



Volume 16-06 March 2017

President's Message

Spring is just around the corner and our chapter's program year is headed into the final stretch. March is a key month in the AGA calendar, including such highlights as Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Recognition Month, our annual membership renewal period, and chapter board elections. The Seattle chapter is also gearing up for our Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference in Tacoma on April 24-25 at Pacific Lutheran University, which we co-sponsor with the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants. Finally, we are busy planning our May 2017 Emerald Award luncheon to honor a distinguished member of the local government accountability community and actively seeking your nominations for



a deserving recipient of this award (nominations are due by March 17, 2017, as a reminder). Don't forget to mark your calendars for these not-to-be missed events, and be sure to take a thorough read through this month's Sounder newsletter for all the details.

Mary Ann Hardy, Chapter President

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Seattle Chapter:
*Krystal Hackmeister,
 Senior Budget Analyst, City of Bellevue*

Upcoming Events

Webinar
Wednesday, March 8, 2017 "Uniform Guidance: Doing Things Differently"

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AGA Seattle Chapter Monthly Meeting Schedule For Program Year 2016-2017

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2016-2017! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 - Michael Jacobson and Natasha Jones, King County. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation.

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 - Dean Ritz, Director of IP strategy for Workiva, Inc. on DATA Act. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation. See page 3 for details.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 - Tina Polf, CPA - Annual Tax Update. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 - Jeff Brown, Contract Specialist with King County. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation,

Please note: the meeting will be held on the 40th floor of the Columbia Tower.

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 - AGA webinar on Uniform Guidance. 11:00-12:50 Pacific time (2 CPEs)

Monday/Tuesday, April 24-25, 2017 - Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference, to be held at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, with remote locations in Everett and Spokane.

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 (Tentative) - Emerald Award Luncheon. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation

**When/
Where**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 - AGA webinar on Uniform Guidance. 11:00-12:50 Pacific time (2 CPEs)

AGA National Webinar Presentation

11:00 - 12:50: "Uniform Guidance: Doing Things Differently"

GAO Training Room 701 – 5th Ave., Floor 37 Seattle, WA 98104

MEMBERS - \$0 AND NON-MEMBERS - \$0*

****We are extending this complimentary training (market value \$49) as a membership drive outreach opportunity for 2017. First 25 attendees only!***





THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

March 8, 2017 Monthly Luncheon Meeting

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Speaker | <i>AGA National Webinar Presentation</i> |
| Topic/Time | <p>11:00 - 12:50: "Uniform Guidance: Doing Things Differently"</p> <p>Three years after its issuance, how is the Uniform Guidance living up to its stated promise of promoting a 21st Century government that is more efficient, effective and transparent? This session will look at progress in implementing a government-wide framework for grants management. Experts will examine grants management changes that have been made to implement the Uniform Guidance and discuss progress in achieving key objectives, ranging from strengthening oversight to streamlining federal requirements. Speakers will also examine how AGA tools, which are available online to anyone at no cost, can help implement key provisions of the Uniform Guidance. Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and networking prior to the presentation.</p> |
| Place | GAO Training Room, 701 - 5 th Ave., Floor 37, Seattle, WA 98104 |
| Cost | <p>MEMBERS - \$0 AND NON-MEMBERS - \$0*</p> <p><i>*We are extending this complimentary training (market value \$49) as a membership drive outreach opportunity for 2017. First 25 attendees only!</i></p> |
| Menu Choices | <p>Bring your own lunch, or purchase a meal from Ingallina's Box Lunch for \$15.00. Choose from the following meal options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smoked Ham Sandwich 2. Chinese Chicken Salad 3. Spinach, Strawberry, and Goat Cheese Salad (vegetarian) |
| RSVP Required | Please RSVP to attend by Monday, March 6, 2017 to Mary Ann Hardy, hardym@gao.gov . |
| CPE | 2 CPE awarded. Electronic CPE certificates will be accessible at the conclusion of the webinar |
| Field of Study | Accounting: Governmental |

February 2017 Luncheon Presentation

The U.S. Needs Us: An Inside Look at the World of Government Grants

by Jeff Brown, Grants and Contracts Specialist, Public Health-Seattle and King County

Mr. Brown began his presentation by stating its twofold purpose : One, to discuss what government grants are and why they are needed; and two, to offer praise for those who do the unseen work of grant administration.

As a background, Mr. Brown discussed The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977, which states that a grant reflects a relationship between the Federal government and the recipient - such as a state, local government, or other entity where the principal purpose of the relationship is to fund the recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation. In other words, a need exists within the public arena that requires financial assistance to build programs to satisfy that need.



Speaker Jeff Brown (center) is flanked by (L to R) Chapter Officers Sam, Gabby, Karyn and Mary Ann Hardy

At the City and County Public Health level, grants are used, for a myriad of purposes, from training 6th Grade, Junior and Senior High School students in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, to providing primary care for refugees and other vulnerable segments of our population.

While it is evident that grants received from Federal sources, as well as state, local and non-governmental organizations, allow great gains to our society, there needs to be solid behind-the-scenes support. Mr. Brown allowed some frustration to show when noting that the only time there is mention of the people who arrange for and administer grants is when an organization is getting dinged by an audit or suspended because their internal controls failed. Mr. Brown made a point of showing appreciation their work.

After discussing the benefits from government grants and shown appreciation for those who engage in the unseen world of obtaining and administrating grants, Mr. Brown briefly touched on the future of government grants. More transparency will be evident in future grants due to enhancement of current regulations. What is not known is whether the US government will continue its investment in the myriad of programs that now exist. The expectation is that grants will continue to help locally. King County, as an example, is moving forward with proven programs and innovative new ones, like Best Starts for Kids.

For the full text of Mr. Brown's remarks, see <https://jsb4peace.com/>.

Governmental Accounting & Auditing Conference 2017 Tacoma

Highlights

- Catch up on GASB updates from GASB's own Director of Research and Technical Activities David Bean.
- Learn about the update on the 2 CFR 200 Grant Guidance from Gil Tran, Senior Policy Analyst with the OMB.
- Get answers to your questions in a panel with State Auditor Pat McCarthy, Secretary of State Kim Wyman, and State Treasurer Duane Davidson.

Objectives

Finding time to stay up to date on all of the rules and regulations in governmental accounting and auditing is a challenge, no doubt about it. Between staying informed about GASB's latest standards update, and checking on the latest from the OMB—not to mention completing all the day-to-day work that keeps your organization running smoothly—how is a CPA to keep up with state and local regulatory changes and learn how to prevent cyber fraud?

By spending two spring days on the gorgeous campus of Pacific Lutheran University attending the WSCPA Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference, that's how! You'll learn everything you need to know about GASB updates from GASB's own Director of Research and Technical Activities David Bean. Hear from Gil Tran, Senior Policy Analyst with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) about the OMB update on the 2 CFR 200 Grant Guidance. Get your questions answered by your elected officials in a panel with State Auditor Pat McCarthy, Secretary of State Kim Wyman, and State Treasurer Duane Davidson. Check out the full schedule below for more information about all of the incredible speakers presenting at this conference.

The WSCPA works hard to deliver top-notch CPE at the best price possible, and is proud to offer members these excellent 16 CPE credits for only \$360. Members pay less than \$25 per credit—a savings of 25% over the regular price!

Don't miss one of the best quality AND best-priced CPE opportunities all year! Register today.

If you haven't already done so, could you also include a link in the Sounder this month about the Governmental Accounting and Auditing conference: https://www.wscpa.org/CatalogSearch/EventDetail?id=1866CE7D-6A74-4CD3-8148-430836F97523&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2017conferences&utm_source=GAAC-Webcast-1#.WLC7t9LfOUk And also the following sentence: **"AGA members should enter the code "AGA17" when registering online to receive the member price of \$360"**



3 Reasons Why You Should Attend:

1. Earn up to 24 CPEs: Enhance your lifelong learning and gain the knowledge and understanding to better improve your job effectiveness. The presentations are facilitated by both industry experts and colleagues who have faced similar challenges. You can earn up to 24 CPEs.
2. Stay on the cutting edge: Includes top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia and the private sector bringing you key findings and educational experiences to augment your job knowledge and skills.
3. Network and connect: Connect with a variety of government financial experts and industry colleagues from around the nation facing the same or similar issues, and exchange ideas to bring back to your organization.

Registration now open!

Attend In Person

Attend Virtually

This is a reminder that **Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum (PNI AF)** will be holding its next forum meeting **Wednesday, March 15, 2017 – Friday, March 17, 2017** at the Motif Hotel, 1415 Fifth Ave., Seattle, Washington. Registration will begin March 15 at 12:15pm with the program starting at 1pm. Meeting will end on March 17 at 12pm. We will offer 16 CPEs at a cost of \$250. Registration will cover a reception on the first night, breakfast and lunch on day 2, and breakfast on the last day.

The draft program agenda for the meeting is now available on the event website. We will have opening remarks from Pat McCarthy, Washington State Auditor, and a keynote address by Karl Maschino, GAO's Chief Administrative Officer, as well as other speakers on a range of issues including skills for a successful auditing career, improper payments, cyber security, concurrent sessions on data visualization, interviewing writing, and presenting and other topics.

We have a block of rooms based on a first come, first serve basis by **Wednesday, February 22** for \$169 per night. Please try to book a room through the meeting hotel at Motif. This helps keep the forum meetings affordable for all attendees.

For more information and to register for the meeting, visit www.regonline.com/pniafspring17

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Please register **no later than Wednesday, March 1.** (*Registration for this meeting is on a first come, first serve basis.*)

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2016-2017 Webinars

AGA has scheduled the following webinars for the 2016-2017 Program Year.

See <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Learn-Online/Webinars/2016-2017-Offerings.aspx> for more information about participating in these events.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Fraud/Risk | Feb. 22, 2017 |
| Uniform Guidance <u>1/</u> | Mar. 8, 2017 |
| CFO/CIO Collaboration | Mar. 29, 2017 |
| Ethics | Apr. 12, 2017 |
| DATA Act | May 7, 2017 |
| Fraud/Data Analytics | Jun. 14, 2017 |

2017 Member-Only Webinar Free Learning Event

The Fraud Tools: Case Studies Feb. 23, 2017 2-3 p.m. | 1 CPE |

Field of study: Auditing

1/ To be presented at our March Meeting

AGA's annual renewal period runs between January 11 and March 31, 2017. You will be receiving an email from AGA National with instructions for how to renew online. AGA will also mail invoices to its members this month. Please note that CGFM renewals are due at the same time, and AGA members receive a discount on their CGFM renewal fee.

Membership in AGA has many benefits, including education and networking opportunities, awards, and scholarship programs, discounts for training, exclusive CPE opportunities, and access to AGA resources. Members join a local chapter through which they gain additional networking, leadership, and education experiences.

Learn more about the benefits of AGA membership by going to: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Learn-About-AGA/Join-or-Renew.aspx>. From this page, you can join, renew, or rejoin AGA and follow links to additional information about AGA

Members are vital to a strong chapter, and we encourage you to renew your membership and become active in your chapter, AGA Seattle.

CGFM Intensive Review Course & Exams

Sign up for AGA's Intensive Review Course with CGFM examinations *included* - it's a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course (IRC), offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Alexandria, Va., April 3-4, 2017. The class will run 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is as follows:

- \$375 for AGA members
- \$425 for non-members.

SPECIAL BONUS: The CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees — a \$375 savings!

The CGFM examinations for the April 3-4 course can be taken by appointment only at [Pearson Professional Testing Centers](#) from April 5, 2017 - July 31, 2017, using vouchers provided by AGA.

Before You Register, Please Read

- **What is the Intensive Review Course?** It is a special, limited enrollment opportunity for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM examinations and want extra reinforcement of the material. It is a review of the main topics covered on the CGFM examinations, led by a knowledgeable instructor.
- **What it's NOT:** It is not a shortcut. It is not an exam prep course with strategies on how to pass the exams. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the three AGA instructor-led training courses. It is usually not enough, by itself, to prepare for the CGFM examinations - advance preparation is strongly recommended.

Registration

To participate in this event, individuals must:

- Be accepted into the CGFM program (see Eligibility section below).
- Pre-register for this event. **Note:** Only current CGFM candidates will be able to register for this event. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Location

- The IRC will be held in Alexandria, Va. Detailed information will be provided to all registered attendees.

Eligibility

- To attend the Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM examinations, participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM program.
- Potential candidates need to submit the [CGFM program application form](#) and a copy of an official transcript from an accredited college or university.

AGA Seattle Chapter Call for Nominations

This is your opportunity to help shape the Seattle Chapter's programs, advance your profession, and represent members' interests. **We are seeking members to serve on our Board of Directors.**

Term

Those elected will take office on July 1, 2017, for a one-year term of office.

Benefits of Service

As a volunteer leader, you are rewarded with unparalleled opportunities to:

- Expand Your Leadership Skills

- Enhance Your Career

- Exchange Ideas and Perspectives with Board Members

- Expand Your Network of Personal and Professional Contacts.

What Does the Job Entail?

Generally, the board meets once a month (generally the last Tuesday of the month) for about an hour and a half from August through May. **We currently have openings for Secretary, Treasurer, and President-Elect.**

We are also looking for members to serve on the board by serving on various committees. These committees are: **Chapter Recognition, Membership, Awards, Education, Newsletter, Community**

Service, CGFM, Research, Early Careers, Historian, Webmaster, and Professional Development.

Attached is a brief description of each position and what you can expect. If you would like to learn more about joining the Seattle Chapter board, please contact Sandra Starnes (Secretary) at sandra@pgst.nsn.us or 360-297-9667 or Mary Ann Hardy (President) at HardyM@gao.gov or (206) 654-5594.

We look forward to hearing from you. Nominations can be submitted for yourself or on another's behalf and are due by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

Elections will be held from March 31 - April 10, 2017

Financial Condition as of January 31, 2017

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Checking | \$ 2,708.19 |
| Savings | \$ 4,063.63 |
| 12 Month Certificate of Deposit | <u>\$ 4,655.96</u> |
| Total Assets | \$11,427.78 |
| | |
| Liabilities | \$ 0.00 |
| Members' Equity | <u>\$ 11,427.78</u> |
| Liabilities & Members' Equity | \$11,427.78 |

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending January 31, 2017

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Cash Balances | \$11,467.48 |
| Lunch Expenses (Parking & Name tags) | 94.16 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cash Expended ^{1/} | \$ 94.16 |
| AGA Dues Received | \$ 12.50 |
| Lunch Receipts | \$ 40.00 |
| Interest Income | \$ 1.96 |
| Subtotal Cash Deposits | \$ 54.46 |
| Net Cash Change | \$ 39.70 |
| Ending Cash Balance | \$11,427.78 |

AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

| Chapter Recognition Program categories | Points to Date | Maximum Points |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Section I - Chapter Leadership, Planning, & Participation | 2,500 | 5,000 |
| Section II - Education & Professional Development | 1,900 | 4,000 |
| Section III - Certification | 1,250 | 4,000 |
| Section IV - Communications | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Section V - Membership with a Focus on Early Career and Student Members | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Section VI - Accountability | 0 | 2,000 |
| Section VII - Community Service | 1,450 | 2,000 |
| Section VIII - Awards | 100 | 1,000 |
| Total as of December 2016 | 14,200 | |

Recognition Levels:

A **Bronze Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 10,000 and 14,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Bronze status.

A **Silver Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 14,501 and 17,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Silver status.

A **Gold Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 17,001 and 19,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Gold status.

The **Platinum Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 19,501 and 22,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Platinum status.



The Sounder

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG

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

The purpose of the Association and the Chapter is to be an international, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of government financial management. The Association shall serve its members by providing or sponsoring appropriate educational programs, encouraging professional development, influencing governmental financial management policies and practices, and serving as an advocate for the profession. The Association shall serve government officials and the public by sponsoring efforts to ensure full and fair accountability for all public monies, and by providing a variety of pro bono services throughout the United States and its territories that support that end.

**AGA Seattle Chapter
 2016-2017 Board Members**

President

Mary Ann Hardy, U.S.
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President-Elect

Open

Immediate Past President

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Open

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This newsletter was produced by board member Tim Dobler, with the assistance of Karyn Angulo. Thanks to chapter members who contributed articles and photos for this issue. Masthead Photo compliments of Board Member Dian MaKaeli