
AGA Atlanta Chapter

September Newsletter

September 2017



President's Message

By William Johnson

Hello my fellow members of the Atlanta Chapter of AGA!

Better late than never, I always say. I am reaching out to you to tell you where our chapter "is" at the end of September, and where we hope to go during this year.

The AGA year runs from July through June. So, since July I have been your Chapter President, following in Scott Owen's footsteps, and believe me, he is a hard act to follow!

I'm going to tell you a story, so sit back, grab a cup of tea, and relax. I have become hooked on licorice tea, but there I go rambling again.

I've been a member of AGA since 2005, when I joined the Albuquerque, NM chapter. I was a member, but only a member. I attended a couple of meetings a year, and no more.

Fast forward to 2013, and I was actually asked by a co-worker to speak at an AGA PDT in Boston, in March. BRRRR. It was frigid, snowing, and this Georgia boy took a suit and a windbreaker. But I digress.

The keynote speaker was a person by the name of Mary Peterman, the National AGA President at the time. I was so touched by her presentation that I decided to (and told her I was going to do so) come back to Atlanta and become INVOLVED in the Atlanta Chapter of AGA!

When I got back to Atlanta, I contacted the Chapter President, Glenda Ostrander, (who is our Regional Vice President now) and asked how I could become involved. I was crowned the Certification chair, which, at that time, was one of TWO leadership positions that Laura Weston held. Laura is one of those members that not only willingly assumes leadership positions in the Chapter, but she, along with Jackie Neubert, are the backbone of our quarterly meetings! They make nametags, get the equipment to the meeting location, check in members, and more. And they do so in a servant leadership manner. Very low key, but they both do so much.

Back to the story. Wait. Have another cup of coffee or tea. The weather is getting cooler. I'll wait.

Back? Okay. So, where was I? Oh yes, I was the Certification chair. I am not going to lie to you and tell you that I hit a grand slam in that area. I checked out our training materials when members requested them. The part of the job I enjoyed most was reaching out to the State and local governments to have them proclaim March to be Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) month. Don't know about CGFM? Well, you're in luck there. Our chapter now has a Certification chair that runs circles around the job I was doing. Meet Jim Dawson. Jim has begun a class for those of you that are interested in seeking CGFM certification – which, by the way, is becoming one of the more sought after professional designations in government, be it local, state or federal. Reach out to Jim and he can tell you about the class. It isn't a traditional class in a classroom, but it utilizes something you young people call the computer.

Speaking of computers, guess who is responsible for you seeing this message in our newsletter online? Meet James Shepard, or "boy wonder" as I call him. He is a pure genius with those dang computing machines, and analyses. I surely am glad that he finds time to be our Webmaster.

You know what? That's all of the Chapter story for today. There is more next time, I promise. I want you to meet our Treasurer, Treasurer elect, Secretary, Programs/Technical, Awards, Community Service, Communication, Education, Membership, and Early Careers officers, but not yet. I want you to be so excited about

meeting them that you check the AGA Atlanta webpage every day, or better yet, make it your homepage.

Before I go, I do want to tell you about our meeting in November. It is tentative, but I am pretty certain we will have guests sharing with us about data presentation. I don't care whether you're an auditor, budgeteer, contract person, accountant, techie – the way to really create exceptional products or reports is with AMAZING and INTERESTING PRESENTATION!

If you were not with us on Thursday, September 21, you missed an amazing meeting! Fraud was the theme, and folks, Phil Hurd, the Chief Audit Executive of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Glenda Ostrander, the Chief Audit Executive of the Gwinnett County School System (the largest in the state) kept us on the edge of our seats. I truly didn't want the meeting to end.

That's all for now, folks. We will be chatting again soon.

John

PS – look for another small write up in this edition of our newsletter – I am issuing a fun challenge to you all for our November meeting!!

Membership Milestones



Greg Johnson

Greg has officially passed all the parts of the CPA exam. Congratulations!

**To all members, please let us know about your accomplishments or other milestones. We would love to celebrate with you.*

Angel Tree Reminder

The holidays are around the corner.

See the chapter [Angel Tree website link](#) . Contact Belinda Riley for more information.

Community Service

Hands on Atlanta Day 2017

Saturday October 7, 2017 at 9:00am

AGA Atlanta Chapter is very excited about our first volunteer event of the year. Saturday October 7, 2017 is Hands on Atlanta Day, AGA plans to be a part of this extraordinary event by partnering with Bunche Middle School in Atlanta, Georgia. Volunteers will create a koi pond on the school courtyard and beautify the campus with flowers and shrubs. AGA Atlanta takes pride in making a difference in the community.

To volunteer, please contact Carolyn Mcghee89@yahoo.com

November Meeting

November 16, 2017

Please sign up for the [next chapter meeting](#).

We hope to see you there for a technical data learning event.

November Meeting Challenge - Bring one person with you to the November meeting!

We had a great turn out for the September meeting. Now we want to see more members and friends enjoy learning, lunching and networking together. Ask a business associate today!

Newsletter Updates

Submit milestones or your ideas for newsletter publication

Contact Jerry O'Hara at 404.771.4800 or email to johara@cdc.gov