federal Government? We Have What You Need!

Whether you're new to the federal space or just want to brush up, AGA's <u>Federal Financial</u> <u>Management Course Library</u> has what you need! These great self-paced courses can be purchased individually or in a bundle and offer CPEs.

#### **Did You Know?**

AGA has an <u>online catalog</u> filled with high-quality courses on accounting, auditing, personal development and more! We can deliver our courses virtually or onsite. If you want to retain your staff, you need to train your staff — let AGA be your partner!

## CONTACT US OFFICERS

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