

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Baton Rouge  
Chapter

**JUNE 2024**



**Welcome to the AGA Baton Rouge Newsletter, your premier source for staying connected and informed in the dynamic realm of government financial management!**

AGA is the association that connects and empowers professionals who support government, from financial management to IT, human resources, cybersecurity and more, to advance good government initiatives, grow their expertise and accelerate their careers!

**Student Membership Opportunities: Join AGA for *FREE* as a Full-Time Student! (PG. 10)**



**UPCOMING WEBINARS  
& EVENTS!  
(PG. 12)**

**01/17**



# A Message from The Chapter President

**Dear AGA Baton Rouge Members,**

I hope this message finds you well and thriving in your professional endeavors. As we progress through another exciting year, I am thrilled to highlight a pivotal event that promises to be a cornerstone for professional development in our field: AGA's 2024 Professional Development Training (PDT).

**Register for AGA's 2024 Professional Development Training on July 14-17 in Denver!**

This year's PDT is set to be an extraordinary gathering, bringing together over 3,000 professionals from federal, state, and local government sectors, as well as from private industries. This event spans three and a half days and is meticulously designed to provide educational sessions that are both insightful and practical, aimed at enhancing leadership, improving performance in cost-constrained environments, and addressing our shared challenges using best practices.

**Why You Should Attend:**

**1. Earn Up to 24 CPE Credits:**

- Maximize your learning and professional growth with up to 24 NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits. Enhance your knowledge base and improve your job effectiveness with new skills and techniques.

**2. Stay on the Cutting Edge:**

- Benefit from the insights of top-notch speakers from across federal, state, and local government, academia, and the private sector. They will provide you with the latest information and educational experiences to keep you at the forefront of our profession.

**3. Network and Connect:**

- Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues. Share ideas, discuss challenges, and bring back innovative solutions to your organization. This is an unparalleled opportunity to build your professional network and contribute to the advancement of our field.
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**Registration and Fees:**

- **Early Bird Deadline:** June 14, 2024
- **AGA Members:**
  - **Early Bird:** \$925
  - **Standard:** \$1,025
- **All Others:**
  - **Early Bird:** \$950
  - **Standard:** \$1,050

For more details and to register, please visit **AGA PDT Home**.

I would love to meet everyone attending the event and will be located at the **Premier Group booth**. Please come by, say hello, and take a picture. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to connect, exchange ideas, and celebrate our shared commitment to excellence in government financial management.

Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your professional development and connect with peers from across the industry. Together, we can continue to advance government financial management practices and achieve greater success in our roles.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support of the AGA Baton Rouge Chapter. I look forward to seeing many of you in Denver!

**Best regards,**

**Miranda Maten**

**President, AGA Baton Rouge Chapter**

**02/17**

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## AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



### **Tiffani Dorsa, CPA**

#### ***Immediate Past Chapter President***

Tiffani Dorsa, CPA, is the Immediate Past Chapter President for AGA Baton Rouge, bringing over 18 years of experience to her role. She specializes in working with not-for-profit and governmental industries, particularly entities receiving federal and state assistance. Tiffani is highly familiar with governmental auditing standards, OMB Circular A-133 (Single Audit requirements), and state regulations pertaining to quasi-public entities.



### **Jordan Sandwisch**

#### ***Treasurer***

Jordan Sandwisch is a seasoned professional in the world of finance and auditing, currently serving as the Manager of Audit Assurance at EisnerAmper. With a strong background in accounting and a sharp eye for detail, Jordan brings extensive expertise to his role. Holding a CPA credential, he demonstrates a commitment to excellence in his field. Jordan is known for his meticulous approach to financial analysis and his ability to provide valuable insights to clients. His dedication to ensuring accuracy and compliance makes him a trusted advisor in the realm of audit assurance. Outside of his professional endeavors, Jordan enjoys staying active in his community and pursuing personal interests.

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**03/17**

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## AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



### **Barbara Aguilar** **Secretary**

Serving as the Budget Director for the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) for the past eight years, Barbara has garnered extensive experience in navigating the intricate landscape of governmental budgets. At the heart of Barbara's professional philosophy is a commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. She is driven by a desire to create easier, more effective ways of accomplishing tasks and overcoming challenges. By fostering a culture of innovation and embracing technology, she strives to empower her team and enhance organizational effectiveness. Currently serving as the Interim Deputy Undersecretary, Barbara remains steadfast in her dedication to driving positive change and optimizing performance within the department.



### **Ramona Harris** **Director of Education**

State Employee for 22 years where she has worked in finance the majority of the time for various State Agencies. She is currently employed at the Louisiana Department of Health-Office of Public Health Laboratory serving as the Manager over Business Operations. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management from *Upper Iowa University* and a MBA from *Louisiana State University-Shreveport*. In addition to her degrees, she also is a Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Graduate of the *Leadership Development Institute*, Graduate of the *Visionary Leadership Academy*, and served the past 2 years as a Mentor for the *OPH Mentorship Academy*. Outside of work she serves on the Financial Council for Junior League of Baton Rouge, for which she has been a member since 2018.

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**04/17**

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## AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



### **Sarah Wade**

#### ***Awards & Scholarship Chair***

Sarah Wade is a dynamic and driven budget analyst with 5 years of state government experience in accounting and budgeting. Her expertise is in budget analysis from departments such as education and transportation. Sarah received her accounting degree from *Southern University* in 2018 and her MBA from *Grand Canyon University* in 2021. Outside of her professional endeavors, Sarah enjoys volunteering. She volunteers with Advance. Grow. Accelerate (AGA) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). She started volunteering with AGA in 2016 and Vita in 2020. Helping people achieve their goals and grow is what she loves to do.



### **Danette Delome**

#### ***Director of Community Service***

Danette Delome, Director of Community Service, has over 20 years of experience in accounting (13 years in the private sector and 7 years in the public sector). Has a Bachelor of Science Accounting degree and is currently working on obtaining her Master's of Science Accounting.



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**05/17**

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# WELCOMING OUR NEWEST AGA MEMBERS!

- **Kevin Antonio**  
**Campbell Lopez**
- **Yu Yi Cheng**
- **Latisha Jolla**
- **Kelly M. Smith**
- **Sidney Stewart**



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**06/17**

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# WISHING A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AGA MEMBERS!

- **Vita R. Archie**
- **Kevin Antonio  
Campbell Lopez**
- **Rutha A. Cayette**
- **Tracy M. Garcia**
- **Ramona K. Harris**
- **Cassie Johnson**
- **Lacresha Leblanc**
- **Tammy A. Morgan**
- **Kathleen Sides**
- **Carolyn Y. White**

**07/17**

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# JOIN THE BATON ROUGE AGA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP BOARD!

**Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community?** Here's your chance! The Baton Rouge Chapter is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Leadership Board. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student seeking valuable internship experience, we welcome you to be part of our dynamic team.

## Several positions available (with more not listed):

- **ACE Reporting:** Ensure accurate financial reporting and transparency.
- **Membership Committee:** Engage with our members, build connections, and enhance our community.
- **President-Elect:** Take a leading role in shaping the future of our chapter.
- **Event Coordinator:** Plan and execute exciting events that bring our community together.

## Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Internship Opportunities:** College students, gain practical experience and boost your resume.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.

[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)



## JOIN US



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, EMAIL US AT [BATONROUGEAGA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BATONROUGEAGA@GMAIL.COM)**

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# CGFM®

# Certification



## What is a CGFM?

The CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) credential, awarded by AGA, showcases expertise in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across different government levels.

It's a respected certification that highlights specialized knowledge and experience essential for effective government financial management. CGFM opens doors to new career prospects and sets you apart as a distinguished professional in the field.

## CGFM Certification Benefits:

1. Enhanced marketability across government sectors.
2. Networking opportunities with fellow government financial managers.
3. Boosted confidence in your role.
4. Potential for employer incentives like raises, promotions, and bonuses.
5. Increased value as an employee, both in reality and perception.
6. Support for ongoing education to stay updated with the latest developments and technologies.

Use this link to learn more about CGFM memberships!

[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

## How Do I Become a CGFM?

1. Fill out an online application and agree to AGA's Code of Ethics.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
3. Pass three CGFM examinations.
4. Gain at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.



For any additional questions, please contact the Office of Professional Certification:

800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931) or [cgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:cgfm@agacgfm.org)

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# Student Membership Opportunities



## Why AGA?

Considering a career in government financial management? Want to meet government professionals in the federal, state, or local government levels?

**Join AGA for FREE!** Student membership in AGA provides you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections and discover your future career while positively impacting your community and country.

**APPLY  
NOW**



### Scholarships

Academic scholarships, National Collegiate Leadership Scholarship, Government Finance Case Challenge, Datathon



### Career Coaching & Professional Community

Mentoring Programs & Local Chapters



### Tools & Resources

'Accountability Talks' Podcast & Guest Speakers



Visit Our Website to Learn More!

[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)



**10/17**

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# ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS

PODCAST  
Show

AGA  
Accountability  
Talks



Discover '**Accountability Talks**,' a podcast delving into the government accountability community. Hear from thought leaders, gain career insights, and join our vibrant community!

**[Click here to listen!](#)**

## About the Host



Meet **Paul Marshall, CPA, CGFM, CIA, CICA, PMP, VP at MIL Corporation and dedicated AGA member with 20+ years in government accountability.** He champions best practices in audits, financial reporting, and more, serving on AGA boards at local and national levels.

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# Upcoming Webinars & Events

*You Do Not Want to Miss Out!*

**SAVE THE DATE**



**Discover a pathway to professional excellence with AGA's exclusive professional development sessions, designed to elevate your skills and knowledge. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and propel your career forward – join us for these enriching sessions!**

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**12/17**

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# Discovering Possibilities: Denver Professional Development Training (PDT) 2024



## Denver Professional Development Training (PDT)

**Sunday through Wednesday, July 14-17, 2024**

Join AGA's 2024 Professional Development Training on July 14-17 in Denver for three and a half days of insights from top government financial management professionals and industry experts. With over 3,000 attendees, this event offers educational sessions to enhance leadership, improve performance in cost-constrained environments, and address shared challenges. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and network with peers!

### Three Reasons You Should Attend:

- **Earn up to 24 NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits.** Increase your overall body of knowledge and improve your job effectiveness through new skills and techniques.
- **Stay on the cutting edge.** Top-notch speakers from federal, state, and local government, academia, and the private sector will keep you on top of your game with key information and educational experiences.
- **Network and connect.** Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues who face similar issues. Exchange ideas to bring back to your organization and build the profession.

## REGISTRATION

**AGA's Premier  
Training & Networking Event**  
*July 14-17, 2024 | Denver*  
**24 CPEs**

**Registration & Fees:**  
**Early Bird Deadline -**  
**June 14, 2024**

	Online	All Other
<b>AGA Members</b>		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
<b>Non-members</b>		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

***Click Here to Register Now!***  
***Join AGA Now to Save***  
***\$200!***

**13/17**

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**JOIN  
US**

## FRAUD PREVENTION

### Internal Fraud Prevention Training

**Thursday–Friday, September 19–20, 2024**

**8:30 AM. – 3:45 PM ET**

**Washington D.C. or Virtual**

**Ronald Reagan Building and International  
Trade Center**

**14 CPES**

The Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training focuses on management's responsibility for ensuring good systems of internal control, and the role of accountability professionals to minimize the risk of fraud, waste and abuse. Leaders in government and private industry discuss the latest discovery techniques, lessons learned and how governments are cooperating to improve services to citizens.

### Registration & Fees

**Early bird deadline – Aug. 23, 2024**

	Online	All Other
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#### AGA Members

Early Bird	\$550	\$575
Standard	\$650	\$675

#### Non-members

Early Bird	\$725	\$750
Standard	\$825	\$850

**[Click Here to Register Now!](#)**

**[Join AGA Now to Save  
\\$175!](#)**

**14/17**

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# Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

Save the Date for AGA's future Professional Development Training (PDT) events!



## Denver, Colorado

**July 14-17, 2024**

**Sheraton Denver  
Downtown Hotel**



## Nashville, Tennessee

**July 27-30, 2025**

**Gaylord Opryland Hotel**



## Dallas, Texas

**July 26-29, 2026**

**Gaylord Texan Hotel**



## Chicago, Illinois

**July 18-21, 2027**

**Hyatt Regency Chicago**

### AGA's Premier Training & Networking Event

*July 14-17, 2024 | Denver*  
24 CPEs

#### Registration & Fees:

**Early Bird Deadline -  
June 14, 2024**

	Online	All Other
<b>AGA Members</b>		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
<b>Non-members</b>		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

**Register Now!**

**Join AGA Now to Save \$200!**

**15/17**

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**Happy Independence Day from all of us at AGA Baton Rouge! May your celebrations be filled with joy, pride, and a renewed commitment to the ideals that make our nation strong. Let's continue to work together to create a brighter future for all.**

Whether you're watching a spectacular fireworks display, enjoying a barbecue, or participating in local parades and events, we encourage you to take a moment to appreciate the freedoms we enjoy and the efforts of those who work tirelessly to uphold them.

As members of AGA Baton Rouge, we are part of a vibrant network dedicated to advancing government accountability and improving financial management. Your contributions and dedication are essential to our mission, and we are proud to celebrate this day with you.



# Don't Forget to Stay Cool This Summer!

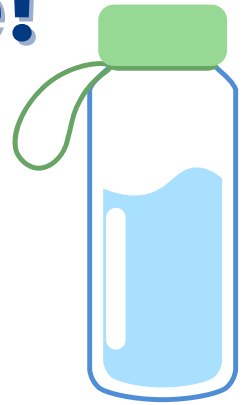


## Wear Sunscreen!

Wear sunscreen with at least SPF 30, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses when you're outside. Sun protection helps prevent sunburn and reduces your risk of heat-related illnesses.

## Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate!

Staying hydrated is key during the hot summer months. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Infuse your water with fruits like lemon, lime, or berries for a refreshing twist.



## Enjoy Cool Treats!

Indulge in icy treats like popsicles, frozen yogurt, or smoothies to cool down from the inside out. You can even make your own healthy versions at home with fresh fruits and yogurt.



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