



Chapter News

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY / JUNE 2014

LOCAL

Tue, 7/22/14 (2-3:30 pm)
2014 Single Audit Update
Webinar (1.5 hours CPE)

Register for local events at
agawestmichigan.org

NATIONAL

July 11-12, 2014
CGFM Intensive Review Course
CGFM Exams included in cost of the course.
Orlando, Florida (18 CPE)

July 13-16, 2014
PDT-Professional Development Training Challenges, Collaboration, Shared Solutions
Orlando, Florida (24 CPE)

Register for national events at agacgfm.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chapter Service Award	2
Early Career	2
Chapter Recognition Program	3
CGFM Information	3
CEC Leadership	4
Membership Roster	4

Message from the President

Membership in the AGA West Michigan chapter is a great investment. Most of you are already members, but we also communicate with our friends and colleagues who have attended our events or have been referred as fellow government financial professionals. I'd like to use this space in our first newsletter to highlight the following about AGA WM:

Chapter Training Events. One great reason to belong is the affordable, quality CPE. Each year we typically offer 2 or 3 full-day seminars. There is a rotating slate of 1-or-2-credit CPE monthly events with Lunch 'n Learns at sites throughout West Michigan and webinars available at your computer desktop. GAAP updates... Single Audit updates... The Governmental Accounting Training Series (GATS) with a review of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) body of knowledge... Technology workshops... Our chapter's webinars presented by education director Stephen Blann,

CPA, CGFM, CGMA have been so well-received that we routinely have more than 100 participants from multiple chapters across the AGA Great Lakes Region.

National Training Events. I attended the AGA Professional Development Training (PDT) last July in Dallas, where I was your delegate to the AGA National Board of Directors meeting. It was a great national networking opportunity and 24 CPE credits were offered covering the gamut of government finance.

Certification. If you'd like to learn more about becoming a CGFM, please contact me or any member of the Chapter Executive Committee. I finished my preparation for the CGFM exams at the pre-conference in Dallas by taking AGA's two-day CGFM review course – worth 18 CPEs.

Journal of Government Financial Management provides valuable, in-depth information to decision-makers at all levels of government. Contributors include experts from



colleges and universities, accounting and consulting firms, professional organizations, and the GASB's chair.

AGA e-newsletters. This message appears in the inaugural edition of the AGA West Michigan Chapter News, which I hope you will find to be informative. The AGA Topics e-newsletter is distributed by the AGA national office each Monday containing AGA and industry news as well as spotlighting chapter events and member accomplishments.

I encourage you to take advantage of the benefits of membership in the AGA West Michigan chapter during the upcoming program year.

Yours truly,

Dwight Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM
President, West Michigan Chapter
Association of Government
Accountants

AGA Mission

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.*

*Government accountability: A government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.



The Association of Government Accountants is a 15,000-member professional organization devoted to meeting the professional development, education, networking and certification needs of its members.

AGA represents government financial managers working in local, state and federal governments as well as the private sector and academia.

The Association seeks to advance government accountability at all levels of government through its Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, which has recognized more than 13,000 individuals for their unique skills and experience.

To learn more about the Association, its many programs or any of its 90 chapters, visit us online at www.agacgfm.org.

First Chapter Service Award goes to Stephen Blann

The Chapter Executive Committee awarded the AGA West Michigan Chapter's first-ever Chapter Service Award to Stephen Blann, CPA, CGFM, CGMA.

The Chapter Service Award recognizes individuals who have made consistently important contributions to the development and enhancement of an AGA chapter, and distinguished or spectacular contributions to a chapter during the year of nomination.

Stephen has been an officer of AGA West Michigan since its inception in 2009. He was a major force in establishing the Chapter and was founding President. He has served as Education Director and has organized the CPE offerings each year and often served as presenter with a mix of day-long CPE events, Lunch 'n Learn sessions



Stephen is presented the Chapter Service Award at the May CEC Meeting

hosted by local governments, and webinars sponsored by Rehmann Robson, where he is a Principal of Government/ Nonprofit Services and serves as the firm's Director of Government Audit Quality and heads the government and not-for-profit assurance practice for West Michigan.

At the request of neighboring chapters in the 2013-2014 program year, Stephen worked with AGA Great Lakes Region leadership to expand the reach of the AGA West Michigan's

quarterly webinars to AGA membership throughout the Midwest.

Because of his key roles in founding the West Michigan Chapter, developing innovative programs, promoting significantly increased attendance and participation, and generally bringing substantive recognition and credit to Chapter activities, the AGA West Michigan Chapter Executive Committee is proud to award its inaugural Chapter Service Award to Stephen Blann.

Did you know???

Focus on Early Career and Student Membership

AGA West Michigan awards a "Student Board Member" scholarship each year. The recipient participates in Chapter Executive Committee meetings and receives a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Our Chapter invites local college students to attend Chapter events free of charge. Two "student scholarships" are offered for each local event on a first-come, first-served basis.

Congratulations to A.J. Zahrt, recipient of this past year's Student Board Scholarship

Students...

Apply for this fall's \$1,000 scholarship at agawestmichigan.org

Chapter Recognition Program

AGA's Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) is a noncompetitive program recognizing a local chapter's performance in relation to standards and benchmarks linked to AGA's mission. The objective of this program is to support, encourage and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission, and to provide flexible noncompetitive guidelines for a well-rounded chapter.

Activities are organized into multiple goals within eight sections. Chapter awards are presented annually at AGA's Professional Development Training (PDT), which will be held in Orlando in July. Based on the number of credits attained for the program year, chapters can earn recognition as Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum status.

Chapter Program Activities are divided into 8 sections with multiple goals per sections and tasks identified that may be used to meet Chapter goals.

Max Credits

- 3,000 Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation
- 4,000 Education & Professional Development
- 4,000 Certification
- 3,000 Communications
- 4,000 Membership
- 2,000 Accountability
- 2,000 Community Service
- 1,000 Awards
- 22,000 Totals

Levels of Achievement
Bronze 12,000
Silver 14,501
Gold 17,001
Platinum 19,501

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)

The Mark of Excellence in Federal State, and Local Government

CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's financial managers. It covers governmental

accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels.

Visit www.agacgfm.org to learn more about earning the CGFM designation.

Requirements to Maintain Your Certification

All active CGFMs are required to complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects. The 80 CPE hours must be completed within the CGFM's two year CPE cycle.

CGFM study materials are available in the Chapter library for members to check out at no charge

New CGFMs since start of 2012 Program Year

- Nancy Bazan, CPA, CITP, CGFM, CGMA (Sept 2011)
- Teresa Choate, CPA, CGFM (Nov 2011)
- Krystal Benson, CPA, CGFM, CFE (June 2012)
- Paul Matz, CPA, CGFM (Jan 2013)
- Michelle McCloud, CGFM (Jan 2013)
- Joe Verlin, CPA, CGFM (Apr 2013)
- Dwight Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM (July 2013)
- Casey Zaski, CPA, CGFM (Apr 2014)



Congratulations to our Chapter's newest Certified Government Financial Managers

Forty-three percent of West Michigan Chapter membership holds CGFM certification



Association of Government Accountants
 West Michigan Chapter
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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2013-2014

Dwight D. Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM
President

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Connie A. Vander Schaaf, CGFM, CMA
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Immediate Past President & Secretary

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William G. Love, CPA, CGFM
Treasurer & Community Service Chair

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Stephen W. Blann, CPA, CGFM, CGMA
Education, Training and Certification Chair
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Anjelica J. Zahrt
Student Representative

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AGA-WM Membership Roster

Join or renew online at
agacgfm.org/membership

Dwight Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM	Mario Guerra	Cynthia Osga, CGFM *
Nathan Baldermann, CPA, CGFM	Scott Gumieny	Amy Rottman, CPA, CGFM
Kate Balfourt	Kevin Henning	Kristin Saper, CPA, CGFM *
Jon Bartlett, CGFM	Lori Hopkins, CGFM	Diane Schiller *
Nancy Bazan, CPA, CITP, CGFM, CGMA	Rosa Houtsma, CPA	Ann Simmons
Krystal Benson, CPA, CGFM, CFE	Brenda Isenhardt, CPA	Timothy Smith
Kristen Biggs, CPA	John Jacobs	Peter Stanislawski, CPFIM *
James Birckbichler, CGFM-Retired	Mark Kettner, CPA, CGFM	Karen Sterk
Stephen Blann, CPA, CGFM, CGMA *	Kristin Kratt	Erinn Trask, CPA
Bhama Cairns *	Matthew Lewis	Eric Van Dop, CPA
Carrie Carlson	William Love, CPA, CGFM *	Connie Vander Schaaf, CGFM, CMA *
Richard Carpenter, CPA, CGFM	Paul Matz, CPA, CGFM	Cynthia VanGelderens, CPA
Teresa Choate, CPA, CGFM	Michelle McCloud, CGFM	Joseph Verlin, CPA, CGFM
Gerald Deslover, CPA, CGFM	Matthew Mol, CPA *	Douglas Vredeveld, CPA, CGFM *
Robert Drexler	Eleonor Moore	Sherrri Washabaugh
Thomas Emery	Carrie Morey	Darcy Weaver
Sheri Geddes, CPA	Jim Oleson, CPA *	Casey Zaski, CPA, CGFM

We strive to meet the varied CPE needs of our membership.

Let us know if we're missing a certification and we'll update our records.

Send updates to membership@agawestmichigan.org

* AGA West Michigan charter members still active