



Volume 16-01 September 2016



President's Message

As the 2016-2017 Seattle AGA Chapter begins our new program year, I am pleased to introduce myself as your new Chapter President. My name is Mary Ann Hardy and I am a Senior Financial Auditor with the Government Accountability Office. I have served on the AGA Board for the past several years in a variety of roles, most recently as the Education Chair and Professional Development Training Chair in 2015-2016. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with my colleagues on the chapter board and our membership in these roles, and I am looking forward to getting to know all of our chapter members better this year. Our board met in May 2016 at a retreat focused on strategic planning for our upcoming year. Among other topics, we discussed ways to broaden the reach of our activities so they are more accessible for our chapter members outside the



downtown Seattle area. We also discussed ideas to retain and grow our membership and to attract interest in serving on the board. If you have suggestions for these matters, or other ideas you would like to contribute, please feel free to share them with me via email (hardym@gao.gov) or in person at our first luncheon meeting of the year on September 13, 2016. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Mary Ann Hardy

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Seattle Chapter:

Kim A. Holben, Senior Accountant, City of Issaquah

Karen L. Murphy, Controller

Jennifer D. Roper Gulsrud, Assoc Dir of SAES Finance and Admin, University of Washington

Upcoming Events

September 13 AGA: "Service, Certification & Empowerment" presented by Sandra Starnes CICA, CGFM, CPA

September 20-21 Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training presented in Washington DC and virtually.

October 13-14 CGFM Intensive Review Course & Exams

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THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

September 13, 2016

Speaker *Sandra Starnes CICA, CGFM, CPA*
Financial Manager Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe

Topic/Time *“AGA: Service, Certification & Empowerment”*

12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and networking prior to the presentation.

Place Government Accountability Office, Cascade Room,
Columbia Center - 37th Floor, 701 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Cost **AGA MEMBERS – Free NON-MEMBERS - \$5**

Menu Choices Bring your own lunch, or purchase a meal from Ingallina’s Box Lunch for \$15.00. Choose from the following meal options:

1. Roast Beef and Cheddar Sandwich
2. Cilantro Lime Chicken Salad
3. Pear and Bleu Cheese Salad (vegetarian)

RSVP Required Please **RSVP** to attend by **Thursday, September 8, 2016** to Mary Ann Hardy, hardym@gao.gov.

CPE 1 CPE awarded

AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2016-2017

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2016-2017! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success.

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.
Financial Manager Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe **AGA: Service, Certification & Empowerment"**

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.
TBD

Tuesday, November 16, 2016 - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.
Michael Jacobson, Deputy Director - Performance & Strategy King County Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget.

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.
Dean Ritz, Director of IP strategy for Workiva, Inc. on DATA Act

Tuesday, January 7, 2017 - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.
2016 Tax Update

Monday, February 13, 2017 - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.
Grants and Contracts

Tuesday, March 8, 2017 - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.
AGA webinar on Uniform Guidance

Monday April 1, 2017 - Columbia Tower Club
Emerald Award Presentation

Monday-Tuesday, May 1-2, 2017
2017 Government Accounting and Auditing Conference professional development training,
Location to be determined.

AN ENGINEER, A LAWYER AND AN AUDITOR WALK INTO A BAR:

After a few drinks, the three begin discussing the best way to find a needle in a haystack.

The engineer said the solution would be to get the world's most powerful electromagnet, hang it from a crane, and lower the magnet onto the haystack. After swishing the magnet around the haystack, the needle would then be located attached to the magnet.

The attorney's approach was to file a lawsuit against the manufacturer of the needle and the owner of the haystack, and then offer to drop the case if the needle was produced within 24 hours.

The Auditor said the proper method would be to take a handful of the hay and carefully examine it for the needle. If the needle was found, end of story. If not found, the auditor could then state with 97.5% confidence that the needle was never there in the first place.

AGA National Sponsored Training

Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training

Sept. 20-21 | Washington or virtual | 14 CPEs

Hear from expert speakers on issues like cybersecurity, improper payments, ethical leadership, vendor audits and more. To learn more, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Fraud-2016.aspx>

2016-2017 Webinars

AGA has scheduled the following webinars for the 2016-2017 Program Year.

See [<https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Learn-Online/Webinars/2015-2016-Offerings.aspx>] for more information about participating in these events.

Avoiding Surprises and Assessing Risks: Building on Today's Internal Controls

Sept. 14, 2016

Learn how governments across the country are strengthening their internal control processes by setting new parameters for risk management. These new parameters help governments identify challenges early, bring them to the attention of agency leadership and develop solutions.

Cyber/Big Data | Oct. 12, 2016

Fraud Toolkit Case Studies | Nov. 16, 2016

Ethics | Dec. 7, 2016

Getting Your Dollars to Work Harder: Blended and Braided Funding | Jan. 18, 2017

GASB | Feb. 8, 2017

Fraud/Risk | Feb. 22, 2017

Uniform Guidance | March 8, 2017

CFO/CIO Collaboration | March 29, 2017

Ethics | April 12, 2017

DATA Act | May 17, 2017

Fraud/Data Analytics | June 14, 2017

2016-2017 Member-Only Webinar Free Learning Events

Networking Up

Nov. 1 | 2-3 p.m. | 1 CPE | FOS: PD

The Fraud Tools: Case Studies

Feb. 23 | 2-3 p.m. | 1 CPE | FOS: AUD

CGFM Intensive Review Course & Exams

Sign up for *AGA's Intensive Review Course with CGFM examinations included - it's a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!*

The Intensive Review Course (IRC), offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Alexandria, Va., Oct. 13-14, 2016. The class will run 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is \$375 for AGA members and \$425 for non-members.

SPECIAL BONUS: The CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees — a \$375 savings!

Before You Register, Please Read

What is the Intensive Review Course? It is a special, limited enrollment opportunity for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM examinations and want extra reinforcement of the material. It is a review of the main topics covered on the CGFM examinations, led by a knowledgeable instructor.

What it's NOT: It is not a shortcut. It is not an exam prep course with strategies on how to pass the exams. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the three AGA instructor-led training courses. It is usually not enough, by itself, to prepare for the CGFM examinations - advance preparation is strongly recommended.

Registration

To participate in this event, individuals must:

1. Submit the CGFM program application form and a copy of an official transcript from an accredited college or university. The official transcript must show that a degree (bachelor's or higher) was awarded, with the award date. Applicant's name and the name of the college or university must appear on all transcripts.
2. Pre-register for this event. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis. Space is limited, and the event may fill up and close before the registration deadline, so we encourage you to sign up early. **Registrations will not be accepted after Sept. 30.**

For further information, go to

<https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/About-CGFM.aspx>

Learn to Prepare Taxes by Becoming a Tax Volunteer

The IRS is looking for people to provide free tax help in 2017. Become a [tax volunteer](#) and make a difference in your community.

The IRS sponsors the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. These two programs offer free tax help across the country for people with low-to-moderate incomes. This year, [VITA and TCE](#) volunteers prepared more than 3.7 million federal tax returns at no cost to families across the country.

Here are five good reasons why you should consider becoming a VITA or TCE volunteer.

1. **Flexible hours.** Volunteers generally serve an average of three to five hours per week. The programs are usually open from mid-January through the tax filing deadline in April. A few sites are open all year.
2. **VITA and TCE sites are often nearby and need your help.** Nearly 12,000 sites were set up in neighborhoods all over the country for this past filing season. They are often set up in community centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and similar places. Chances are good that you can volunteer at a site near you.
3. **No prior experience needed.** You'll receive specialized training and can serve in a variety of roles. If you are fluent in another language, you may be able to help those who speak that language.
4. **Free tax law training and materials.** Learn how to prepare basic tax returns and learn about all the tax deductions and credits that benefit eligible taxpayers.

Continuing education credits for tax pros. Enrolled Agents and non-credentialed tax return preparers can earn credits when volunteering as a VITA/TCE instructor, quality reviewer or tax return preparer. See the [IRS fact sheet](#) for more information on Continuing Education Credits.

As a volunteer, you'll join a program that's helped millions of people file tax returns at no charge for more than 40 years. Your help will make a difference. It's people helping people. It's that simple.

To find out more, visit [IRS.gov](#) and type "tax volunteer" in the search box. If you'd like to become a volunteer, you will need to submit your volunteer interest information on [IRS.gov](#) at [IRS Tax Volunteers](#).

AGA Board Members Sandra Starnes and Tim Dobler participated as tax volunteers during last year's tax season. This is a great opportunity to give something back to the community and demonstrate our chapter's commitment to volunteerism. Please feel free to give Sandra or Tim a call if you would like further details.

Financial Condition as of July 31, 2016

Checking	\$ 2,841.74
Savings	\$ 4,061.59
12 Month Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$ 4,647.76</u>
Total Assets	\$11,551.09
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 11,551.09</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	\$11,551.09

Cash Flow Report, as of July 31, 2016

Beginning Cash Balance	<u>\$10,575.50</u>
Board Dinner Costs	<u>(\$ 435.70)</u>
Subtotal Cash Expended	<u>(\$435.70)</u>
Cash Deposits	
AGA Dues Received	\$ 51.83
WSCPAs Partnership Conference Income	\$1,357.52
Interest Income	\$ 1.94
Subtotal Cash Deposits	<u>\$1,411.29</u>
Net Cash Change	<u>\$ 975.59</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u>\$11,551.09</u>



AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

The purpose of the Association and the Chapter is to be an international, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of government financial management. The Association shall serve its members by providing or sponsoring appropriate educational programs, encouraging professional development, influencing governmental financial management policies and practices, and serving as an advocate for the profession. The Association shall serve government officials and the public by sponsoring efforts to ensure full and fair accountability for all public monies, and by providing a variety of pro bono services throughout the United States and its territories that support that end.

AGA Seattle Chapter 2016-2017 Board Members

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Open

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This newsletter was produced by board member Tim Dobler, with the assistance of Karyn Angulo. Thanks to chapter members who contributed articles and photos for this issue. Masthead Photo by Diane MaKaeli.