

## President's Message

Kieran Coe

Greetings,

We've crossed the halfway mark of our program year and we're finishing off strong with four more luncheons and a networking event planned for the spring. As usual, our presenters have been amazing and we have four more that are sure to be just as good. We are in the early stages of planning our Spring networking event; if you would like to assist in the planning efforts, or have any ideas please reach out to Khiry at [Khiry.burke@us.gt.com](mailto:Khiry.burke@us.gt.com).

I'd like to thank our January speaker, R.J. DeSilva. Mr. DeSilva gave an informative presentation of about the revenue sources, layouts, and history of our State's Rainy Day Fund.

The next luncheon will be held on February 14th. Our guest speaker will be Charu Pelnekar, presenting the Auditor's Role in Systems Development and Software Select Projects. If you haven't been to a luncheon this year, our new location is at the new Pappadeaux North off of 183. We have a lot more room in our new venue so feel free to join us!

I'd like to welcome a couple new members: Ann E. Zigmond from Teacher Retirement System and Charles W. Kemp Sr. from Dept. of Veteran Affairs. Hopefully we have the pleasure of meeting you at a luncheon or two.

As always, we are looking for additional participation on the board and committees. Please reach out to any of our committee members if you would like to get involved. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the chapter. See you all on February 14th!

## Key Dates:

<b>February 6, 2019</b>	Webinar - GASB Update ( <a href="http://www.agacgfm.com">www.agacgfm.com</a> )
<b>February 14, 2019</b>	CPE Luncheon – Charu Pelnekar
<b>March 6, 2019</b>	Webinar – Finance: Updates to the New Tax Reform ( <a href="http://www.agacgfm.com">www.agacgfm.com</a> )
<b>March 14, 2019</b>	CPE Luncheon - Leita Hart-Fanta, YellowBook-CPE.com
<b>March 27, 2019</b>	Webinar – Cybersecurity: Cybersecurity is Everybody's Business! ( <a href="http://www.agacgfm.com">www.agacgfm.com</a> )
<b>April 10, 2019</b>	Webinar – Ethics ( <a href="http://www.agacgfm.com">www.agacgfm.com</a> )
<b>April 11, 2019</b>	CPE Luncheon - Terry Follmer, Vice President of Internal Audit, Capital Metropolitan Transit
<b>April 18, 2019</b>	AGA Austin Chapter Networking Event

### Follow us

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-of-government-accountants-austin-chapter/>

 [communication@agaustin.org](mailto:communication@agaustin.org)

 <https://www.agaustin.org>

 @AGACGFM

# February CPE Luncheon

## Charu Pelnekar

By Priscilla Suggs

The AGA Austin Chapter will host its February 2019 luncheon at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen located at 11617 Research Boulevard, Austin, TX. We welcome Charu Pelnekar as our speaker for this event.

Mr. Pelnekar has over 20 years of national and international experience encompassing Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC), audits, personnel development, IT Security, Vulnerability Management, Data Security, Security Frameworks, Risk Management, and Strategic IT Management. He has worked with various organizations assisting them with recognizing enterprise impact and make strategic decisions to add value to their evolving business and technology.



Sign up for the next CPE luncheon at:

<https://www.agaustin.org/cpe-events/event6.html>



Member: \$29  
Non-member: \$34

# Membership News

By Khiry Burke

The Chapter reported 107 active members at the end of January, including 8 new members that joined in the 2018-2019 chapter year. The following members joined the Chapter in January: Ms. Ann Zigmund and Ms. Analise Lopez

Mr. Greg McLaughlin celebrated his 20 year anniversary in February 2019

Membership can be renewed at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

## Member Types

### Government - \$100/year

For individuals who work directly for government, academia and not-for-profit organizations.

### Private Sector - \$160/year

For sole proprietors and individuals working for private companies, corporations or partnerships.

### Young Professional - \$45/ year

For young professionals with fewer than three years of ANY experience.

### Student – FREE Electronic Membership!

For full-time college students who are not employed.

### Retired

For current AGA members who have permanently retired.

### Lifetime

Lifetime membership is bestowed upon those individuals who have been an AGA member for 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. Memberships are awarded each January.

### Groups

Government groups of five or more people can get discounts on AGA's national training events.

# Past Events

By Bhakti Patel  
Picture credit: Sharita Jefferson

The Chapter hosted its January CPE luncheon at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen on January 10, 2019. Mr. R.J. DeSilva discussed the state's Rainy Day Fund, its origin, evolution and current status. Twenty-four individuals attended the monthly luncheon. The winner of the January raffle, a \$25 Best Buy giftcard, was Susan Oballe.



From left to right: Priscilla Suggs, Eddie Chan, R.J DeSilva, Bhakti Patel and Patti Roana



January luncheon attendees, Lesli Cathey, Lorna Schwimmer and Adrienne Melton



Susan Oballe, January raffle winner and Kieran Coe, Chapter President

# CEC Meeting Minutes

By Elba Morales

## January 17, 2019

1. Roll call
  - a. In attendance: Sharita Jefferson, Kiera Coe, David Vasquez, Elba Morales, Bhakti Patel and Khiry Burke
2. Commencement of CEC Meeting
3. Monthly Luncheons
  - a. Debrief of December Luncheon – all CPE's were issued
  - b. Plans for next month/ February speaker
    - i. Sharita perhaps had someone to speak
    - ii. Kieran sent the follow-up and the allotted time to speak; he confirmed
    - iii. Still need the bio, topics and the headshot- awaiting to hear back from him
4. Status of monthly newsletter
  - a. Kieran has minor things to change in the President's message
  - b. Elba will send the meeting minutes for December 2018
  - c. Approval of the newsletter today or tomorrow
  - d. Published by tomorrow or the weekend
  - e. Email will be sent out for February submission
5. SLM Attendees
  - a. Elba is interested in going
  - b. Others TBD
  - c. Kieran will send an email
6. Annual budget
  - a. Sent to CEC last month
7. Recruitment (Paying for Lunches)
  - a. If students are not in attendance, discussion of sponsoring State employee
  - b. One of Sharita's co-workers, who is new to the State could be a good candidate
  - c. Luncheon fee was increased to pay the student's lunches
  - d. Discussion - clarify who can be considered
  - e. The Board will be inviting one -time sponsorship for any State employee, any age that is NEW- less than 6 months when student spots are not taken.
8. University Initiative
  - a. Update – Committee Call immediately after this meeting

# CEC Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

9. Social Media
  - a. Elba will meet with Priscilla to look over the social media accounts, get important announcements: newsletters and luncheons
  - b. Pictures get uploaded by Sharita; Elba will pull those to post
10. Networking Event Update – Partnering
  - a. Making the decision today; Issue: the location; can be the Women’s Club, however, members will not go downtown due to parking and traffic
  - b. Location is still to be determined
  - c. Save the Date was put in their newsletter
  - d. Meeting with IIA
    - i. Deloitte- AG member in Austin – Khiry
    - ii. Set up a table while at the networking event
    - iii. Needed: item budget, ask a lot of questions and see what is included in the “free” charge
11. Committee Reports
  - a. Treasurer (Dave) - *None*
  - b. Secretary (Elba) - Sending the meeting minutes
  - c. Communications Committee (Bhakti) - *None*
  - d. Membership (Khiry) - *None*
  - e. Professional Certifications Committee (Patti) – *not in attendance*
  - f. Education/ Programs Committee (Vacant)
  - g. Community Service Committee (Priscilla) – *not in attendance*
  - h. Webmaster (Eddie) – *not in attendance*
  - i. Research (Debi) – *not in attendance*
  - j. Historian (Sharita)- Send information to David regarding the receipt and information about donation
  - k. Early Careers (Tosha) – *not in attendance*
  - l. Bylaws - VACANT

# Community Service

By Priscilla Suggs

## 2019 SXSW Volunteer Registration is now open!

When: SXSW Volunteer Calls: February 10<sup>th</sup> and February 23<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Where: Austin Convention Center,  
500 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX 78701

Sign-up: <https://volunteer.sxsw.com/register/>

SXSW offers two volunteer types: All Conference and Music Venue. Access the webpage here:

<https://volunteer.sxsw.com/volunteer-types-requirements/>



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## Clean Lady Bird Lake organized by Keep Austin Beautiful and the Sierra Club

When: February 9, 2019; 9:00 am–11:00 am

Starting Location: Congress Avenue Kayaks (74 Trinity Street, Waller Creek Boathouse, Austin, TX 78701)

Sign-Up: [https://www.givepulse.com/event/97931-Clean-Lady-Bird-Lake?referring\\_group\\_id=51&wkey=da7454ba2164b61b5587199cfc97db87](https://www.givepulse.com/event/97931-Clean-Lady-Bird-Lake?referring_group_id=51&wkey=da7454ba2164b61b5587199cfc97db87)

Join hundreds of volunteers at 25 locations around the lake to give some extra care to the lake and trails. Sign-up to participate in a shoreline cleanup that does not involve boats; this event coordinated at the shoreline by Congress Avenue Kayaks and will be led by the Sierra Club cleanup. All ages are welcome at this site with adult supervision.



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# Community Service (cont'd)

## Austin Marathon Water Aid Station volunteer for Austin Partners In Education

When: Feb. 17 at 7:30AM – 2:00PM; 2 shifts available.

Where: 3227 E 5th S. Austin, TX 78702

Register:

<https://eventdog.com/a/volpage.php?eID=711&token=1201&vollID=54>

Austin Partners in Education is honored to be an official charity of the Austin Marathon and they will be manning the mile 22 Aid Station during the race. They need 50 volunteers to hand out water and cheer the runners on! To honor your time, they are offering two shifts. This is a great volunteer opportunity for all ages!



Once you have completed registration please email to let APIE know if you would prefer to work the morning from 7:30am - 10:30am, the afternoon from 11:00am - 2:00pm or both! [apanter@austinpartners.org](mailto:apanter@austinpartners.org)

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# Industry News

## Changing LEAN Government from Incremental Improvement to Sweeping Agency Transformation

By Brian Renstrom

Submitted by: Debi Weyer

Wouldn't you agree that while management teams struggle to institutionalize a LEAN program they often discover that it provides little value when a clear strategic vision to give it context and meaning is absent? We all know the importance of context when making choices and determining priorities. The decisions that we make can be polar opposites depending on the circumstances in which alternatives are weighed. But organizations seldom consider setting a context when instituting process improvement and monitoring apparatus.

The LEAN approach is a well-known and often misused process improvement tool because it is regularly implemented without the benefit of a well-articulated strategic vision. In the absence of sufficient context, the archetypal LEAN effort overstates operational efficiency at the cost of proficient strategic execution.

Without a solid understanding of the "big" picture in place, a quick fix here can result in a bigger problem over there, e.g., a shuttling of the problem further downstream to another department. Stated another way, "Without the necessary context to set direction and to guide decision-making, how can we be sure that the changes that we're proffering and, for that matter, measuring are the 'right' things for our agency?" Simply put, we can't!

It is for this reason that BlumShapiro approaches its LEAN Government engagements with a much broader perspective in mind.

### *A Better Approach to LEAN Government*

LEAN work must be framed by an agency's strategic framework in order to deliver desired improvements and stripping of waste from core processes. Characteristics like the following must be considered:

# Industry News (cont'd)

- Management Style
- Customer Demographics
- Growth Strategies
- Service Delivery
- Reputation
- Operating Model
- Workforce
- Governance Frameworks
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Leadership Models
- Product/Service Sets
- Service Distribution
- Community/Stakeholder Partnerships
- Organizational Structure
- Process Transformation
- Performance Metrics
- Project Portfolios (Work Management Structures)
- Communication Infrastructure (Internal/External)

With the right foundation for understanding in place, LEAN efforts can be conducted that will more adequately support agency management's ability to monitor their organization's progress towards the achievement of its key strategies and better delivery of its core mission.

Likewise, any related initiatives (recognized through an improved approach to LEAN) required to realize an Agency's key business strategies can more readily be identified and folded into a strategic plan for the organization. In this way, related projects that are essential for lasting transformation (like those aimed at vision achievement, employee empowerment, engagement and trust, for example) are better understood and accepted by an agency's senior leadership.

## Summary

The typical LEAN effort, that has the tendency to move problems and backlogs downstream, overemphasizes "quick and dirty" change at the expense of overall agency execution. This needs to shift. The desire for incremental change, like that which is achieved through traditional LEAN, must be retired and replaced by a broader perspective for transformative change. After all, does gaining a better understanding of "the average time spent answering emails" mean much if employee engagement and worker trust are low?

To close, the amalgamation of agency vision and strategy used to inform LEAN programs will heighten new ways of thinking and doing. Indeed, the approach can provide a strategic platform from which to introduce new programs, and extend existing programs, that better position state agencies to be more responsive and broader-reaching enterprises.

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## Other Chapter and National News

### PDT Awards of Distinction

Awards of Distinction are presented annually at AGA's Professional Development Training (PDT) and recognize individuals and chapters for their contributions to AGA and the government financial management community. Nominations for 2019 awards will be accepted beginning in January and will be due March 31. Visit [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) for more information.

### AGA Austin Networking Event

The Austin Chapter is hosting its annual networking event on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Details to follow.

**Have you received an award or recognition at work or in your community? Have you reached a personal milestone? We want to hear about it and share the news!!**

**Submit your milestone or achievement to Communications Chair, Bhakti Patel at [bhakti.patel@us.gt.com](mailto:bhakti.patel@us.gt.com) so we can recognize you in our next newsletter!**

# Treasurer's Reports

By David Vasquez

For the period ended December 31, 2019

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>	<b>12/1/2018</b>		<b>\$2,962.86</b>
<i>Funds Received:</i>			
12/1/2018	ACH Square - Dec Luncheon X 2 @\$29.00 / \$30 Donation (Less Fees)		\$84.55
12/5/2018	ACH Square - Dec Luncheon X 1 @\$29.00 (Less Fees)		\$28.20
12/11/2018	ACH Square - Dec Luncheon X 1 @\$29.00 / \$75 Donation (Less Fees)		\$128.24
12/12/2018	ACH Square - Dec Luncheon X 2 @\$34.00 / 1 @\$29.00 (Less Fees)		\$93.28
12/13/2018	ACH Square - Dec Luncheon X 2 @\$29.00 / \$45 Donation (Less Fees)		\$99.45
12/14/2018	ACH Square - Dec Luncheon X 3 @\$34.00 (Less Fees)		\$98.13
12/1/2018	Dividend through	12/1/2018	\$0.24
	<b>Total Funds Received</b>		<b>\$532.09</b>
<b>Funds Available</b>			<b>\$3,494.95</b>
<i>Funds Expended:</i>			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check No./Credit Card.</i>		
12/14/2018	Bank Card	CASA Gift card donations	\$150.00
12/14/2018	Bank Card	December 13 Luncheon - Pappadea	\$773.75
	<b>Total Funds Expended</b>		<b>\$923.75</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>12/31/2018</b>		<b>\$2,571.20</b>
<b>Check Register Reconciliation:</b>			
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>12/31/2018</b>		<b>\$2,571.20</b>
<i>Outstanding Checks:</i>			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	
	<b>Total Outstanding Checks</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>Outstanding Deposits:</i>			
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	
	<b>Total Outstanding Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Adjusted Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>12/31/2018</b>		<b>\$2,571.20</b>
<b>Total Chapter Funds Available Per Check Register</b>	<b>12/31/2018</b>		<b>\$2,571.20</b>
<i>Cash On Hand:</i>			
		CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
		Luncheon Bank	\$40.00

# AGA Austin Chapter 2018-2019 Officers and Directors

**Kieran Coe**

President

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**Vacant**

President - Elect

**David Vasquez**

Treasurer

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**Patti Roano**

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**Khiry Burke**

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**Chapter Historian**

Sharita Jefferson

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**Regional Vice President**

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