

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Baton Rouge
Chapter

JANUARY 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!

**LEARN ABOUT THE
UPCOMING NLT!
(PG. 14)**



**UPCOMING WEBINARS
& EVENTS!
(PG. 13)**



A Message from The Chapter President

Dear AGA Members and Friends,

As we welcome the new year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and involvement with our chapter. Together, we have accomplished so much, and I am excited about the opportunities and growth the upcoming year will bring for us all.

The strength of AGA Baton Rouge lies in the passion and dedication of each member, and I'm looking forward to seeing how we can continue to build on our successes in 2025. From engaging events and insightful trainings to fostering new connections and advancing professional development, I am confident that this year will be one of our best yet.

Let's continue to work together to elevate our chapter, support each other, and push the boundaries of excellence in governmental financial management. Thank you for being a vital part of this amazing community.

Here's to a prosperous and impactful new year!

As always, thank you for your continued dedication to AGA.

Warm regards,

**Miranda Maten
President
AGA Baton Rouge Chapter**

02/15

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AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



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.



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: 2024 Board Members



Barbara Aguillard **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.



Ramona Harris **Director of Education**

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.



AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 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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WELCOMING OUR NEWEST AGA MEMBERS!

Don Johnson



06/15

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Baton Rouge
Chapter

WISHING A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AGA MEMBERS!

- **Travonda Brown**
- **Russell Champagne**
- **Marella A. Houghton, CPA**
- **Ashley Dromgoole**



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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



JOIN US



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, EMAIL US AT 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

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

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Baton Rouge
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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



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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



12/15

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National Events



Webinar: GASB Update

Wednesday, February 5, 2025
2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: AUDG
Program Level: Overview
Prerequisite: None
Advance Preparation: None required
Field of Study: Auditing -
Governmental (AUDG)

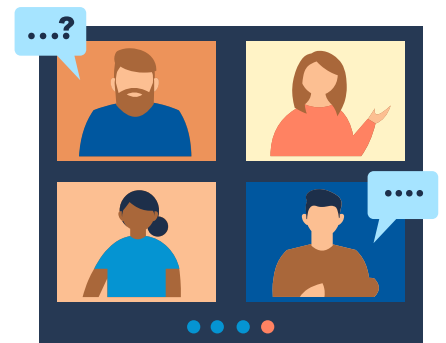
[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



Webinar: ERM

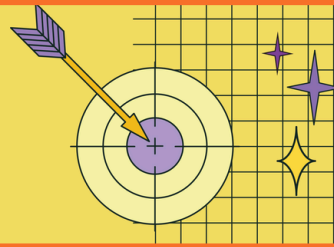
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: IT
Program Level: Overview
Prerequisite: None
Advance Preparation: None required
Field of Study: Information Technology (IT)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



National Leadership Training 2025

February 19–20, 2025
Washington, D.C. or Virtual



Date: February 19–20, 2025

Location: [Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center](#)
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

[Click Here To View The Full Agenda!](#)

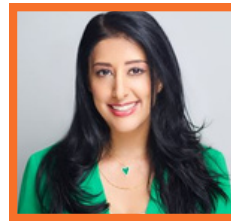
Register to attend National Leadership Training 2025 on February 19–20, 2025, in Washington, D.C., and gain valuable insights from leading government financial management professionals and industry experts. Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your leadership skills and network with peers from across the industry.

NLT 2025

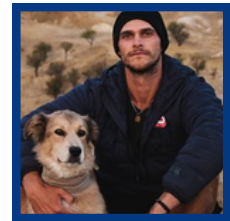
Featured Speakers



Damon Dunn
Former NFL player & Self-Made Entrepreneur: From Poverty to Founder of Multiple Successful Companies



Neelu Kaur
Organizational Psychologist & Self-Advocacy Champion



Tom Turcich
Author & 10th Person to Walk Around the World

EARN UP TO 14 CPE HOURS!

Registration & Fees



	Online Registration	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$550	\$575
Standard	\$650	\$675
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$725	\$750
Standard	\$825	\$850

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

What NLT 2024 attendees are saying:

"The AGA NLT cannot be beaten when attending in person. The people and connections made were truly inspiring and life enriching!"

–Helen M. Perraglio, CPA, CFO, Los Alamos County

"What I liked most about the AGA I had an opportunity to hear from other governmental workers and how they have learned to strive in the changing work environment."

–Christopher Cavett, Accounting Supervisor, Mississippi Dept of Human Services

"Once again, AGA exceeded my expectations for NLT. After last year's great presentations, I was expecting excellence, and I got more than that. The speakers were knowledgeable, relevant, and eloquent, and the technology was seamless. I'll be bringing back some great insights to my agency."

–Tami Abramowitz, Federal Student Aid office of the Department of Education

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Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

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



Nashville, Tennessee

July 27–30, 2025

Gaylord Opryland Hotel



Dallas, Texas

July 26–29, 2026

Gaylord Texan Hotel



Chicago, Illinois

July 18–21, 2027

Hyatt Regency Chicago