



Association of Government Accountants' Newsletter

September 2017 - Volume 1



Florida's Capital City



Message from Alexandra M. Weimorts, Chapter President

AGA Members and Friends,

With summer coming to an end and college football in full swing, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each of you to the AGA Tallahassee Chapter's 2017-2018 program year. I hope everyone had a fun and safe summer. For most, it was the close of the state books. Between reconciling the trust funds and conducting audits, the board managed to plan several initiatives this year, including increasing the chapter's visibility and outreach to promote participation and increase membership, continuing our monthly CPE luncheons, continuing our 2-day training event, hosting a new AGA members only 1-day CPE training, continuing group webinars as well as CGFM training and certifications.

I am honored to serve as your Chapter President for the upcoming year. I would like to thank our 2016 - 2017 Chapter President, Steven Burch, who did a fantastic job leading the AGA Tallahassee Chapter! Under Steve's leadership, we increased our membership in the Tallahassee Chapter and continue to hold Platinum status - AGA's highest recognition level for the 7th consecutive year. In July 2017, the Tallahassee Chapter was recognized at the National Professional Development Training (PDT) in Boston, Massachusetts, where our Membership Chair, Sue Graham, accepted the Highest Overall Growth Award on our behalf. We had a 3% increase in membership and that is all because of the interested engaged professionals, like yourselves, who join and participate in AGA events. Also under Steve's leadership, we introduced a new chapter website design and he established a dedicated budget item creating a reserve fund for the longevity of the Chapter.

While each of the planned events provide networking and training opportunities, the AGA Tallahassee Chapter will also provide at least 61 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit hours this program year! From monthly meetings, webinars to the 2-day Government Training Event, members have the opportunity to earn required CPE hours while listening to a variety of interesting speakers included in this year's education program put together by Melinda Miguel, Education Chair.

Myself, as well as the entire Chapter Executive Committee (CEC), look forward to serving the AGA Tallahassee Chapter this year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and I look forward to seeing each of you at one of the scheduled events.

Alexandra M. Weimorts
President, Tallahassee Chapter

2017-2018 Program Year Officers

Alexandra M. Weimorts
Chapter President

James L. Lewandowski
Chapter President-Elect

Jennifer Larsen
Secretary

Antonio Murphy
Treasurer

Denison Graham
Treasurer-Elect

Steven D. Burch, II
Immediate Past President

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Congratulations to our AGA Tallahassee Chapter's 2016-2017 Award Recipients!

The AGA Tallahassee Chapter recognized a few of our members with various awards during our June 2017 Luncheon. We'd like to extend our congratulations once more for their contributions to our Chapter and State Government.



2016-17 Chapter President-Elect, Alexandria Weimorts, presented Steve Burch, Chapter President (pictured left), with an award for his Presidency and leadership during the 2016-17 Chapter year.

Steve's current role is Bureau Chief of Accounting with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Thank you, Steve!



2016-2017 Chapter President, Steve Burch, presented Mark Merry (pictured left) with the 2017 Excellence in Government Leadership Award for his leadership in state government.

Mark's current role is Assistant Director of Accounting & Auditing with the Florida Department of Financial Services. Congratulations, Mark!



2016-2017 Chapter President, Steve Burch, presented the 2017 Emerging Government Leadership Award to Danta White (pictured left) for his leadership during the Chapter year. *Yes, Danta is holding his award, introducing the "I-Spy" game to members!*

Danta's current role is Financial Administrator for the Statewide Financial Reporting section with the Florida Department of Financial Services. Congratulations, Danta!

Congratulations to our AGA Tallahassee Chapter's 2016-2017 Award Recipients (cont'd)!

The AGA Tallahassee Chapter recognized a few of our members with various awards during our June 2017 Luncheon. We'd like to extend our congratulations once more for their contributions to our Chapter and State Government.



2016-17 Chapter President, Steve Burch, presented the 2017 Chapter Author Award to Kyle Erickson & Ashley Clark (pictured left) for their article's national publication. The article, entitled "Three Pillars of Trust," was published in the Spring 2017 AGA Journal.

Both currently serve in various auditing roles with the Florida Department of Transportation. Specifically, Kyle currently serves as a Staff Auditor in the Contract Audit section and Ashley serves as Senior Auditor in the Intermodal Audit section with the Department. Job well done, Kyle and Ashley!



2016-2017 Chapter President, Steve Burch, presented Carol Sullivan (pictured left) with the 2017 Advancing Government Accountability Award for her contributions to state government.

Carol's current role is Inspector General with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Congratulations, Carol!



Save the Date - 2018 Government Training Event

Plans are underway for the 2018 Government Training Event, scheduled for February 8-9, 2018. This year's location is the Florida State University Turnbull Center. We're planning exciting speakers who will be covering topics that are timely, informative, and relevant to governmental financial management. Stay tuned for further information over the next few months on the Tallahassee AGA's Annual "GTE."

Chapter Luncheon Meetings

We hope everyone experienced an enjoyable summer! For Chapter year 2017-2018, we've changed our Chapter luncheons' meeting venue. Starting in September 2017, our luncheon meetings will be held at the Capital City Country Club, located at 1601 Golf Terrace Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

The first meeting of the 2017-2018 Chapter year was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, and the speaker was Bob Clift, Inspector General for the Florida Department of Transportation (pictured right). Bob gave a very informative presentation on the "Importance of Planning and Investing Time Using Professional Standards for Your Fraud Audits."

Registration information for future meetings will be forthcoming, and we look forward to seeing you there!



2017-2018 Chapter President, Alexandra Weimorts, with Florida Department of Education's Inspector General, Bob Clift.



CGFM Corner

Are you looking to distinguish yourself in your Financial Management career? If so, the Certified Government Financial Manager certification may support you in that goal.

The CGFM is a professional designation recognizing the unique skills and specialized knowledge required of today's government financial managers. The certification covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels.

For more information, feel free to visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Tallahassee/CGFM-Certification.aspx>.

Congratulations, Sasa!

During September's luncheon meeting, 2017-2018 Chapter President, Alexandra Weimorts, announced that Sasa Stefanovic (pictured right) successfully passed all 3 portions of the CGFM Examination! This is awesome news!

Sasa's current role is Deputy Comptroller with the Florida Department of Education's Financial Administration Office.



Test Your CGFM Knowledge

1. According to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, name three core responsibilities of a Chief Financial Officer?
2. True or False? One of the capabilities of a financial management system is accumulation, reporting and analysis of cost information.
3. Name 4 typical elements of a fraud prevention program?

The time has come to begin planning for the 2018 PDT. The 2018 PDT brings great news to Florida residents because it is scheduled to take place at the Marriott Orlando World Center in Orlando, Florida on July 22-25, 2018! If you are unable to attend the 2018 PDT in person, the AGA also offers a virtual attendance option for this and other AGA National events. See <https://www.agacgfm.org/pdt2017> for more information.

This past July, the 2017 AGA PDT was held in Boston, Massachusetts to rave reviews! If you've never been to an AGA PDT, take a look at this perspective from one of Tallahassee AGA Chapter's CEC Board Directors and Bylaws Committee Chair, Justin Evans:

Why Should You Consider Attending the AGA's Annual Professional Development Training (PDT) Next Year?

Justin Evans, CIA, CFE, CPM

Bylaws Committee Chair, Tallahassee AGA CEC



I had the opportunity to attend the AGA's PDT in Boston this past July and I must say it was an eye-opening experience. As a relative newcomer to the Chapter's Executive Committee, I was both surprised and honored to have this fortuitous opportunity to represent the Tallahassee Chapter and visit Boston. Throughout my years of Government service, I have participated in many training events with the majority of them being of the local variety. Even the Tallahassee AGA's annual Government Training Event is somewhat of a local event because most of the attendees work in the Tallahassee area. However, the Boston PDT had more of a national feel because of participation from Federal, State, and Local Government employees. Additionally, private sector, educational institutions, and tribal participants added to the diverse nature of the sectors represented at the training. Consider these reasons:

Unparalleled Training Opportunity – The training agenda was jam packed with sessions that appealed to the wide variety of attendees' needs. Not only could you brush up on your skills with the latest in your area of expertise, but you could also find topics that explored cutting edge ideas and methods to add to your skills toolbox, while earning the continuing professional education (CPE) credits we all need.

Networking Opportunities with Colleagues from across the Country – The Boston PDT provided a great opportunity to meet like-minded professionals from across the Country. Although I met many attendees from the Washington D.C. area, I met just as many from every other region of the country. The opportunity to meet and discuss current issues with such a wide range of AGA members really left an impact on me. There is something very cool about sitting down for lunch at a table full of professionals that you don't know. It's a unique opportunity to learn something new and possibly make connections that will have a profound impact on your career.

Discover New Products and Services – The quantity of vendors and exhibitors at the Boston PDT was unlike anything I had ever seen at a training event. If you are in the market for products and services to create efficiencies and make you more effective at your job, you will certainly find something to peak your interest in the exhibit hall.

Personal Interest – Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) is not a new concept; however, it seems as if the government sector is finally following the path of the private sector in implementing this type of risk management framework. Over the last two years, I have been participating in a project involving the development of an ERM framework to identify and mitigate risk. The Boston PDT offered many sessions that focused on the Federal Government's implementation of ERM, which provided lots of useful information for me to bring back to my team. No matter what issues you are facing in your current position, you will find information, advice, and solutions to make a difference.

The Future is Here - Some of the presentations were on topics from the edge of the future. We learned about the nature of bitcoins and commonly held ledgers that will never need reconciling, due to the miracle of "blockchain." Money really may be something you never touch in the future.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn from your colleagues across different sectors, network with a variety of professionals, and gain some valuable CPE's while doing so. Start planning now!

An Article on Ethical Standards

Captain Mike Shoaf, CFE, CIGI, CPM

Director of Investigations, Florida Department of Financial Services



Abstract: There are many standards that make up ethical dealings within government. This article examines three standards that my MPA course at FSU felt were important for public administrators to follow for ethical government dealings.

Recently, my class in the Master of Public Administration Program at FSU was asked to identify three ethical standards that should be followed by public administrators. I thought about this question and how it could be applied to all public servants, not just those who set the law, rule, and policy. There are so many standards, it was difficult to choose, but the three standards the class chose were: government transparency, abiding by a code of conduct, and maintaining personal integrity.

The first ethical standard, transparency in government, is truly an important one. The belief expressed during class discussion was that allowing the public to have access to all business records and daily dealings of government officials encourages and allows additional scrutiny to the daily processes. This additional scrutiny helps to hold and keep public servants accountable for their actions. As a young child, I was always told by my father and grandfather to make each decision in life as if they were standing right behind me, watching my every move, and that if I thought this way I would never make a bad decision. It was the thought of this oversight, and getting a hand across my rear end, that helped deter petty misdoings as a child, and I believe helped form the person I am today. When government is transparent, those individuals who may be more inclined to violate law, rule or policy will have a reason to have second thoughts knowing that there are numerous sets of eyes watching every action they may take. The ability of the public to view the work of public servants ultimately helps foster trust and understanding in government processes.

In my professional career, I hold four certifications: Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Inspector General Investigator, Certified Law Enforcement Officer, and Certified Public Manager. Each of these designations carry with it a code of conduct or canon. One aspect that is fairly consistent among each of these codes is the need to place the public's interest ahead of the individual employee. By doing so, the public servant will make decisions and complete assignments in a manner that is most beneficial to the taxpayer and not the employee's own desires. This could be as simple as eliminating short cuts to get the job done, when the short cuts may incur additional liability to the group, but make it more efficient for the employee to complete the task. As public servants, it is important to remember the reason we are here, which is to serve the public. It seems like an easy thing to remember, but many times government employees forget who is supposed to come first. Codes of conduct offer direction and guidance when it comes to the big picture of our daily tasks.

The last standard selected, which is probably equally as important as the first, is maintaining personal integrity. A public servant's only loyalty should be to the citizens of the government for which they work. A public employee should maintain a high sense of personal integrity, which ultimately benefits the citizens that we serve. If government employees maintain high personal integrity, citizens will know that when faced with a tough situation the appropriate choice will be made on behalf of those being represented.

I challenged each member of the Department of Financial Services, as I challenge each of you. Think about other ethical standards that you believe are important to the processes of government, jot them down and keep them close to your desk, and reflect upon them from time to time.

About Captain Mike Shoaf:

Captain Shoaf currently serves as Director of Investigations for the Florida Department of Financial Services, possessing 10 years in the Florida Inspector General Community. Shoaf began his law enforcement career in 2001 as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, and has worked in various law enforcement positions during his extensive career. Now, he specializes in internal affairs. Shoaf's article was written for the IG Corner of the Department of Financial Services Insider, and internal publication for DFS.



New Membership

For the period of May 1 through August 1, 2017, the AGA Tallahassee Chapter grew by 23 members, and as of September 25, 2017 our membership stands at 331 members. This places the AGA Tallahassee Chapter 5th in the NATION! Let's give a BIG WELCOME to our newest members below. Thank you all for joining, and we hope you find membership with the AGA Tallahassee Chapter to be exciting and rewarding!

Name	Title & Employer	Date Joined
Betsy Miller	Director of Finance, WFSU	5/1/2017
Diana Kay Vaughn	Deputy Executive Director, Florida DHSMV	5/1/2017
Etasha Gonzalez	Management Review Specialist, Florida AHCA	5/1/2017
Morris Ray Pace	Analyst II, Florida Lottery	5/1/2017
Patricia D. Purvis	Management Review Specialist, Florida DBPR	5/1/2017
Shacarra Sigler	Capital Programs & Finance Specialist, State University System	5/1/2017
Steven Henry	Auditor, Florida DBPR - OIG	5/1/2017
Andrew Collins	COO / CFO, CareerSource Florida	6/1/2017
Dawn Woods	Tallahassee Office Leader, Ernst & Young	6/1/2017
Giovanni A. Wolmers	Internal Auditor, Supreme Court of Florida	6/1/2017
Jamaal R. Dickens	Director of Contracts, CareerSource Florida	6/1/2017
Joshua J. Jordan, CGFM	Business Analyst, Florida State University	6/1/2017
Paul N. Patronis	OIG Analyst II, Florida Lottery	6/1/2017
Violet L. Sharpe	Office and Accounting Services Manager, CareerSource Florida	6/1/2017
Marsha M. Johnson	Senior Fiscal Advisor, Florida DOT	7/1/2017
Adam P. Preisser	Professional Accountant I, Florida JAC	8/1/2017
Carla J. McClendon	Senior Accounting Specialist, CAPS - FSU	8/1/2017
Cindie L. McKenzie	Financial Reporting Supervisor, Florida Lottery	8/1/2017
Kimberly A. McClay	Accountant, Escambia Cty. Housing Finance Authority	8/1/2017
Lacey Nichols	Auditor, Florida DOE-OIG	8/1/2017
Lillian F. Spell	Internal Audit Manager, Leon Cty. Clerk of Court and Comptroller	8/1/2017
Miriam P. Arterburn	Controller, Florida DFS	8/1/2017
Patricia Marston-Duva	Management Analyst, St. Lucie Fire District	8/1/2017



Why Join AGA?

Did you know that AGA is the member organization for government-finance professionals? AGA leads and encourages change that benefits our field and all citizens. AGA's networking events, professional certification, publications and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance in their careers. AGA offers all professionals a variety of ways to engage and develop your career in the government financial

management industry, whether at the federal, state, or local level. The AGA offers resources such as a Fraud Prevention Tool Kit, How-to Guides, Research Reports, Networking, Member and Vendor Directories, Online Discussion Groups, Career Resources, National and Chapter Training Events.

AGA members work in government financial management across sectors and worldwide, working to increase government financial performance and accountability. Members educate themselves via the many training events offered by the AGA to ensure they stay up-to-date on the most relevant news and information. View all the valuable benefits of an AGA membership at www.agacgfm.org.

Save the Date — Upcoming Chapter Events

2017-2018 Chapter luncheon meetings will be held on Wednesdays, starting at 11:30 am at the Capital City Country Club, located at 1601 Golf Terrace Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. (NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THE LUNCHEONS!) We hope to see you there.

Date	Event
Wednesday, September 20, 2017	Chapter Luncheon
Wednesday, October 25, 2017	Chapter Luncheon
Wednesday, November 15, 2017	Chapter Luncheon
Wednesday, January 17, 2018	Chapter Luncheon
Friday, January 19, 2018	Deadline for Tallahassee AGA Chapter Scholarship Applications
Thursday/Friday, February 8-9, 2018	Tallahassee AGA Chapter's Annual Government Training Event
Wednesday, March 21, 2018	Chapter Luncheon
Wednesday, April 18, 2018	Chapter Luncheon
Wednesday, May 16, 2018	Chapter Luncheon
Wednesday, June 20, 2018	Chapter Luncheon

Webinars

Be on the lookout for future announcements regarding our AGA Tallahassee 2017-2018 Chapter year webinars. This year, all webinars will be located at the Florida State Board of Administration's Hermitage Building, located at 1801 Hermitage Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida 32308.

Our first webinar, entitled "Ethics in Fraud," is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2017. More information regarding registration for this webinar will be forthcoming.

2017-2018 AGA Tallahassee Chapter Executive Committee

Alexandra Weimorts

2017-2018 Chapter President, Tallahassee AGA

I am excited to welcome and introduce the Tallahassee AGA Chapter Executive Committee to you for the 2017-2018 year. The current board consists of:

Position	CEC Member
President	Alexandra Weimorts
President-Elect	Jim Lewandowski
Secretary	Jennifer Larsen
Treasurer	Antonio Murphy
Treasurer-Elect	Denison Graham
Past President	Steve Burch
Membership & CGFM Chair	Sue Graham
Government Training Event Chair	Jose Alfaro
Awards Chair	Kim Mills
Bylaws Chair	Justin Evans
Chapter Recognition Program Chair	Jim Lewandowski
Citizen-Centric Reporting Chair	Sasa Stefanovic
Community Service Chair	Ernestine Jackson
Early Careers Chair	La'Vondria Norton
Education Chair	Melinda Miguel
Finance Chair	Angie Robertson
Nominations Chair	Jim Lewandowski
Records Management & Website Chair	Steve Burch
Newsletter Editor Chair	Jamaal Dickens
Board Member, Government Training Event Committee	Patrick Cowen
Board Member, Website and Early Careers Committee	Nate Seabrooks
Board Member, Finance Committee	Sam McCall
Board Member, Government Training Event Committee	Jim Maxwell

One commonality among each Board member is that each one has special talents and skills to offer in furthering our chapter. We are glad and grateful to have all of them form part of this growing organization. On future professional development meetings, I would like you to feel free to let me or any of the Executive Committee know what topics you are interested to have so we can try our best to bring them to you. We also encourage you to be part of the AGA Family and together, experience another fruitful and fun-filled year ahead!

Test Your CGFM Knowledge (Answers, from Page 4)

1. Ensure effective accounting and financial systems are in place, ensure adequate financial management activities and operations are designed and implemented by well-qualified staff, prepare annual financial reports, and identify budget requirements and monitor budget execution
2. True, one of the capabilities of a financial management system is accumulation, reporting, and analysis of cost information.
3. Fraud risk assessment, anti-fraud policies, education and training, monitoring, forensic auditing

Notes from the Newsletter Editor

Jamaal R. Dickens

Newsletter Chair, Tallahassee AGA CEC

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm Jamaal Dickens, and I'm excited about fulfilling the roles as a CEC Board Director and Newsletter Chair for the 2017-2018 Chapter year! This is the start of something great!

Just a little background about me, I'm currently Director of Contracts with CareerSource Florida. Previously, I was Assistant Controller with Radiology Associates of Tallahassee, and before that, I worked for approximately 10 years in Florida State Government with various Agencies and Departments. My background extends to many areas, including accounting, auditing, finance, financial analysis, reconciliations, budgets, and contracts. I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Flagler College-Tallahassee, dual-majoring in both Accounting and Business Administration, and I'm also currently studying to test for the Florida CPA examination. (Please wish me luck!) One interesting tidbit that many don't know about me, is that I was the first person from Tallahassee, Florida to appear nationally on the game show, "Wheel of Fortune!" I promise, I'm not pulling your leg. I taped my show at 9:45pm on December 15, 2008 at SeaWorld Orlando, and it aired on April 9, 2009. (Who knows, maybe we'll watch the episode at a future event.) Accomplishing this goal was definitely one of the highlights of my life, and if you haven't seen it already, I can't wait for you to do so. Ok, enough about me, back to the newsletter...

This newsletter is only made possible because of the contribution of articles from the chapter's members, otherwise known as YOU! For those of you who have submitted articles and made some contribution toward the newsletter, thank you! These contributions reflect the depth of knowledge and experience in this group, and the newsletter team is very fortunate to review and publish these articles. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and find it helpful for keeping up to date on events in the Chapter and in the AGA. Our small but eager team strives to produce a high-quality newsletter notifying AGA Tallahassee members of Chapter and National events and services. And, if you are not already a member, we encourage you to join the AGA Tallahassee Chapter and enjoy the many benefits it offers - particularly, the high-quality luncheon series, webinars, learning opportunities, and conferences.

Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see printed? Have you developed a time-saving process or procedure on the job? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? Tallahassee AGA requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members, including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on roll-outs of new systems; appointments or promotions; and noteworthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission. Your articles, comments, and ideas are what make this newsletter go and we welcome all input! Feel free to submit your request to Tallahasseeaga@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Here's to an AWESOME Chapter year!

Jamaal R. Dickens

Please check out the Chapter's website for information such as Chapter Officers/Board Members, community service activities, chapter recognition, luncheon and web conference dates, board meeting minutes, chapter bylaws, chapter histories, and much more.

www.Tallahasseeaga.org

Tallahassee Chapter
Association of Government Accountants
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Tallahassee, FL 32302

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If you have any announcements, articles, or other items for upcoming newsletters, please email us at
Tallahasseeaga@gmail.com

AGA's Mission:

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

www.agacgfm.org