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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

President's Message



Dear AGA Members,

As we are nearing the end of this program year, I would like to thank each one of you for your continued NOVAGA support and participation. In these past few months, we held successful monthly dinners and luncheons, CGFM study groups, and the Spring Workshop Training. We will end this program year with our Annual Gala on June 29, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm at The Hamilton. Please register [here](#).

I hope to see some of you at our summer AGA activities. For example, the AGA Professional Development Training in July is a rewarding event that includes top-notch speakers and engagement with industry experts. We also have the CGFM Intensive Review Course in August. This course will reinforce the material needed to pass the exam.

It is with greatest pleasure to announce the incoming President, Mr. Mike Fredrickson. Mr. Fredrickson has served on the NOVAGA Board for many years. I am confident he will improve upon the good work we do.

Again, thank you for another great program year and I look forward to next year.

Reza Mahbod
President 2018-2019, Northern Virginia Chapter
571-429-6598

CONNECT
WITH US



NOVAGA Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 2019

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2019

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2019

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 12, 2019

Leadership: Journey to the Frontline | Webinar 2—3:50pm | 2 CPEs

Over the next decade, there will be a surge of retiring baby boomers which will leave a knowledge gap that leaders must be prepared to embrace and close. As a leader, you will need to communicate effectively to develop and execute a strategic plan to build a strong young professional workforce. This webinar will teach strategies on networking, time management and mentorship to help you prepare and change your environment for the next generation of workers... and set yourself up for a successful career! In this interactive webinar, participants will be encouraged to ask questions to our three panelists on how they have overcome their challenges to get to where they are now. Let their journey inspire you!

More information and registration available by visiting <http://www.agacgfm.org>

July 19-20, 2019

CGFM Intensive Review Course and Beta Examinations | New Orleans, LA | 18 CPEs

AGA's Intensive Review Course (IRC), with CGFM beta examinations included is a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM! Important: CGFM examinations will follow the updated content outlines starting on September 1, 2019. Participants of the upcoming courses will cover new content and receive:

- Three free vouchers to sit for the beta exams in September and October
- Six-months of free access to the three updated online editions of the CGFM study guides (when they become available in June)

More information and registration available by visiting <http://www.agacgfm.org>



July 21-24, 2019

PDT 2019 | New Orleans, LA | 24 CPEs

Stay cutting-edge. Top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia and the private sector will share key findings and educational experiences to augment your knowledge and enhance your skills. Network and connect. Collaborate and engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues facing the same or similar issues and exchange ideas to bring back to your organization. More information and registration available by visiting <http://www.agacgfm.org>

August 12-13, 2019

CGFM Intensive Review Course and Beta Examinations | Alexandria, VA | 18 CPEs

AGA's Intensive Review Course (IRC), with CGFM beta examinations included is a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM! Important: CGFM examinations will follow the updated content outlines starting on September 1, 2019. Participants of the upcoming courses will cover new content and receive:

- Three free vouchers to sit for the beta exams in September and October
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More information and registration available by visiting <http://www.agacgfm.org>

NOVAGA Past Meetings and Events

April 23, 2019

Spring Training Workshop

We had our Spring Workshop on April 23, 2019 from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Training included updates from FASAB, GAO, OMB and Treasury and participants were given CPE credits.

May 7, 2019

NOVAGA Chapter Meeting for May

The NOVAGA Chapter Meeting for May was held on May 16, 2019 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Old Ebbitt Grill. Our speaker was Tom Brandt, the Chief Risk Officer for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and leads the agency's enterprise risk management (ERM) program. Mr. Brandt is a member of the federal Senior Executive Service (SES) and also serves as the President of the Association for Federal Enterprise Risk Management (AFERM). Prior to his role at the IRS, Mr. Brandt served as the Head of the Tax Administration Unit at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of networking, food and drinks. We hope that you will join us at our next Chapter Meeting!

Attention Chapter Members!

If you have any pictures that you have taken at NOVAGA events that you've attended, please email them to Newsletter Editor, [Diane Nguyen](#) for inclusion in our newsletters.



**New NOVAGA Members
From 2/8/2019—5/3/2019**

Dickson Annor
Amarilys Catacora
Alison Cheung
Javier Clawson
Kim Devoto
Jannie Eaddy
Lance Fisher
Robert Garcia
Melanie Hendrickson
Cynthia James
Jeffrey Johnson
Matthew Koebel
Sherry Leach
Jing Li
Brian Lipstein
Rhoda Melvin
Daniel Milos
Melissa Moore
John O'Connor
Omar Palmer
Alexander Plott
Eric Przybylski
Brendalys Roa

Jennifer Roan
Christian Rodriguez Lopez
Joe Savukas
Laurel Shannon
Nirtika Sharma
Patrick Trager
Mir Ubaid
Samantha Viksnins
John Walter
Robert Ward
Seth Waugaman
James Wood
Monica Yates

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Association of Government Accountants—Northern Virginia Chapter

NOVAGA Members Milestone Anniversaries

Please join us in recognizing and congratulating our Northern Virginia AGA Members on their milestone anniversaries from June 2019 through August 2019. We will continue to recognize anniversaries in each newsletter. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Lifetime Members (40 years +)

Michael Slachta Jr.

30 Years

Carl Grenn, Jr.

20 Years

Alfred Buck

10 Years

Christina Kurtz

David Norquist

Naji Lakkis

Adam Osterman

5 Years

Anthony Adams, Jr.

Nicole McLean

Ivy Raysor

Sonya Cerne

Troy Moore

Joy Stith

Regla Garrett

John Morlu, II

Sylvia Wendel

Roger Guilliams

Christopher Pritchett, II

1 Year

Jason Abraham

Nicole Collins

Emily Lamback

Katrina Samiley

Isaac Aidoo

Kimberly Cunningham

John Longacre, III

Kris Samiley

Jeremiah Bryar

Mahendra Damera, Jr.

Eritrea Mehsun

Bryan Self

Mayra Calle-Santos

Jennifer Fabius

Roxanne Miller

Jennifer Smith

Louise Campanale

Stacey Ferris

Doug Newton, Jr.

Sierra Smith

Chase Causseaux

Keely Flatow

Andrew Porter

Kimberly Stickney

Steven Chan

Priscila Funes

Anand Ravulapalli

Angela Tibbs

Jinnan Chen

Marina Hakami

Melvin Reid

Younes Zahr

Tonya Childress

Rufus Jenkins

Brendalys Roa

Kumail Zaidi

Bashar Chowdhury

Zachary Kennedy

Kamran Salim

Article: Keep your agency's risk management efforts focused on 3 goals

By Nicole Puri, a former risk management official with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is a director with Grant Thornton Public Sector.

May 27, 2019

Link to original article [here](#).

Two years ago, the Office of Management and Budget made enterprise risk management (ERM) mandatory for federal agencies. Most agencies are complying, often setting up elaborate systems with pages of detailed reports and complex analysis. For some agencies, that is the right approach. But for others, are they getting real value in the form of better management for the agency? Or is ERM just becoming another compliance exercise?

ERM is a wonderful business discipline that, when used correctly, can add serious value to any organization. However, it can be all too easy to miss the forest for the trees when it comes to implementation. Keeping the focus of an agency's ERM efforts on three goals can make better management through ERM concepts much simpler:

- Adding value throughout the organization by developing insights;
- Always looking for opportunities to improve;
- Designing a governance structure to improve collaboration and accountability, tailored to the agency's needs and culture.

Developing insights

Probably one of the most available but underutilized ways to gain immediate insights in agencies is through data analytics. Mining your existing data can often be done most effectively by supplementing existing functions with data analysis. Some simple examples include examining employee turnover trends to identify root causes of churn, analyzing payments to isolate risky transactions or tracking information technology and cybersecurity spending over time to predict trending and future needs.

Insights also can be gained by tracking and analyzing political and market trends which could impact your agency's mission or operations. Trends and external events often can be predicted and planned for, which can move efforts from "firefighting mode" to thoughtful planning and tactical moves to reduce the impact of the event. One way to get started is to dedicate some time, perhaps one leadership meeting per quarter or during a leadership retreat, to a facilitated discussion of larger trends in the political sphere and relevant markets and to brainstorm potential impacts on the agency. This might already be done during agency risk assessments, saving even more effort. Whichever way it is collected the list can serve several purposes, including informing agency strategy, directing research on problems and solutions, and for benchmarking desired changes in agency services or in performance outcomes over time.

Opportunities to improve

It often takes an enormous amount of time to get processes and controls through an approval process, and employees do not have time to renew and update the process every year. However, building in continuous improvement can actually save time and money and help your agency retain talent.

One way is through harnessing the pace of technology. As technology modernization and maintenance costs continue to escalate, many agencies either put off modernization or scale back. When agencies are able to update their systems, any analysis of return-on-investment can be outdated or overlooked. Using strategic approaches to evaluate how and where to invest limited IT dollars can help your agency better direct those dollars to technologies that support a continuous improvement approach. One approach may not work for every agency, but options to consider include a methodology that rates modernization and maintenance IT funding priorities by risk to mission, a historical analysis and future projection of IT cost trends, or risk appetite and tolerance limits to automatically prompt risk actions.

(continued on next page)

Article: Keep your agency's risk management efforts focused on 3 goals (continued)

Another method is to consider what your agency's future workforce will need. As baby boomers retire and Gen-Xers and millennials assume the responsibilities of running government agencies, the pressure and need to innovate will increase. Your agency can ease this inevitable transformation by starting to implement a continuous improvement culture now.

Governance structure

Organizations generally put little emphasis on governance structure but getting it right can really guide them to success. Likewise, a structure that is not right for your agency or lacks critical components will have people saying, "This whole effort was a waste of time."

In this context, good governance means structuring your organization to provide both incentives and accountability measures to everyone's daily work so that the right tasks, activities and decisions are prioritized. It does not change frequently, but should be looked at periodically to see if it is helping or hindering mission goals. With the proliferation of compliance requirements, it can be difficult to re-organize for optimal operational efficiency every time a new "accountable official" must be designated or a new management goal is introduced.

Understandably, agencies may find that it is easier to do the bare minimum to comply rather than rethinking their overall approach to governance. However, over time the agency can be overwhelmed by the inefficiencies of cobbling together all these small changes, and may overlook real opportunities for progress. Occasional governance structure changes can smooth that path to achieving mission goals.

The path to ERM may not be as daunting as it seems. Looking for new insights to aid in an understanding of the internal and external risks to mission are an easy way to get started. Setting the foundation for a culture of improvement not only has immediate payback, but positions an agency well for future challenges, including how to deal with future risks.

Finally, periodically looking back at how governance is set up in your agency can help make sure the agency is prioritizing the right things to manage both compliance activities and mission goals—one of the primary objectives of ERM.

New CGFMs From 3/1/2019—5/10/19

**Susan Carter
Denise R. Marques
Stephen R. Nicholson
James F. Hruska**

Congratulations!

Tip of the Month:

"Read the most recent version of the AGA study guide (cover to cover) and pay attention to highlighted boxes, key terms, etc."

NOVAGA Board Members

Name	Board Position
Reza Mahbod	President
Mike Fredrickson	President Elect
Brian Grega	Immediate Past President
Christine Turner	Regional Vice President
Jessica Boucher	Secretary
VACANT	Historian
Mike Fredrickson	Treasurer
Katie Labadie	Assistant Treasurer
Brian Grega	Accountability/Outreach Chair
Paul Marshall	Accountability/Outreach
Kevin Love	Awards Chair
Kevin Shers	CGFM Chair
VACANT	CGFM
VACANT	CGFM
Ryan Magnuson	Chapter Recognition Chair
Robin McCoy	Chapter Recognition
Jessica Boucher	Chapter Recognition
Fatima Zoury	Community Services Chair
Doug Newton	Corporate Sponsorship Chair
Neda Haghighat	Corporate Sponsorship
James Gould	Education Chair
Kevin Love	Education Committee
Matt Menchi	Programs Chair
Paul Marshall	Programs
Jacob MacDonald	Membership Chair
Christopher Choi	Membership
Xiaolei Wang	Membership
Andrew Johnson	Membership
Irfan Satriadhi	Membership
Jacob MacDonald	Early Careers Chair
Kris Samiley	Early Careers
Xiaolei Wang	Early Careers
Diane Nguyen	Newsletter Editor
Doug Newton	Supporting Newsletter Editor
Zak Kennedy	Correspondence Chair
Katie Labadie	Special Events Chair
Katrina Samiley	Special Events
Zak Kennedy	Webmaster
Neda Haghighat	Supporting Webmaster

The Sponsors of NOVAGA

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Contact Us



NOVAGA is an association with approximately 1,000 members from the federal, state, local, public and private practices, with a mission statement to serve professional in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

We would love to hear from you! Feel free to email one of our board members directly or check out our home page:
<http://www.novaga.org>