

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CY Q4 2021



November is a time I learned to think of as the season that starts acts of kindness, including giving to others, because no matter my family hardships or health, doing good is restorative. Community Service is part of our chapter mission. It is my hope that if you did not enjoy a

normal Thanksgiving, that you still spent it happy and healthy and know that we think of those struggling among us. Our holiday wishes include the best outcomes for those among us and all who are struggling.

For everyone's safety we are supporting fundraising and in-kind contributions in fall/winter 2021. To provide holiday meals to aging adults and aging adults with disabilities in Seattle, please consider giving on our chapter page [here](#), co-sponsored with Sound Generations Meals on Wheels. To give holiday presents to partner Toys for Tots through a financial donation, please give on our chapter page [here](#) (giving stops around 12/16/2021). If dropping off a toy ([NLT 12/13/2021 at most locations](#)), please take a picture to share with us. For more information on [Sound Generations](#) and [Toys for Tots](#) much-needed impact, please click the links on their names. The Chapter uses a criteria for choosing non-profits we "adopt" for targeting well-used philanthropy.

We have cheery notes to share ahead of the still upcoming holidays. Chapter Board Members are inspired by AGA National and other Chapters' leadership, and you probably noticed our surveys designed to connect with Chapter members' wants and needs. On that note, we have a networking event planned in December and a spring in-person community service project.

Upcoming Events

We need about 4 minutes of your time to pull both events off well. On December 14, 16 or

17 we will host a membership networking and happy hour / mocktail hour. [Go here to complete the scheduling poll](#), that will help us set the final date. Next, we hear membership is ready for an in-person community service event. The Chapter will have an in-person service event in spring 2022, unless a



Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome 20 new members this program year

2021-2022

E. Stephen Kim, CGFM

Jianhao Zhen, CGFM

Nikita Baker

Ali Bawi

Kimheng Chou

Nicole Dowding

Cailin Han

Jefferson Hamilton

Justin D. Hentges

Melissa LeGree

Robert K. Ludwig

Yen Ly

Nicole J. May

Maksim I. Poklonskii

Vanessa Quiroz Hotz

Zara Sameer

Gina M. Schwans

Johnny Sithisack

William A. Wallo

Richard D. Zoller, Jr.

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public health announcement dictates otherwise. Please share if you can volunteer and share your interest and availability at the survey [here](#) (the two social surveys are the same).

Thank you to Chapter Members who helped complete a social media chapter page that [you can ask to join from this LinkedIn page](#), [ratify amended Chapter Bylaws that you can see here](#), and [complete a 2020 – 2021 Chapter Citizen Centric Report available here](#) and up for judging by AGA National.

Also, the current training schedule, with other training and CGFM links, is posted [here](#) as well as [here for AGA National](#) and [here for CGFM Exam Virtual Courses](#). CPE training. A serious next-step underway is updating Chapter Policies and Procedures, following a model from AGA National.

A call to service on the Seattle AGA Chapter Board. Engaged, effective board members do not fit a personality mold; as they say, “it takes all types”. Please contact me at your earliest possible convenience at elle.g.freeman@outlook.com if you are interested in service as **Chapter Secretary**, which is recently vacant. Our engagement goals and goals with AGA National also mean [we have special board positions available based on project interests or based on full-blown interests](#) in contributing across board members' projects and committees. Some adjustments while we build the board are launching a social media page and changing to a quarterly newsletter, while sending more frequent emails and surveys to members. I invite you to share your thoughts about the emails and surveys with me personally at the same email address.

In your service,

Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM, AGA Seattle Chapter President

Summary Financials Report for Program Year 2020-2021

We are working to pass a budget for program year 2021-2022 and will publish that as soon as it is available. Another financial goal for the year is to implement a financial review process at program year end.

Revenue Sources	2020-2021	Expenses	2020-2021
Joint Conferences	\$5,020.92	Luncheon/ Webinar	\$1,170.36
Chapter Dues	\$325.67	Misc. Exp	\$243.36
Interest Income	\$3.89	Donations	\$200
		Awards & Recognition	\$105
Total Inflows	\$5,350.48	Total Expenses	\$1,718.72

Opportunities to Connect and Network with Students

Are you interested in talking about a career in government and connecting with students, or do you know someone in our field who might be? One of our strategic goals as an Association of Government Accountants

(AGA) chapter is to reach out to local colleges and universities and talk to students about opportunities in government accounting, finance, and accountability careers. Many school programs focus almost exclusively on recruiting for large and medium sized public accounting firms and private companies, and students have very little exposure to opportunities with government employers.

We are in the process of reaching out to local student groups to set up virtual events. In past years, we have met in person with students on campus, putting together panels of government professionals to talk with students about their own careers, career opportunities for students, skill sets needed at their workplace, etc. We plan to do the same this academic year, but virtually until it is safe to attend events in person.

Academic Scholarships for Students

Looking for funding to help cover the cost of college? The AGA National organization offers scholarship opportunities for members or family members of members pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in AGA-related disciplines. Scholarships of \$3,000 and \$1,500 are available to eligible students. Applications for 2022 scholarships will open in February 2022. To learn more, visit AGA National's "[Scholarships](#)" page.

Young Professionals

AGA offers many benefits for young professionals, including leadership opportunities, discounts on professional training events, networking with peers, and a mentoring program. For an overview, visit AGA National's "[Young Professionals](#)" page.

Young Professionals Focus Group (YPPG)

Interested in networking with other like-minded Young Professionals, and working on projects to benefit Young Professional AGA members? AGA's Young Professionals Focus Group (YPPG) brings together passionate and aspiring young professional leaders to brainstorm strategic approaches in appealing to the next generation of government financial management professionals. The group meets virtually once a month and is exploring a variety of group projects for this program year, including creating a Young Professionals speakers bureau, and a series of short story submissions by Young Professionals for LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. To learn more, feel free to contact [Sam Lord](#) (AGA Seattle Chapter's Young Professionals Committee chair), or [Dess Vince Cruz](#) (AGA National Program Coordinator).

If you are interested in participating in a student event, please contact our Young Professionals and Students Committee Chair, Sam Lord, at sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov. We have events tentatively planned with **Seattle University's Beta Alpha Psi students on Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 12:30pm to 1:20pm; and University of Washington - Bothell Campus students on Thursday, February 10, 2022, from 4-5pm.** Depending on the level of interest by chapter members, we would likely give each presenter 5 to 10 minutes to present, with time for questions at the end. These are great opportunities to reach students, and to share opportunities at your place of work. We also plan to arrange events at other Washington schools as well.

Mentoring Program

If you'd like to develop a certain skill or ability, you can benefit from the experience of other AGA members through pairing with a mentor. To participate or to learn more, visit AGA's

[“Mentoring Program”](#) page, and create and complete your Mentee Profile. No matter where you are in your career, you can benefit from mentoring!

National Council of Chapters (NCC) Representative Update

Representing our chapter on the National Council of Chapters (NCC) provides an opportunity to connect with chapter representatives from all over the country four times a year. Over the course of three virtual meetings this year, I have had the chance to hear from AGA National staff, and AGA National Governing Board members, on a variety of AGA-related topics. Also to talk with other chapters about challenges and successes for our chapters, and how we can work together to improve experiences for all of our members.

Our first meeting in April was essentially an orientation to the Council and our roles as chapter representatives. This included information on the governing structure for AGA, the purpose of the Council, and responsibilities of Council members,

At our second meeting, on August 24th, we received updates on chapter health from Melinda Miguel, AGA National President-Elect; and on overall membership numbers, and the new [“Everyone Get One”](#) member recruiting campaign from Susan Fritzlen, AGA COO. Ann Ebberts, AGA National CEO, discussed the transition of the Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training to all virtual, and also progress being made on a major upcoming AGA re-branding project. We also broke up into breakout rooms, and discussed a variety of chapter related topics in smaller groups.

Our most recent meeting, on November 2nd, covered a similarly broad array of topics. We touched on chapter health metrics, learned about making requests for guest speakers, and met the new director for chapters in Area 7 (Northeastern States). [National Leadership Award nominations are due to AGA National by December 10th, and information and nomination links can be found \[here\]\(#\).](#)



We also learned about AGA’s Council for the Advancement of Women. This group is comprised of members who act on behalf of AGA to manage gender diversity initiatives and progress. The Council has a series of eight initiatives across broader goals of opportunity, education, action, and connection. To learn more about the Council, and how you can participate, visit the [“Council for the Advancement of Women”](#) page on the AGA National website.

Accountability

The AGA Seattle Chapter submitted its annual Citizen-Centric Report to AGA National in October 2021. We express gratitude and thanks for Chapter member E. Stephen Kim for his meaningful contributions to this year’s CCR while he served in an Advisory role to the Board.

AGA’s Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) initiative is intended to foster innovative means of communication between governments and their citizenry. AGA believes government financial and accountability information should be provided to citizens in ways that are clear and understandable, updated regularly and often, broadly delivered, easy to locate, honest in breadth and accurate in detail. Our 2019-2020 CCR was awarded the



We have been meeting monthly on *the National Accountability Committee*. Our primary activities in the Fall are to assist with the CCR program in general with special attention to the AGA Case Challenge. There was a record number of participants from both undergraduates and graduate teams. Three finalists in each category were recently selected and they move on to the finalist round. Starting in January, the Committee begins work towards the future of new options for programs as well as increasing participation with our partners. – Dr. Ken Smith

Certificate of Excellence by National and we hope to receive the same accolade this year. During the judging and awarding process National provided us with extensive feedback on our 2020 CCR that we strived to incorporate in to our 2020-2021 CCR. One piece of feedback was to include more metrics and trend data. We encountered some challenges implementing this feedback in some areas due to this being the first year of the ACE Award framework, but we have set ourselves up to successfully track and incorporate this level of trend data in the future.

Membership

We welcome the new members to the AGA Seattle Chapter and welcome back our continuing members. This has been a challenging year, and we appreciate everyone who joined AGA or renewed their membership in our extended renewal period. Click [here](#) to see the many benefits of an AGA membership. If you have any questions about membership, please reach out to our Membership Chair, [Tony Eayrs](#). You can also contact our other current board members. Please see the last page of this newsletter for contact information.

Important Reminder: The AGA Seattle Chapter uses the most recent chapter membership roster from AGA National to target communications to our members about upcoming training and community service events, nominations for awards and our annual election, and other chapter activities. Please be sure to include a valid email address in your member profile. Thank you!

Communications

The communications plan is being overhauled to better fit our busy lives and to connect more frequently with news, surveys and updates. We are hearing you. Thank you to members who completed past surveys, and those who complete future surveys yet to come.

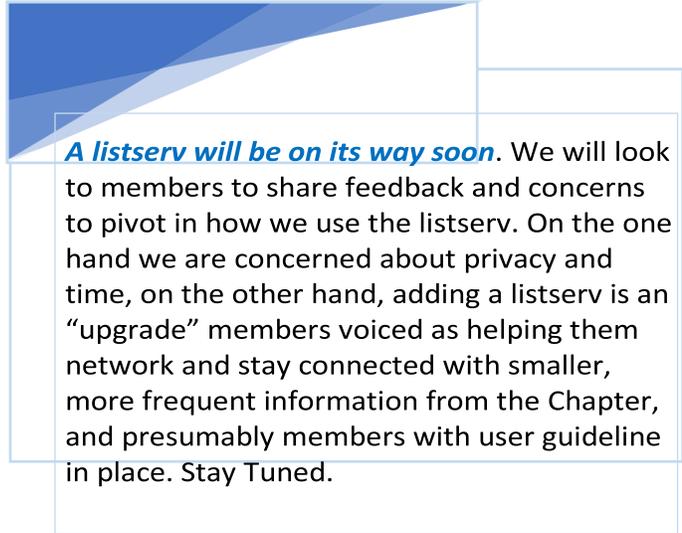
The Chapter website is going through a refresh that new board member Jason Miller, CGFM is supporting. You can access the website <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Seattle-Chapter/Home.aspx>.

We are building a social media footprint on LinkedIn. To opt-into membership, which we prefer, [please go to the page and ask to join](#).

The Sounder, our beloved newsletter, will release quarterly during this program year. Our attention is innovating and growing networking and social activities. Granted, if among our members, a group

would like to publish a more routine newsletter and join the board, please contact Board President Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM at elle.g.freeman@outlook.com.

We have also updated our website for easier navigation. Please check us out at: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Seattle-Chapter/Home.aspx>. Here you'll find information about our chapter leadership, events, and activities and find links to our Citizen-Centric Reports and past newsletters. We hope you'll check us out!



A listserv will be on its way soon. We will look to members to share feedback and concerns to pivot in how we use the listserv. On the one hand we are concerned about privacy and time, on the other hand, adding a listserv is an “upgrade” members voiced as helping them network and stay connected with smaller, more frequent information from the Chapter, and presumably members with user guideline in place. Stay Tuned.

Board Leadership

<p>Chapter President Gabrielle M. Sivage, CGFM City of Seattle gsivage@googlemail.com</p>	<p>Chapter President-Elect Tony Eayrs King County International Airport tony.eayrs@kingcounty.gov</p>	<p>National Council of Chapters Representative Samuel Lord, CGFM U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov</p>
<p>Secretary – Vacant, Call for Aspiring Board Members</p>	<p>Chapter Treasurer Katherine N. King King County KNKING209@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>Accountability Outreach Katherine N. King King County KNKING209@GMAIL.COM</p>
<p>CGFM/Professional Certification Alec E. Chandler, CGFM King County International Airport alec.e.chandler@gmail.com</p>	<p>CGFM/Professional Certification Gabrielle M. Sivage, CGFM City of Seattle gsivage@googlemail.com</p>	<p>Communications Gabrielle M. Sivage, CGFM City of Seattle gsivage@googlemail.com</p>
<p>Young Professionals Samuel Lord, CGFM U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov</p>	<p>Community Service Gabrielle M. Sivage, CGFM City of Seattle gsivage@googlemail.com</p>	<p>Education Jason Ray Miller, CGFM US Army Reserve & Seattle DOT seahawkwarrior@outlook.com</p>
<p>Membership Tony Eayrs King County International Airport tony.eayrs@kingcounty.gov</p>	<p>Bylaws & Procedures Gabrielle M. Sivage, CGFM City of Seattle gsivage@googlemail.com</p>	<p>Nominations Tony Eayrs King County International Airport tony.eayrs@kingcounty.gov</p>
<p>Webmaster Jason Ray Miller, CGFM US Army Reserve & Seattle DOT seahawkwarrior@outlook.com</p>	<p>Webmaster Samuel Lord, CGFM U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov</p>	<p>At-Large Member Edward A. Johnson, CGFM EPA johnson.edward@epa.gov</p>

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