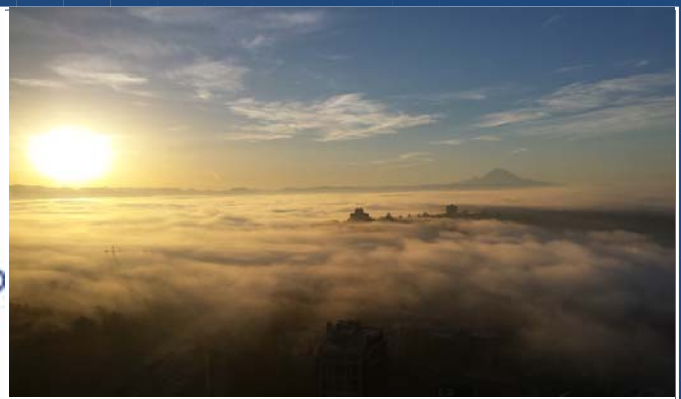


AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



Volume 17-03 November 2017

## President's Message

AGA President's Message –  
November 2017

November brings with it lots of rain and chilly weather, the end of daylight savings time, and the start of the winter holiday season. If all this cold, dark dampness and the prospect of days off from work to celebrate Thanksgiving make you inclined to forget AGA, I urge you to think twice. We have a great slate of educational activities lined up for the last stretch of the year. At our November 14 luncheon meeting, our very own Chapter CGFM chair, Gabrielle Sivage, will present on the topic of "Procurement and Subawards." In support of our efforts to assist candidates in studying for their CGFM certification, Gabrielle's presentation will be tailored to address those preparing for CGFM Exam 3, Section 1 - Chapter 4. Also, mark your



calendars for December 6, when we are sponsoring a group webinar presentation on "Accounting & Financial Auditing Challenges/Best Practices" for 2 CPE credits. I hope you can all brave the rain to make one or both of these upcoming events.

Mary Ann Hardy,  
Chapter President

### Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Seattle Chapter:  
*Max Foster and Kymi Ingram-Baun, King County Wastewater Treatment Division*  
*Sandy Langdon, City of Marysville Finance Director*

**November 14**  
**Procurement and Sub-awards: Navigating Requirements, Process, and Risks**  
See Page 2 for details

### Inside this issue:

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### CGFM PREPARATION OPPORTUNITY

CGFM study participants interested in presentations to help train toward the study guides and for joining in a study group, please email [info.agaseattle@gmail.com](mailto:info.agaseattle@gmail.com) with your contact details and your preferred method of being reached. Share any additional details you think are helpful for us to know about you. November 14 will feature a presentation for Study Guide 3 (Government Financial Management and Control) on Procurement Contracting and Sub-recipient Contracting. See Page 2 for more information on this training. Seattle Chapter AGA intends to host daytime and evening presentations and/or study groups. The goal is to have practitioners in the field teach to topics in the CGFM study guides. We are excited to offer this opportunity, which will also be set-up to provide CPE credits.



# THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

**November 14, 2017**

**Speaker** *Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM - Grant Oversight Manager, Strategic Advisor 2, Seattle Department of Transportation*

**Topic** "Procurement and Sub-awards: Navigating Requirements, Process, and Risks"

**Time** **12:00 – 12:50 pm**  
Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and networking prior to the presentation.

**Place** GAO Training Room,  
Columbia Center, 701 – 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Floor 37  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Cost** MEMBERS - \$0 AND NON-MEMBERS - \$5

**Menu Choices** Bring your own lunch, or purchase a box lunch from Specialty's Café and Bakery for \$15.00. Choose from the following box lunch options:

1. Roast Beef Sandwich
2. Chicken Cobb Salad
3. Spinach, Strawberry, and Goat Cheese Salad (vegetarian)

**RSVP Required** Please **RSVP** to attend and provide your choice for lunch by **Friday, November 10, 2017** to Mary Ann Hardy, [hardym@gao.gov](mailto:hardym@gao.gov).

**CPE** 1 CPE awarded. Supports CGFM Exam 3, Section 1 -Chapter 4 Prep

## **AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2017-2018**

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2017-2018! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the GAO Training Facility on the 37th floor of the Columbia Center.

Topics will be announced as they are finalized. Dates are subject to change.

### **Tuesday, November 14, 2017 – GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Center.**

Gabrielle Sivage will speak on “Government Management and Control” (with emphasis on federal financial assistance).

Ms. Sivage is employed at the City of Seattle Department of Transportation and is a Certified Government Financial Manager, earning a Master of Science in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics. She is working as the Grant Oversight Manager for the Seattle Department of Transportation. For over 15 years, she has served in government management and federal financial management from many positions including federal, city, consulting, and not-for-profit organizations. Her SDOT position as Grant Oversight Manager was created in 2015 to synthesize grant administration, enhance employee services for resource relief, increase performance and decrease risk.

### **Wednesday, December 6, 2017 11-1:50 a.m - GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Center Webinar**

Participants will be able to identify various accounting and auditing issues and challenges on a government financial statement audit and some of the standards and other resources that may be considered to address those challenges.

### **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Center. Tina Polf, CPA - Annual Tax Update.**

### **Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Center.**

### **Tuesday, March 13, 2018 – GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Center.**

### **Monday and Tuesday April 30 and Tuesday May 1 – Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference**

### **Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – Emerald Award Luncheon**

## ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS WEBINAR SCHEDULE

The national office has scheduled monthly webinars to make receiving CPE as convenient as possible. The Seattle Chapter may incorporate some of the webinars into our monthly meetings. For further information on signing up individually, go to <https://www.agacgm.org/Training-and-Events/Learn-Online/Webinars.aspx>

Nov. 15 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Spotting Fraud in Your Organization**

Dec. 6 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Best Practices for Auditing & Quality Assurance**

Presentation will be heard as our Seattle AGA meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. See Page 3.

Jan. 10 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Grants Management**

Feb. 7 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Understanding GASB's New Standards on Leases and Fiduciary Activities**

March 7 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Infrastructure Financing with State and Local Government**

March 28 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Cybersecurity**

April 11 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Ethics**

April 25 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**DATA Act**

May 16 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Fraud/Data Analytics**

June 13 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET  
**Leadership**

October 2017 Luncheon Topic  
**The Search for Meaning - An Odyssey of Performance Measurement**  
 By  
**Larisa Benson**

We were honored to have Larisa Benson speak to us on October 17th. Ms. Benson is currently a principal consultant with the Athena Group and a senior lecturer at the University of Washington’s Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs. She previously served the Washington State Auditor’s Office as Director of Performance Audits and worked for Governor Chris Gregoire as Director of Government Management Accountability and Performance.



Speaker Larisa Benson the AGA meeting held in the GAO Training Room

Ms. Benson discussed processes she uses to improve organizational performance, including implementing LEAN techniques and collection of data before recommending improvements. Larisa pointed out some of the successes her approach has produced, including a 70% speed up in one organization’s document processing along with a similar improvement in quality of the output.



Board members (L to R) Tim Dobler, Ken Smith, Karen Murphy, Tony Eayrs, Karyn Angulo, Sam Lord, and Mary Ann Hardy pose with speaker Larisa Benson (between Tony and Karyn). Photo by Claudia Becker

One of the primary secrets to success in finding and improving inefficiencies that Larisa shared is to involve the incumbents in the organization. She accomplishes this through (1) crucial Conversations, (2) creating a high performing team, (3) leadership development, (4) LEAN process improvement, (4) strategy deployment, and (5) performance measurement.

Ms. Benson also discussed things to look to eliminate while evaluating an organization’s effectiveness and ways of improving. These include individuals taking on too much work (resulting in accomplishing less), bottlenecks in processes, and institutional resistance to change and acceptance of outside help.

## New Member Recognized

Max Foster, Business and Finance Officer IV for King County Wastewater Treatment Division, joined the Seattle Chapter in September. Our October meeting was the first time Mr. Foster attended one of our presentations. As is customary with new members upon their first appearance at a chapter meeting, our chapter president, Mary Ann Hardy, introduced Max to the other members. Also, as a first-time attendee, Max's lunch was complimentary.



New member Max Foster at our October meeting in the GAO's training facility

## ARTICLES and PHOTOS WANTED

It has been said that nothing looks better than a published article with your name on it.

In order to give our members a chance to experience that thrill, we are looking for articles to include in the SOUNDER. Please submit items for inclusion and attribution.

Also, we like to decorate the first page of The Sounder with a local photo each month.

If you have an article or picture to contribute, please send it to Tim Dobler at [DOBLER5@MSN.COM](mailto:DOBLER5@MSN.COM). When we use your photo, we will acknowledge you in our credits section.

## NEW BENEFIT FOR STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE AGA

Those interested in pursuing the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation will get an additional discount off the CGFM application fee, paying only \$33, compared to the nonmember fee of \$99.



To learn more, Click here

## Holiday giving Opportunities

Seattle AGA has selected two winter fundraisers for this holiday season. Please consider

1. Donating to Sound Generations, using our dedicated AGA Seattle link to help provide meals, gifts, and other support to seniors in King County. [Seattle AGA Link](#)
2. Bringing an unwrapped toy for Toys For Tots to the November or December AGA Seattle meetings.

Sound Generations (formerly Senior Services) has connected older adults and adults with disabilities in King County with vital resources to help them thrive. They are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization providing seniors with Meals on Wheels and free rides to medical appointments, fitness programs and opportunities for meaningful engagement with others. They alleviate stress

s by connecting seniors and those who care about them to whatever they need to remain safe, active and healthy and they are committed to helping all people — especially those in low-income communities and communities of color to feel included and respected.

The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program's local toy collection campaigns begin in October and last until mid to late December. Members of the community drop new, unwrapped toys in collection boxes positioned in local businesses. Coordinators pick up these toys and store them in central warehouses where the toys are sorted by age and gender. At Christmas, Coordinators, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, distribute the toys to the less fortunate children of the community.

## Financial Condition as of September 30, 2017

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Checking                                 | \$ 1,903.46        |
| Savings                                  | \$ 3,065.92        |
| 12-Month CD                              | <u>\$ 4,666.78</u> |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                      | <b>\$ 9,636.16</b> |
| Liabilities                              | \$ 0.00            |
| Members' Equity                          | <u>\$ 9,636.16</u> |
| <b>Liabilities &amp; Members' Equity</b> | <b>\$ 9,636.16</b> |

### Cash Flow Report, Month Ending September 30, 2017

|   |           |                    |
|---|-----------|--------------------|
| <b>Beginning Cash Balances</b>                          |           | \$9,644.01         |
| Board Dinner (including spouses)                        | \$ 609.64 |                    |
|   | \$ 114.10 |                    |
| Lunch meals, speaker costs (incl. parking), & name tags |           |                    |
| <b>Cash Expended</b>                                    |           | <u>\$ 723.74</u>   |
| Lunch Revenue   | \$ 100.00 |                    |
| Board Dinner Reimbursements                             | 614.10    |                    |
| Interest Income   | \$ 1.79   |                    |
| <b>Subtotal Cash Deposits</b>                           |           | <u>\$ 715.89</u>   |
| <b>Net Cash Change</b>                                  |           | <u>\$7.85</u>      |
| <b>Ending Cash Balance</b>                              |           | <u>\$ 9,636.16</u> |



## AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

Chapter Goal: 25,000

| Chapter Recognition Categories   | Points to Date | Points Available | Percent Earned |
|--|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Section I - Chapter Leadership, Planning, &amp; Participation</b>           | 2,250          | 5,000            | 45%            |
| <b>Section II - Education &amp; Professional Development</b>                   | 625            | 4,000            | 16%            |
| <b>Section III - Certification</b>   | 125            | 4,000            | 3%             |
| <b>Section IV - Communications</b>   | 1,900          | 3,000            | 63%            |
| <b>Section V - Membership with a Focus on Early Career and Student Members</b> | 600            | 4,000            | 15%            |
| <b>Section VI - Accountability</b>   | 0              | 2,000            | 0%             |
| <b>Section VII - Community Service</b>   | 200            | 2,000            | 10%            |
| <b>Section VIII - Awards</b>   | 0              | 1,000            | 0%             |
| <b>Total as of September 2017</b>  | <b>5,700</b>   | <b>25,000</b>    | <b>23%</b>     |

### Recognition Levels:

A **Bronze Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 12,000 and 14,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Bronze status.

A **Silver Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 14,501 and 17,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Silver status.

A **Gold Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 17,001 and 19,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Gold status.

The **Platinum Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 19,501 and 25,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Platinum status.



## The Sounder

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG](http://WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG)

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 2017-2018 Board Members

### President and Professional Development Chair

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### Immediate Past President and Education Chair

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[dmakaeli@gmail.com](mailto:dmakaeli@gmail.com)

### Treasurer, Webmaster and Early Careers Chair

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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 compliments of Board Member Karyn Angulo.