

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Baton Rouge  
Chapter

APRIL 2025



**Welcome to the AGA Baton Rouge Newsletter, your premier source for staying connected and informed in the dynamic realm of government financial management!**

AGA is the association that connects and empowers professionals who support government, from financial management to IT, human resources, cybersecurity and more, to advance good government initiatives, grow their expertise and accelerate their careers!

**Live CGFM Courses:  
Check These Out!  
(PG. 11)**



**AGA. PDT 2025  
Now Virtual!  
(PG. 16)**



# A Message from Our Chapter President!

**Dear AGA Members and Friends,**

As we begin a new chapter in our journey together, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your continued support, engagement, and commitment to the mission and values of AGA. Whether you're a long-time member or recently joined our community, your participation has made a meaningful difference in the success and growth of our chapter.

I've been continually inspired by the energy, talent, and dedication within our membership. It's your passion that keeps our chapter vibrant and relevant, and I am deeply honored to serve as your Chapter President. Looking ahead, I'm filled with excitement and optimism for what this year will bring. Together, we will continue to build on our strong foundation and find new ways to support one another, grow professionally, and promote excellence in government accountability.

I also want to highlight an exciting opportunity coming up: **AGA's 2025 Professional Development Training (PDT) will be held virtually**, making it more accessible than ever. This is a wonderful chance to connect with peers nationwide, learn from industry experts, and earn valuable CPEs—all from the comfort of your own workspace. Thank you again for your continued involvement in AGA Baton Rouge.

I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the coming year. Let's continue to learn, grow, and elevate one another as we fulfill our shared mission.

**Warm regards,  
Miranda Maten, Chapter President  
AGA Baton Rouge**

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**02/19**

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## AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2025 Board Members



### **Ramona Harris**

#### ***Chapter President-Elect***

State Employee for 22 years where she has worked in finance the majority of the time for various State Agencies. She is currently employed at the Louisiana Department of Health-Office of Public Health Laboratory serving as the Manager over Business Operations. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management from *Upper Iowa University* and a MBA from *Louisiana State University-Shreveport*. In addition to her degrees, she also is a Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Graduate of the *Leadership Development Institute*, Graduate of the *Visionary Leadership Academy*, and served the past 2 years as a Mentor for the *OPH Mentorship Academy*. Outside of work she serves on the Financial Council for Junior League of Baton Rouge, for which she has been a member since 2018.



### **Tiffani Dorsa, CPA**

#### ***Immediate Past Chapter President***

Tiffani Dorsa, CPA, is the Immediate Past Chapter President for AGA Baton Rouge, bringing over 18 years of experience to her role. She specializes in working with not-for-profit and governmental industries, particularly entities receiving federal and state assistance. Tiffani is highly familiar with governmental auditing standards, OMB Circular A-133 (Single Audit requirements), and state regulations pertaining to quasi-public entities.

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## AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2025 Board Members



### **Barbara Aguilar** **Secretary**

Serving as the Budget Director for the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) for the past eight years, Barbara has garnered extensive experience in navigating the intricate landscape of governmental budgets. At the heart of Barbara's professional philosophy is a commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. She is driven by a desire to create easier, more effective ways of accomplishing tasks and overcoming challenges. By fostering a culture of innovation and embracing technology, she strives to empower her team and enhance organizational effectiveness. Currently serving as the Interim Deputy Undersecretary, Barbara remains steadfast in her dedication to driving positive change and optimizing performance within the department.



### **Jordan Sandwisch** **Treasurer**

Jordan Sandwisch is a seasoned professional in the world of finance and auditing, currently serving as the Manager of Audit Assurance at EisnerAmper. With a strong background in accounting and a sharp eye for detail, Jordan brings extensive expertise to his role. Holding a CPA credential, he demonstrates a commitment to excellence in his field. Jordan is known for his meticulous approach to financial analysis and his ability to provide valuable insights to clients. His dedication to ensuring accuracy and compliance makes him a trusted advisor in the realm of audit assurance. Outside of his professional endeavors, Jordan enjoys staying active in his community and pursuing personal interests.

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## AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2025 Board Members



### **Sarah Wade**

#### ***Awards & Scholarship Chair***

Sarah Wade is a dynamic and driven budget analyst with 5 years of state government experience in accounting and budgeting. Her expertise is in budget analysis from departments such as education and transportation. Sarah received her accounting degree from *Southern University* in 2018 and her MBA from *Grand Canyon University* in 2021. Outside of her professional endeavors, Sarah enjoys volunteering. She volunteers with Advance. Grow. Accelerate (AGA) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). She started volunteering with AGA in 2016 and Vita in 2020. Helping people achieve their goals and grow is what she loves to do.



### **Erin McAlinney**

#### ***Webmaster/Social Media Manager***

Erin McAlinney is a dedicated Social Media Coordinator at Premier Group, where she skillfully manages and enhances the company's online presence. She graduated from the University of South Florida in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Public Relations & Advertising, and from St. Petersburg College in 2020 with an Associate's in Arts in Mass Communications Journalism. Erin has crafted advertising campaigns for small, local businesses and is passionate about staying ahead of emerging marketing and social media trends. She excels at designing graphics, crafting newsletters, and creating engaging content that resonates with audiences. In her spare time, Erin enjoys exploring new food spots and staying connected with family and friends.

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# AGA<sup>TM</sup>

# LEAD!

2025



Our incoming Chapter President  
**Ramona Harris**, with **Bobby Derrick**,  
Field Representative of AGA National



Incoming AGA National President-Elect, **Mark-Allen B. Mitchell**, CGFM



Area 4 representing at AGA Lead!

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# Don't Forget: Renew Your AGA Membership!

## Benefits:



- **Connect, Collaborate, & Network:**
  - Expand your network, participate in our online mentoring program!
  - Volunteer to serve on AGA committees and boards.
  - Find a position or look for qualified candidates on AGA's Job Board
  - Join the conversation on LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook.
- **Continuous Learning:**
  - Participate in educational events — learn from and meet the experts.
  - Save money with registration discounts on national and chapter training events.
  - Sign up for four (4) complimentary members-only webinars.
  - Attend the Transformation & Technology Summit for FREE!
  - Attend the Women's Forum for FREE!
  - Leverage discounts on CGFM renewal and application fees.
- **Stay Informed & Find Solutions:**
  - Access online tools, developed by government experts to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration.
  - Stay up to date through the quarterly Journal of Government Financial Management.
  - Learn about and share best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
  - Get the latest innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.

**JOIN  
NOW**



**Don't Hesitate!**  
**Register Now!**

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# **HAPPY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY TO THESE AGA MEMBERS!**

**Jackie Cobb**  
**Marcia D. Darville**  
**Dollneccia D. Drexler**  
**Bernard J. Francis, Jr.**  
**Paul J. Governale, CGFM, CPA**  
**J. Michael Inzina, CGFM**  
**Latisha Jolla**  
**Charles Burton Kolder, CGFM**  
**Christopher R. Lewis, CPA**  
**Dedria London**  
**Elizabeth Mensah**  
**Tymonique Nicholas**  
**Tara T. Pocorello**  
**Summer Steiner**  
**Tim Ward**



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## JOIN THE BATON ROUGE AGA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP BOARD!

**Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community?** Here's your chance! The Baton Rouge Chapter is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Leadership Board. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student seeking valuable internship experience, we welcome you to be part of our dynamic team.

### Several positions available (with more not listed):

- **ACE Reporting:** Ensure accurate financial reporting and transparency.
- **Membership Committee:** Engage with our members, build connections, and enhance our community.
- **President-Elect:** Take a leading role in shaping the future of our chapter.
- **Event Coordinator:** Plan and execute exciting events that bring our community together.

### Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Internship Opportunities:** College students, gain practical experience and boost your resume.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.



[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)



JOIN US



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, EMAIL US AT [BATONROUGEAGA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BATONROUGEAGA@GMAIL.COM)**

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# CGFM®

# Certification



## What is a CGFM?

The CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) credential, awarded by AGA, showcases expertise in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across different government levels.

It's a respected certification that highlights specialized knowledge and experience essential for effective government financial management. CGFM opens doors to new career prospects and sets you apart as a distinguished professional in the field.

## CGFM Certification Benefits:

1. Enhanced marketability across government sectors.
2. Networking opportunities with fellow government financial managers.
3. Boosted confidence in your role.
4. Potential for employer incentives like raises, promotions, and bonuses.
5. Increased value as an employee, both in reality and perception.
6. Support for ongoing education to stay updated with the latest developments and technologies.

Use this link to learn more about CGFM memberships!

[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

## How Do I Become a CGFM?

1. Fill out an online application and agree to AGA's Code of Ethics.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
3. Pass three CGFM examinations.
4. Gain at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.



For any additional questions, please contact the Office of Professional Certification:  
800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931) or [cgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:cgfm@agacgfm.org)

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# CGFM LIVE COURSES



AGA is pleased to offer TWO options for CGFM live (real-time) courses for individuals:

- **virtual courses** – live instruction via Zoom.
- **in-person courses** – live class with students and instructor onsite in Alexandria, VA.

Looking for other CGFM course options? AGA also offers [self-paced CGFM courses](#) and [CGFM training for groups](#).

## COURSE SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION

### Virtual Courses

**Course 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting**

June 3-6, 2025, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation deadline – May 27

**Course 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control**

July 15-17, 2025, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation deadline – July 8

### Live Courses

**In-person course:**

**Course 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control**

May 6-7, 2025, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Alexandria VA

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation deadline – April 22

**JOIN US**

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# Student Membership Opportunities



## Why AGA?

Considering a career in government financial management? Want to meet government professionals in the federal, state, or local government levels?

**Join AGA for FREE!** Student membership in AGA provides you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections and discover your future career while positively impacting your community and country.

**APPLY  
NOW**



### Scholarships

Academic scholarships, National Collegiate Leadership Scholarship, Government Finance Case Challenge, Datathon



### Career Coaching & Professional Community

Mentoring Programs & Local Chapters



### Tools & Resources

'Accountability Talks' Podcast & Guest Speakers



**Visit Our Website to Learn More!**

[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)



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# ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS



Discover '**Accountability Talks**,' a podcast delving into the government accountability community. Hear from thought leaders, gain career insights, and join our vibrant community!

**[Click here to listen!](#)**

## About the Host



Meet **Paul Marshall, CPA, CGFM, CIA, CICA, PMP, VP at MIL Corporation and dedicated AGA member with 20+ years in government accountability.** He champions best practices in audits, financial reporting, and more, serving on AGA boards at local and national levels.

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# Upcoming Webinars & Events

*You Do Not Want to Miss Out!*

**SAVE THE DATE**



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**14/19**

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## National Events



## Webinar: Risk Management

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

**2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs**

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

**Field of Study:** Business Management and Organization (BMO)

**[Click Here to Register Now!](#)**



## Webinar: FREE-Members Only

**Wednesday, May 14 , 2025**

**2:00–3:15 PM ET | 1.5 CPEs**

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

**Field of Study:** Personal Development (PD)

**[Click Here to Register Now!](#)**



## Webinar: Leadership

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

**2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs**

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

**Field of Study:** Personal Development (PD)

**[Click Here to Register Now!](#)**

# National Events



A Virtual Event  
July 28–29, 2025  
14 CPEs

PDT '25 features **100+ expert-led sessions**, equipping you with critical skills to tackle today's biggest technology, productivity, and organizational challenges. In a time of transition and evolving policies, financial professionals at all levels of government must be prepared to adapt. It is a critical time to develop and sharpen your skills necessary to enhance efficiency, maximize productivity, drive cost-savings, analyze data effectively, proactively prevent fraud, waste and abuse to ensure accountability in the use of public funds.

PDT brings together thousands of financial professionals and industry leaders to exchange ideas, explore innovative strategies and proven solutions for maximizing impact and driving efficiency and productivity in public service. Don't miss this opportunity to **enhance your professional development** and **collaborate with peers from across the industry**.

Need help making the case to attend? AGA offers a **Justification Toolkit** to help you demonstrate the value of PDT to your organization. From key learning takeaways to cost-benefit highlights, our toolkit provides critical information needed to help secure approval for this unparalleled professional development opportunity.

## Three Reasons You Should Attend:

- **Stay on the cutting edge.** Top-notch speakers from federal, state and local government, academia and the private sector will keep you on top of your game with key information about successful strategies to leverage technology and staff skillsets to their fullest potential, "do more with less", and educational experiences.
- **Network and connect.** Exchange ideas to bring back to your organization and help build the profession. Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues who face the same or similar issues on the job.
- **Earn up to 14 of NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits.** Make sure you keep your credentials current by increasing your overall body of knowledge and improving your job effectiveness and efficiency by acquiring new skills and learning about successful techniques.

## Registration & Pricing

**Early Bird Deadline:**  
**June 27, 2025**

	Online Registration	All Other
<b>AGA Members</b>		
Early Bird	\$250	\$275
Standard	\$350	\$375
<b>Non-members</b>		
Early Bird	\$450	\$475
Standard	\$550	\$575

**[Click Here to  
Register Today!](#)**



# Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

Save the Date for AGA's future Professional Development Training (PDT) events!



## Nashville, Tennessee

**July 27–30, 2025**

**Virtual**



## Dallas, Texas

**July 26–29, 2026**

**Gaylord Texan Hotel**



## Chicago, Illinois

**July 18–21, 2027**

**Hyatt Regency Chicago**



## Happy Mother's Day from AGA Baton Rouge!

To all the incredible mothers in our AGA community,  
Today, we celebrate the **strength, love, and unwavering dedication** you bring not only to your families, but also to your professions and communities. Your ability to balance so much with grace and compassion inspires us all.

Whether you're a mother, a grandmother, a mother figure, or someone honoring the memory of a loved one today, we recognize and appreciate the impact you make every day.

On behalf of AGA Baton Rouge, we wish you a beautiful and joyful Mother's Day filled with love, appreciation, and well-deserved rest.

**With gratitude,**  
AGA Baton Rouge Chapter Leadership



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# IT'S CRAWFISH SEASON!



Crawfish season is one of Louisiana's most cherished traditions—bringing people together over trays of spicy crawfish, potatoes, and corn. It's more than just great food; it's a celebration of community, culture, and Southern hospitality.

As we embrace this season, it's a perfect reminder that strong connections, whether personal or professional, are often built around shared experiences. Let's carry that spirit into our work, our leadership, and our continued growth together.

