

March 2022

NEWSLETTER

Presidents Message

Michael Townsend

Hello Shenandoah Valley AGA Members

In my last message I closed by saying that *I look forward to an awesome 2022*. AGA National announced an awesome rebranding with a new name of simply AGA, and a new logo. AGA's tagline is Advance. Grow. Accelerate. This rebranding is being well received by members and a welcome change for the new year. Please see more information on the rebranding in the newsletter.

In February, Glen Kent, Ph.D. with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, The Myrias Group met with the Chapter and other chapter members throughout the country to discuss "How to Boost Your Financial & Physical Wellness: The Parallels Between Money & Fitness". People aim to change their behavior in many areas of life, and none are more common than getting into shape and improving their finances. Although two separate goals, Glen pointed out the techniques to improve both areas are quite similar.

I encourage Chapter members to enhance their education through chapter webinars and training. A webinar is planned for March and a West Virginia State Senator is planning to speak to the Chapter in May.

AGA Membership for the current year expires March 31, 2022. Now is an exciting time to be a part of the rebranded AGA. Renew soon!

If you have any suggestions for this Chapter; training, activities, etc., reach out to me or a board member. If you'd like to participate as a board member let me know.

Thank you for making this Chapter successful!!

Mike

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[www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/
ShenandoahValley/Home.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/ShenandoahValley/Home.aspx)

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Did you know?

AGA Rebranding

A Rebrand to Advance, Grow and Accelerate.

AGA, the preeminent government accountability and transparency network, announces our rebranding initiative to better convey our mission of helping to shape the future of good government and empowering leaders to advance, grow and accelerate.

Where we focused almost exclusively on accounting and auditing during our earlier years, we have come to embrace and reflect an expanded purpose while promoting transparency and accountability in government.

Simplifying Our Name to Communicate Our Mission

Our rebranding includes abbreviating our former name, Association of Government Accountants, to simply AGA. While the name change seems minor, the meaning of each letter is significant. “A for Advance,” stands for advancing good government accountability and transparency. “G for Grow,” represents helping professional growth. And lastly, “A for Accelerate,” speaks to accelerating careers and driving excellence and transparency in government accountability.

A New Symbol of Excellence & Transparency in Government Accountability

Our new name is expressed in our new logo. The design represents AGA’s commitment to elevating the standard of excellence in government accountability and advancing our members’ professional expertise and opportunities. The design is bold, bright, and better equipped to represent our brand moving forward.



Helping You Remain on the Forefront as an AGA Member

As an AGA member, whether you’re leading the way or looking to advance your career, AGA is committed to helping you remain at the forefront of emerging issues and innovation. Thank you for being a part of driving excellence and transparency in government accountability.

AGA Membership

Advance. Grow. Accelerate.

AGA is the [association](#) for connecting and empowering professionals who support government, from financial management to IT, human resources, cybersecurity and more, to accelerate their careers.

We work together to advance good government initiatives and improve citizen trust in government.

We connect and empower professionals to help them:

- **Advance** sound financial practices, accountability, transparency and excellence in government
- **Grow**, learn, excel and engage through a network of likeminded professionals and leaders
- **Accelerate** professional careers through learning opportunities and the opportunity to earn a unique credential – the Certified Government Financial Manager, the only credential developed solely with the government financial professional in mind.

Through thought leadership, [certification](#), and national and chapter educational [events](#), AGA remains at the forefront of emerging issues and innovation – driving excellence and transparency in government accountability.

Whether you're leading the way or looking to advance your career, as an AGA member you can expand your expertise and help shape and drive the future of government accountability.

AGA is made up of more than 14,000 members, including senior executives, mid-level managers, entry-level employees, elected officials, professors and students. Our members work in government financial management disciplines, including accounting, auditing, budgeting, financial reporting, human resources, performance reporting, grants management, contract management information systems and more.

AGA membership is distributed among:

- State and Local Government Members – 44%.
- Federal Government Members – 24%.
- Private-Sector Members – 19%.
- Academics, Non-Profits, Students and Retirees – 13%.

Tell Us What Training You Want

As we continue planning our AGA Chapter webinars for this year, please let us know what training / topic you would be interested in learning about. Or, if you know of a speaker who would present to our Chapter, please let us know. Please reach out to any of your Chapter Officers and we will do our best to find a speaker to address your request.

Join Our Chapter Executive Committee

We are currently in the process of recruiting members to join our Chapter Executive Committee for the upcoming Chapter year, which begins July 1. Are you interested in becoming more involved in AGA and your Chapter? Please reach out to any Chapter Officer and let us know. We would love you to join our Executive Committee or one of our various committees and help out. We are always looking for new faces and new ideas. Take time to get involved; it will be worth your efforts to learn and grow!



Upcoming Events

Members Only Webinar—Free

March 16 at 2pm

“A Retrospective on the Financial Report of the U.S. Government: Past, Present and Future.”

Panel discussion looking back over the past two decades to examine the progress made to strengthen transparency and accountability and discuss the challenges that remain.

AGA’s Inaugural Women’s Forum

March 9 from 1-5:30pm

This power-packed afternoon — **created for women by women** — is designed to energize and empower you with ideas and strategies to succeed in the new normal. All are welcome to participate.

Free for AGA members!

Accountability Talks

<https://www.agacgm.org/Tools-Resources/Accountability-Talks-Podcast.aspx>

Community Service Corner

Wreaths Across America Remember, Honor, and Teach

Once again, we will be participating in the Wreaths Across American campaign. We will begin soliciting donations for Wreaths Across America to sponsor wreaths that will be placed on the graves of our fallen military members across the country. A wreath can be sponsored in remembrance of a loved one or to honor someone who has served or is still serving. The wreaths are \$15 per wreath. Please join us in helping to honor our fallen military members as well as those who have served or are still serving. You can sponsor wreaths at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/24150>



Membership Renewal Time

It is that time of year again to renew your AGA membership! Please renew before March 31, 2022.

1. Log in to **My AGA** with your username and password. Forgot your password? You can reset it at <https://www.agacgm.org/MyAGA/SignIn/RecoverPassword.aspx>
2. Click "Proceed to Checkout" and verify your AGA membership dues.
3. Click "Check Out" and enter credit card payment.
4. Click "Submit Payment."

Did You Know?

AGA members are dedicated professionals.

AGA supports government at all levels and work in all areas of financial management, accounting, auditing, IT, and other business operations areas to help government work more efficiently and effectively.

As members, we're able to boost our careers through AGA education and the CGFM certification, and through opportunities to network, share ideas and solutions.

AGA training events are fantastic; they highlight innovations, best practices and research and lead to positive change in government that benefits our society.

You can make a difference when you join AGA.

Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)

CGFM is a professional certification awarded by [AGA](#), who is *the* member organization for financial professionals in government.

Benefits of Becoming a **CGFM**:

- Increases knowledge of government financial management
- Increases confidence on the job
- Provides better understanding of 'big picture' of government
- Indicator of experience and knowledge
- Enhanced marketability throughout all levels of government

MEMBERSHIP

Recruit a Member

Member recruitment is and must continue to be at the forefront of our chapter goals, even while we are meeting virtually. Please invite potential members and newcomers to our events and webinars. Help them to see the benefits of becoming a member of AGA and our Chapter

Let us know of potential members so we can include them in our Chapter communications and invite them to events. If they seem interested, continue to reach out as they may not join the first time, but may need some encouragement and continued vision into the benefits of AGA. Help us grow our Chapter and AGA!



PDT Awards

Nominations will open this month for AGA's PDT Awards of Distinction. Recognize our outstanding and deserving members, colleagues and future leaders with a nomination this year. To learn more about AGA's awards and see our updated awards list, please visit AGA National's website.

Volunteer of the Year

Every year, AGA's National President presents an annual **Volunteer of the Year Award** to one member from each chapter to recognize significant service to a chapter. Nominate your chapter's 2021–2022 Volunteer of the Year to reward extraordinary contributions!

Chapters may nominate one individual each year by **May 31**.

Chapter Officers 2021-2022

President-Michael Townsend

President-Elect-Christine Blair

Treasurer-Zita Zduoba

Secretary-Vacant

Membership Chair-Vacant

Newsletter Editor-Gina Smith Moss

Education Chair-Brooke Pennington

Achievement in Excellence (ACE) Chair-Gina Smith Moss

Awards Chair-Gina Smith Moss

Community Service Chair-Danielle Unger

CGFM Chair-Cheryl Ferguson

Young Professionals Chair-Vacant

Webmaster/Social Media-Christine Blair

Accountability Chair-Gina Smith Moss

AGA National Governing Board 2021-2022

National President-Gerry Boaz

National Treasurer-Doreen Shute

Director Area 1-Niclas Hales

Director Area 3-Melinda DeCorte

Director Area 5-Benjamin Thayer

Director Area 6-Benton Cash

National President-Elect-Melinda Miguel

National Treasurer-Elect-Eric Berman

Director Area 2-Misty Schuck

Director Area 4-Tiffani Dorsa

Director Area 6-Angela McElrath-Prosser

Director Area 8-Johnny Ramsey

AGA National Office

Chief Executive Officer-Ann Ebberts

Executive Assistant-David Acerra

Chapter Services Manager-Megan Brien

Director of Finance & Administration-Cristina Barbudo

Director of Meetings & Expositions-Jerome Bruce

Chief Operating Officer-Susan Fritzlen

Director of Finance & Administration-Cristina Barbudo

Field Representative-Bobby Derrick

Director of Information Technology-David Payne

Director of Professional Certification-Katya Silver