



TALLAHASSEE CHAPTER

Association of Government Accountants



Florida's Capital City

2015-16 Program Year
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November 2015 Volume 2

A Message from Chapter President Patrick Cowen, CPA, CISA, CIA



AGA Members and Friends,

By the time you read this, your Tallahassee AGA Chapter will have provided 33 hours of CPE since September 1st, covering a myriad of topics including fraud, teamwork, and of course the CGFM. More importantly, the average cost for those 33 hours is less than \$7 per credit hour for chapter members. We still have a number of additional CPE opportunities coming throughout the chapter year, including our annual Government Training Event. You may have noticed we changed the name of our annual conference to better represent the numerous and different types of educational sessions available at this event. Although the name has changed, the quality of training will still be exceptional.

During our October luncheon, as Coach Semrau was talking about teamwork, it reminded me that all of us in the government accounting profession are on the same team. We may work in different state agencies, for the City of Tallahassee, or for Leon County, but all of us are a team. As a team of governmental accounting and financial professionals, we are all doing our part to make our government run effectively and serve those who rely on the services our branch of government provides. What an amazing responsibility we have! I am proud to be on your team. Keep up the good work!

There are several upcoming opportunities where you will be able to serve our citizens through community service events our chapter is participating in. As we have done in previous years, we are providing food at Thanksgiving to the Ronald McDonald House and participating in the Elder Elf program. Please consider how you can help people in need during this holiday season. We will provide more information about these two wonderful opportunities in the coming days.

I am writing this as Veterans Day approaches, and in closing, on behalf of the AGA Board of Directors I want to thank those of you who are veterans for the sacrifices you and your families have made for the rest of us. We owe a debt to you that will never be fully appreciated or repaid. Thank you and we salute you!!!

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Cowen, CPA, CISA, CIA
President, Tallahassee Chapter

Chapter Luncheon Recaps

At the Tallahassee Chapter's October 2015 luncheon meeting we were pleased to welcome Sue Semrau, Head Coach of the Women's Basketball team at Florida State University. Sue spoke on the "Importance of Unity within a Team Working Together for a Goal." With her experience in fostering the personal and professional growth of the student athletes she coaches, she provided an exciting presentation on unity and teamwork, emphasizing the strength of a unit working together.

At our November 2015 meeting we were also pleased to have Debra Clark of the Florida Office of the Auditor General speak on the very timely topic of "IT Risk Assessment and Security Plans." Debra provided valuable information regarding guidance to the federal government with respect to IT risk assessments and how they relate to state government. She covered areas such as information systems and data, security requirements, privacy controls, and how those controls are included in a security plan.

We thank all of our speakers for taking the time to present timely and informative subjects to our members and friends.



Sue Semrau speaks at the October AGA Luncheon.



Chapter President Patrick Cowen addresses the luncheon attendees.

Another Successful CGFM Training

On October 28-30, 2015, the Chapter sponsored a training course for CGFM Examination 2, Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting. This course covered the general principles of governmental financial accounting and performance reporting, and budgeting, as well as the unique aspects of both federal, state and local financial accounting, and reporting. We had 26 attendees and we thank our members and friends who registered for the course; we plan to sponsor another CGFM training in Fall 2016.



The CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. Learn more about the CGFM certification at this [link](#).

SAVE THE DATE! - Tallahassee Chapter AGA 2016 Government Training Event is Scheduled

The Tallahassee Chapter is pleased to announce its *7th Annual Government Accounting Conference*, renamed **Government Training Event**. This event is scheduled for **February 11-12, 2016**, and will host superlative speakers presenting on relevant topics. Global AGA President John Homan is among the presenters who have committed to speak. Others include:



- Jeff Barbacci, Audit Partner, Thomas Howell Ferguson, P.A.
- Laura Brock, Managing Director, Mayor Hoffman McCann P.C.
- Shawna Flanders, CEO/Trainer-Consultant at Business Technology Guidance Associates, LLC.
- Ash Williams, Executive Director, Florida State Board of Administration
- Jack Reagan, Partner, Audit Services, Global Public Sector, Grant Thornton, LLP
- Lisa Parker, Project Manager, Government Accounting Standards Board
- Lynda Dennis, Lecturer, University of Central Florida and AICPA Consultant
- Michael W. Schroth, IT and Compliance Audit Manager, City of Atlanta

Mark your calendars NOW!

Chapter Awards and Scholarships

The Tallahassee Chapter AGA is sponsoring several Chapter Awards to formally recognize individuals or organizations that have promoted excellence in government accountability and financial management. Awards are presented for **Advancing Government Accountability and Excellence in Government Leadership Awards** (to be presented in February 2016 at the Chapter's Annual Government Training Event.) You likely know someone who deserves recognition, now is the time to consider making a nomination.

The Tallahassee AGA Chapter offers two \$500 scholarships to two undergraduate or graduate students to encourage those who are interested in the governmental finance and accounting disciplines. The scholarships will also be awarded during the 2016 Annual Government Training Event.

Links to the award and scholarship nomination forms are located at www.tallahasseeaga.org, click on the Awards link at the top of the page. If you have questions, on the awards or scholarships, please contact us at TallahasseeAGA@gmail.com

Citizen Centric Reporting

The AGA's Citizen Centric Reporting (CCR) Initiative is intended to foster innovative means of communication between governments and their citizenry. AGA believes that government financial information should be provided in a format that is clear and understandable, updated regularly, delivered to all, easy to locate, honest, and technically accurate.



The Chapter submits an annual CCR report to AGA each year. Please click this [link](#) to read the Chapter's current CCR report.

Community Service Activities

In September, the Chapter participated in the Annual Sickle Cell Run/Walk to support the Sickle Cell Foundation. In October, the Chapter participated in the WFSU Radio Fall Pledge Drive. The drive was a success with 1,125 total pledges for over \$131,000!



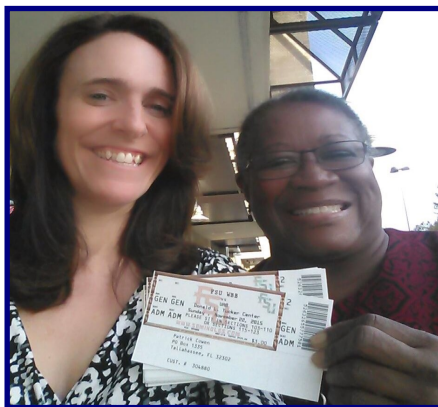
Here are the upcoming Chapter will participate with the following activities:

- On **November 25**, the Chapter will be providing a full meal to families at the Ronald McDonald House. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to participate by providing a food item or a monetary contribution towards this event. If you would like to help deliver food to the Ronald McDonald House, please contact Ernestine Jackson.
- The Chapter will be providing gifts to local seniors through the Elder Care Services Elder Elf Program. Elder Care Services has provided the Chapter with names and wish list items for local seniors. The Chapter will make arrangements to pick up your gifts and provide deliver them to Elder Care Services. If you are interested in participating, the gifts will be due to Ernestine Jackson by **December 10** for delivery to the Elder Care Services by **December 14**.
- Again this year, the Tallahassee Chapter is making an awareness to recognize fallen heroes through the "Wreaths Across America" organization. Wreaths Across America needs your assistance in placing wreaths at the graves of our nations veterans. A wreath laying ceremony will take place on **December 12, 2015**, in all 50 states. Please consider sponsoring a wreath to honor the women and men of the armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

If you are interested in participating in our upcoming activities, please contact Ernestine Jackson at Ernestne.Jackson@deo.myflorida.com



Pictures at left from the 2015 Fall WFSU Radio Pledge Drive



Above: Community Service Chairperson Ernestine Jackson (on right) presents Girls on the Run Big Bend Executive Director Ericka McKibbin (on left) with a donation of 50 FSU Women's Basketball tickets in honor of FSU Coach Sue Semrau at our October 2015 Luncheon.



Above: September 2015 Sickle Cell Walk

AGA Gulf Region News

Mark your calendars now, the AGA Gulf Region PDT is scheduled for April 11-12, 2016, in Montgomery, Alabama. Exciting speakers and topics are planned again for this year. Stay tuned for further information!



AGA National News

Inspector General Survey: Accelerating Change

The AGA Corporate Partner Advisory Group Survey Series issued the results of a survey in September 2015 titled, "Accelerating Change." This survey provided the results of responses from Federal Inspectors General in areas regarding resource allocation, budget, operations, human resources, data analytics, cybersecurity, IT auditing, and future challenges faced by the IG community. The report is available at this [link](#).

2016 Collegiate Leadership Program

The AGA's Young Professionals Focus Group announces the 2016 Collegiate Leadership Program is now accepting applications. The YPFG plans to select five students to attend the 2016 National Leadership Training Event to be held in Washington on February 23-24, 2016. The application deadline is December 7, 2015. The criteria and application is located at this [link](#).

AGA 2014-2015 Member Centric Report

AGA National has issued its most recent Citizen Centric Report to the membership highlighting its accomplishments, summarizing financial condition and projecting future activities. Read the report at this [link](#).



2016 AGA Professional Development Training

The AGA 2016 National PDT will be held July 17-20, 2016, in Anaheim, California, and will offer up to 24.5 continuing professional education hours. AGA's PDT is the place to connect with a variety of government financial experts and industry colleagues from around the nation facing the same or similar issues that you could exchange ideas and moments with to bring back to your organization. Top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia, and the private sector will bring key findings and educational experiences to augment your job knowledge and skills. More information will be coming as topics and speakers are finalized.

AGA offers all professionals a variety of ways to engage and develop your career in the government financial management industry whether at the federal, state or local level. AGA offers resources such as a Fraud Prevention ToolKit, How-to Guides, Research Reports, Networking, Member and Vendor Directories, Online Discussion Groups, Career Resources, National, and Chapter Training Events. View all of the valuable benefits of AGA membership at www.agacgfm.org

Save the Date — Upcoming Chapter Events

Chapter luncheon meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 11:30 am at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. All webinars, except for December 2015, will be held at the Hermitage Center starting at 2:00 pm, and will be announced as they are scheduled. The December 2015 webinar will be held at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. We hope to see you there.

| Date | Event |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, December 16, 2015 | Chapter Hosted Webinar |
| Wednesday, January 13, 2016 | Chapter Luncheon Meeting |
| Wednesday, January 27, 2016 | Chapter Hosted Webinar |
| February 11-12, 2016 | Annual Government Training Event |
| Wednesday, March 9, 2016 | Chapter Luncheon |
| Wednesday, March 23, 2016 | Chapter Hosted Webinar |

Please check out the Chapter's website for information such as Chapter Officers/Board Members, community service activities, chapter recognition, luncheon and web conference dates, board meeting minutes, chapter bylaws, chapter histories, and much more.

www.TallahasseeAGA.org

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**If you have any announcements, articles or other items for upcoming newsletters, please email us at
Tallahasseeaga@gmail.com**

AGA's Mission:

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

www.agacgfm.org