

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2024



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!

Student Membership Opportunities: Join AGA for *FREE* as a Full-Time Student! (PG. 11)



UPCOMING WEBINARS & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES! (PG. 13)

01/17



A Message from The Chapter President

Dear AGA Baton Rouge Chapter Members,

As we embark on the journey of reviving our chapter in 2024, I want to extend a warm welcome to each of you. Over the past months, we've been navigating the challenges brought on by the pandemic, which led to a period of inactivity for our chapter. However, I'm thrilled to announce that we are revitalizing our efforts and are committed to being more active than ever before.

We recognize that our chapter's activities need to evolve to meet the changing needs and interests of our members. With this in mind, we're excited to announce our plans for the upcoming year, which include a diverse range of engaging events and initiatives.

Here's a glimpse of what's in store:

- A lively Crawfish Boil event to celebrate our local culture and foster camaraderie among members.
- Collaboration with the New Orleans Chapter for a joint event, offering opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing.
- A series of insightful webinars covering topics relevant to government financial management and professional development.
- An entertaining Member Services Virtual Bingo Night, providing a fun and interactive way to connect with fellow members.
- A festive Holiday Event to wrap up the year on a joyous note and strengthen the bonds within our community.
- Student Engagement to support/prepare our future leaders.

These activities represent just the beginning of what promises to be an exciting year ahead. We are committed to offering a diverse array of events that cater to the interests and preferences of our members, both in-person and virtually.

As we move forward, we encourage all members to actively participate in chapter activities, share ideas, and engage with one another. Together, we can shape a vibrant and thriving community that supports the professional growth and success of all its members.

Wishing each of you a prosperous and fulfilling year ahead, filled with opportunities for growth, connection, and achievement.

Warm Regards,

Miranda Maten

President, AGA Baton Rouge Chapter

02/17

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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.

03/17

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AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 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.



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.

04/17

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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.



Danette Delome

Director of Community Service

Danette Delome, Director of Community Service, has over 20 years of experience in accounting (13 years in the private sector and 7 years in the public sector). Has a Bachelor of Science Accounting degree and is currently working on obtaining her Master's of Science Accounting.



05/17

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Baton Rouge
Chapter



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**

06/17

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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

07/17

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Baton Rouge
Chapter



STUDENTS: JOIN AGA FOR FREE!

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.

AGA Benefits:



Scholarships: Academic scholarships, leadership development, hands-on experience in government finance, and data science competitions with cash prizes!

Career Coaching & Professional Opportunity: Career coaching, mentoring programs, and access to a professional community offering networking, real-world experience, and exciting opportunities!

Tools & Resources: Join AGA as a student for valuable tools and resources like the Accountability Talks podcast featuring government thought leaders, and access to guest speakers for insights into government careers!

08/17

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ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS



PODCAST
Show



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.

09/17

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Lead24! Event



Our Baton Rouge Chapter recently participated in workshops and networking sessions, actively engaged in forging invaluable connections and swapping strategies on how to take our chapter to new heights! Get ready, because 2024 is about to be EPIC!



10/17

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CBA HONORS CEREMONY



**Congratulations to Cameron Duhon, Ronal Santos,
and Alexander Hebert for receiving scholarship
awards at the College Business of Honors Ceremony at
Nicholls State University!**

Each of them has won \$450, a testament to their hard
work and dedication. We are proud to support these
bright minds in their academic journey!

11/17

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Upcoming Webinars & Events

You Do Not Want to Miss Out!

SAVE THE DATE



WEBINAR



Discover a pathway to professional excellence with AGA's exclusive professional development sessions, designed to elevate your skills and knowledge from March through June 2024. Delve into one-hour virtual presentations crafted around AGA's acclaimed "Professional Polish in the Public Sector" course, curated to empower CGFMs like you. Led by the renowned expert Kimberly Jones, these webinars promise insightful strategies and practical insights to enhance your capabilities and succeed in the dynamic realm of government financial management. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and propel your career forward – join us for these enriching sessions!

12/17

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2024 PERFORMANCE COUNTS SUMMIT

Attention AGA members: Free event for government employees! **Earn 4 CPEs.** Don't miss out!



Wednesday, May 1, 2024



11:50 AM-4:00 PM



Virtual

Join us at the Performance Counts 2024 Summit for insights on driving performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking in government. Discover ongoing initiatives, impacts of adoption, collaboration between executives, and lessons for accelerated outcomes.



Register to Attend the 2024 Performance Counts Summit, a Virtual Event!

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024,
11:50 AM-4:00 PM ET**

Attend the half-day virtual Performance Counts Summit and learn about:

- What current initiatives are underway to drive performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking across government.
- How are agencies adopting performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking practices and what are their impacts.
- How can performance improvement and audit and accountability executives work together to ensure a focus on performance and outcomes rather than just compliance.
- What lessons learned from performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking initiatives can agencies adopt to accelerate the achievement of important outcomes.



This event is free for AGA members who are employed by government, and you can earn 4 CPEs. Private-sector participation is available via sponsorship only.

***Click Here to
Register Now!***

13/17

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

**MAY 18,
2024**

**Join us for an exciting event as we
Unveil the Return of Baton Rouge AGA!**

Saturday, May 18, 2024

4:00 PM–6:00 PM

**North Sherwood Community Park:
Pavilion 4**

After a short break, we're back and more fired up than ever to make a positive impact in our community. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to our mission, we welcome you to join us on this exciting journey with our chapter. Mark your calendars for May 4th and get ready for an event that promises inspiration, connection, and empowerment!

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

**Increase Your Confidence,
Enhance Your Career**

**Thursday, May 9, 2024, 2:00
PM–3:00 PM ET
\$30 per Person**

A transformative webinar dedicated to enriching your professional life by boosting your self-confidence. Join us for an entertaining and insightful session where you'll discover practical strategies to develop a deeper appreciation for your abilities and qualities. Learn how increased confidence can positively impact your presentation skills, communication effectiveness, and overall interactions in the business environment. Gain valuable insights and actionable tips to project confidence, handle challenges with ease, and elevate your career trajectory. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and take your professional journey to new heights!

[Register Here!](#)

**Deadline to Register or Cancel is
May 7, 2024**



In-Person 2024 ERM Workshop

**Thursday, June 6, 2024 | 8:30 AM. – 3:45 PM ET
5.5 CPEs | \$160 per Person**

This in-person ERM workshop offers practical insights from ERM leaders through presentations and facilitated table discussions. Participants move from academic discussions to practical "how-to" explanations and examples, benefiting from small groups for hands-on work and Q&A opportunities.

[Click Here to Review the Agenda!](#)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

14/17

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Hooray!



How to Find "Happy"

Monday, June 24, 2024

2:00 PM-3:00 PM ET

\$30 per Person

A captivating webinar led by Kimberly Jones, designed to guide you through moments when happiness feels elusive. Join us for an entertaining journey filled with humor, personal stories, and practical step-by-step instructions that will help you gain a fresh perspective on both your personal and professional lives. Discover valuable insights and strategies to make finding your 'happy' easier and more achievable. This session promises to uplift and inspire, offering tools to navigate challenges with positivity and embrace joy in all aspects of life. Don't miss this opportunity to embark on a journey towards a happier and more fulfilling existence!

[Register Here!](#)

Important Details:

- **Registration and payment:** Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 2 days before the class start date. Space is limited. Payment is required by credit card at the time of registration. POs are not accepted.
- **Cancellation deadline:** The cancellation deadline for each session is 2 days before the start date. If the registrant does not attend the presentation, AGA will not issue credit toward any future training.
- **Login instructions and connectivity:** All sessions will be taught via Zoom. Upon registration, participants will receive a separate email with Zoom link information.
- **CPE credit:** During the opening remarks of each presentation, AGA will explain how you can receive your CPE certificate. In compliance with NASBA, AGA employs an attendance monitoring system. You **MUST** be able to view the PowerPoint slides on a device to verify your attendance.

CPE Information

Program level: Basic

Delivery method: Group internet-based (virtual)

Course prerequisite: None

Advance prep: None

CPE credit: 1 (per session)

Field of study: Personal Development

Learning Objectives:

- Increase your personal and professional confidence.
- Learn to let go of the past, center yourself and find happiness from within
- Recognize the importance of making and implementing a success plan to achieve your goals.
- Learn that criticism is often a form of love that can help you grow personally and professionally.

15/17

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Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

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



Denver, Colorado

July 14-17, 2024

**Sheraton Denver
Downtown Hotel**



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

AGA's Premier Training & Networking Event

July 14-17, 2024 | Denver
24 CPEs

Registration & Fees:

**Early Bird Deadline -
June 14, 2024**

	Online	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

Register Now!

Join AGA Now to Save \$200!

16/17

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Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful AGA Baton Rouge members who are celebrating this special day! Your love, strength, and dedication as mothers are truly inspiring, and we hope your day is filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with your loved ones.

To those among us who may be grieving the loss of a mother, or who find Mother's Day difficult for any reason, please know that you are not alone. We understand that this day can bring a mix of emotions, and we want you to know that we are here to offer our support and understanding. May you find comfort in the memories you hold dear and in the love that surrounds you from friends and family. ***You are valued and cherished members of our community, and we are here for you, today and always.***