

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter NEWSLETTER

WINTER '24-SPRING '25 | ISSUE PY-24-25-2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, AGA Northern Virginia!

On behalf of our dedicated board of directors and volunteers, I am pleased to present our Winter/Spring Newsletter. It's been a busy and exciting year so far – and it's hard to believe that

we're coming up on the home stretch with just a few more months left in the program year.

As President, I dedicated time this year to attend almost all of our events, and have personally seen increased growth in member engagement and attendance for which I'm very grateful. In February, we had a sold out in-person chapter meeting, thanks to Irv Dennis, the once and future CFO of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development speaking on the

relevant topic of government efficiency. The feedback I received from those in attendance said it was the highlight of their week and the best chapter meeting they can remember from recent years. It is the people and the connections made at these events that make them so worthwhile. At our March chapter meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from Frank Conroy, Chief Inspector from the United States Marshals Service, and something that stuck with me from that meeting's presentation is a leadership quote from John C. Maxwell: "One person seeking glory doesn't accomplish much. Success is the result of people pulling together to meet common goals." To me, this quote emphasizes the importance of collaboration and teamwork, and the importance of community in an organization such as the AGA. AGA has always been there for me, whether it was a work related opportunity, a learning opportunity, or networking opportunity to meet a friend. I sincerely hope that AGA is supporting each and every one of you in the same way it has supported me.

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In our last issue, I highlighted some key target areas and goals to supercharge our operations and ultimately drive both member and sponsorship value. Since our last issue, I've seen tangible progress made towards those goals and I owe that to the hard working team behind the scenes. Together, the board and I have:

Enhanced efficiency in our operations through collaboration with neighboring AGA Chapters.

- We teamed up with the DC Chapter for the 2024 holiday party at Hard Rock Café and also at conferences such as the Technology Transformation Summit (TTS) and the National Leadership Training (NLT) for chapter booths. We also collaborate with DC to provide them access to our National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) registration, which is vital for giving both members and nonmembers throughout our industry the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) required for compliance purposes.
- We held a successful Spring Workshop with the Montgomery / Prince George's County Chapter on April 23rd.

Strengthened our marketing and communications to keep you informed and engaged.

- We've restructured our Communications Team and we've seen improvements in the timeliness of our event marketing, which has positively impacted event attendance.
- We've recruited a design professional, an Advertising, Art & Design Instructor, to improve the quality of this very newsletter and other marketing materials.
- We're actively recruiting web design professionals to enhance our website we have some strong leads. More to come there.

Hosted impactful events that deliver value and foster community.

- We've restructured the format of our in-person chapter meetings to now include a buffet dinner instead of heavy Hors d'oeuvres. You talked, and we listened, and we want to provide the value you are seeking. And if I may say, the food at our last

in-person meeting was excellent - I loved the grilled swordfish!

- We've also restructured our programs schedule to provide the ideal mix for our unique membership body - our in-person meetings are now quarterly, with virtual meetings in between. Adding virtual meetings provides our widespread members with opportunity to participate and obtain CPE, while in-person meetings are still there for face time, connectivity, and networking. Our next in-person meeting will be on May 14th at our usual venue, the Washington Golf and Country Club, and I hope the weather plays in our favor so we can fully enjoy the gorgeous balcony area.
- To better track attendance, accountability, and issue CPEs, we've subscribed to Conference.io for our virtual and/or hybrid meetings, which is also used by AGA National for their conferences.
- We've also created new and exciting volunteer opportunities for our members by teaming up with Junior Achievement in Fairfax and participating in various volunteer days on site.

Prioritizing government members and leaders to better serve their unique needs.

- We've welcomed volunteers from the Federal Government onto our board of directors this year to serve in key roles such as Chair positions.
- We've drastically reduced event pricing for our AGA members who are Government employees (active or retired), and we will continue to keep prices as low possible while we all try to do more with less. For example, registration was free at our last chapter meeting for AGA members who were government employees.

Please join me as we continue to drive success here at the AGA's Northern Virginia Chapter and reach our goals. Thank you for your continued support and engagement, and I look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Warm regards,

Jacob MacDonald

President, AGA Northern Virginia Chapter



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the Federal
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UPCOMING NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS

NOVAGA Chapter meetings have concluded for this program year. Check your email, the chapter website, and LinkedIn for additional information, how to register and associated costs.



5/14

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Monthly Meeting Artificial Intelligence in Action: Evolving Applications and Insight

Join the Northern Virginia AGA Chapter on May 14 for a timely and engaging follow-up session with AGA member and Artificial Intelligence (AI) subject matter expert, Chris Kraft. Building on his popular presentation from January 2024, Chris will share updates on the latest advancements in the use of AI across mission, management, and oversight domains.

Attendees will gain insights into how AI technologies are being applied to enhance decision-making, improve operational efficiency, and address emerging challenges. The session will also touch on evolving best practices, risk considerations, and trends shaping the future of AI implementation. This is a unique opportunity to hear from a nationally recognized expert as he continues the conversation on the transformative potential of AI.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER



UPCOMING NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS CONT'D

5/17

Bike and Brew - Save the Date

Meet up is in Reston Metro Station • Time TBD

Biking to the following breweries:

- Aslin Beer Company
- Crooked Run Fermentation
- Lost Rhino Brewing

End at Ashburn Metro Station. Total biking length is about 13 miles. Responsible for renting / bringing own bike and helmet. Chapter pays for 1 drink ticket per brewery.

LEARN MORE



5/19

Top Golf Happy Hour in Collaboration with AGA DC Chapter - Save the Date

Top Golf at National Harbor • 6-8pm

Come hit some balls and enjoy some food and drinks with fellow AGA members. *Email to register coming soon.*

6/28

Annual NOVAGA Awards Gala

The NOVAGA chapter sponsors three awards to recognize public and private individuals for their exemplary work in the field of federal financial management. The NOVAGA chapter is proud to once again recognize its members who have shown outstanding leadership in the field of government financial management.

If you work with or know someone who should be recognized for their outstanding leadership in government financial management, consider nominating them for a NOVAGA chapter award (self-nominations are welcome).

Gala details to follow.

NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY



UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS AND TRAININGS

7/28-7/29

Professional Development Training (PDT)

Virtual | 14 CPEs

Register to attend PDT'25 and attend expert-led sessions, teaming with critical skills to tackle today's biggest technology, productively, and organizational challenges. Per AGA, in a time of transition and evolving policies, financial professionals must be prepared to adapt. It is a critical time to develop and sharpen skills necessary to enhance efficiency, maximize productivity, drive cost-savings, analyze data effectively, proactively prevent fraud, waste and abuse to ensure accountability in the use of public funds.

Registration and Fees - \$250 AGA Members / \$450 Non-AGA Members by June 27, 2025 early bird deadline.

LEARN MORE 

9/24-9/25

AGA's 2025 Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training

Hybrid (DC) | 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 and Fees - \$575 AGA Members / \$750 Non-AGA Members by August 29, 2025 early bird deadline.

LEARN MORE 

PDT 2025



SEE AGA'S WEBSITE FOR
ADDITIONAL TRAININGS AND EVENTS 





UPCOMING AGA WEBINARS

Check out AGA's Training & Events page for upcoming Webinars on AGA's website. Webinars marked with an asterisk (*) are free members-only events; all others include a registration fee (\$59 for AGA members and \$99 for non-AGA members).

[VIEW UPCOMING WEBINARS](#)

5/7

Risk Management: Enhancing Financial Audit Readiness Through Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning

2:00-3:50pm • 2 CPEs

5/14*

Free Members-Only Webinar

2:00-3:15pm • 1.5 CPEs

5/28

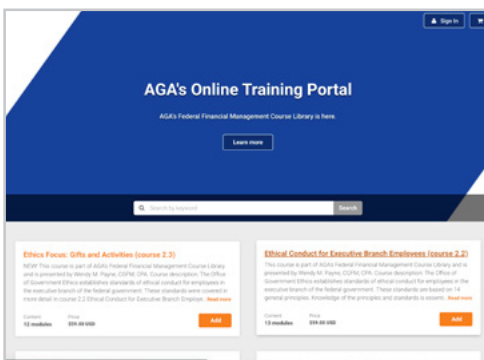
Leadership

2:00-3:15pm • 2 CPEs

AGA ONLINE TRAINING PORTAL

Check out AGA's Online Training Portal page for its Federal Financial Management Course Library contents. AGA's Federal Financial Management Course Library was developed and presented by Wendy Payne, former Executive Director of FASAB, and provides online, on-demand courses. For a nominal charge, AGA members can purchase any of the five courses currently available online.

[ACCESS THE TRAINING PORTAL](#)



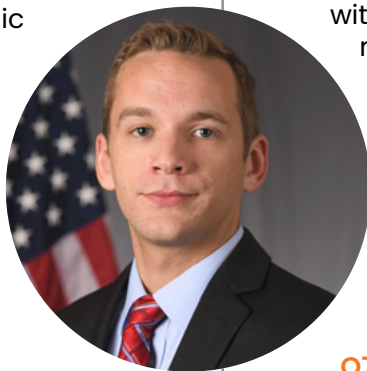


MEMBER SPOTLIGHT BOBBY SANDIGE

Q1: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: I've been an auditor with the FDIC, Office of Inspector General since October 2024 and have over 9 years of experience performing audits, inspections, and evaluations of federal agencies. This includes experience with the Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General and Air Force Audit Agency. Prior to joining the federal government, I worked in public accounting with KPMG in their Washington, D.C. office. I attended George Mason University and earned a B.S. in Accounting. I am a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Virginia, a Certified Information Systems Auditor, and a recent Certified Government Financial Manager.

Currently, I live in Fairfax, VA. In my personal time I enjoy spending time with my family. I am married and together we have a 1-year-old daughter. Part of our family includes two spaniel dogs (a 1-year-old and 5-year-old). My hobbies and interests include DIY home improvement tasks, sports including football, baseball, and lacrosse, video games, and technology.



Q2: What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?

A: My first professional job in the accounting profession was with KPMG in their Federal Audit practice in Washington, D.C. This shaped my career in a way that, looking back, I do not believe I would be where I am or as well prepared without that experience. I strongly believe my time there well prepared me for my next step in my career. This experience improved my understanding of internal controls, business processes, and the overall audit approach.

Q3: How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?

A: I learned about AGA through my interest in government accounting and the Certified Government Financial Manager. The NOVAGA chapter made sense to me as I live in the area and the events and training should be convenient for me to attend.

Q4: What's been the best aspect with AGA with respect to your career development? Are there any membership benefits you have particularly enjoyed?

A: I've just joined. However, I attended a 2024 workshop in downtown DC that was open to non-members. That network of government accountants was something I really enjoyed and joining AGA, I hope to continue to build on those experiences.

Q5: Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?

A: The government may be the largest employer in the US; however, you quickly find that this is a small community and a small city. With that, it is important to make connections with professionals in your field because there is a great chance you will bump into these people again. AGA's networking and training events gives individuals the opportunity to connect with other government accountants that you may likely meet again.

Q6: Do you have any advice for professionals in government who are considering joining AGA or are not active members? How can AGA play a role in their career?

A: Given that I just joined I am not sure that I am best suited to answer this question.

Q7: What is something most people do not know about you?

A: Most people do not know that I wanted to be a pilot before becoming an accountant.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTOPHER MERCADO

Q1: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: My name is Christopher Mercado. I come from a small family that is primarily from El Salvador. I have been a Software Developer for 3 years now with a main focus on web and .Net development. When not at work I enjoy cooking or jamming on bass or guitar with friends.

Q2: What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?

A: My career began when I was still studying for my degree at GMU. While working on my degree I was also a Jr. Developer at an IT Contractor company where I learned some of the fundamentals of working as a developer in a professional environment. Once I graduated, I kept the momentum going by acquiring new projects where I would eventually learn .Net. After, I started looking for new horizons with a more dedicated role related to my interest. This is how I ended up in my current position as a full-blown Software Developer where I'm learning more and more each day.

Q3: How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?

A: I learned about the AGA through several friends who were already involved in the NOVA chapter. After hearing about the potential opportunities and, already knowing some of the members, the decision was pretty easy to make.

Q4: What's been the best aspect with AGA with respect to your career development? Are there any membership benefits you have particularly enjoyed?

A: My favorite thing about the AGA so far has been networking with other members and hearing about their different backgrounds. I feel very welcome despite you being in a unique industry.

Q5: Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?

A: The AGA offers a lot of networking and training opportunities as well as guest speakers with insightful ideas about government support, transparency, and accountability.

**Q6: Do you have any advice for professionals in government who are considering joining AGA or are not active members? How can AGA play a role in their career?**

A: I would encourage any of my friends in the government to join as the AGA has many benefits and is inexpensive to join for early career members.

Q7: What is something most people do not know about you?

A: I love to cook and mix drinks. I also enjoy playing bass and guitar and making/writing music.



**NEW NORTHERN VIRGINIA
CHAPTER MEMBERS**

November 2024

Christine Guevara, Christopher Mercado,
Ryan Collins, Joseph DiMartino,
Miranda Edwards, Elliott Munizza

December 2024

Thanh Tran, Amy Coleman, David Beard
Ronel Fokou, Elena Hillenborg, Melven
Lundien, Analeeza Martinez, Julisa
Sanchez, Luke Voivoda

January 2025

Kevin Bernard, Karla Gracias, Haley Marshall,
Brianna Matthews, Matthew Padgett,
Sean Redd, Robert Sandidge, Erika Suliga

February 2025

Bill Colbert, Rasia Khan, Dan Lam,
Troy Meyer, Sakib Tauhidul

March 2025

Rebekah Williams, Mark Rivers



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ANNIVERSARIES – LIFETIME



Lifetime membership is bestowed upon individuals who have maintained active members status for at least 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. This means that as of today, NOVAGA's lifetime members have been active since at least 1981; in fact, NOVAGA has 36 lifetime members, with two that have been active since joining in 1965– 58 years ago! Our lifetime members have a combined 1,759 years of membership in AGA! Lifetime membership is bestowed upon individuals who have maintained active members status for at least 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. This means that as of today, NOVAGA's lifetime members have been active since at least 1981; in fact, NOVAGA has 36 lifetime members, with two that have been active since joining in 1965 – 58 years ago! Our lifetime members have a combined 1,759 years of membership in AGA! Lifetime memberships are awarded each January, with the next slate of lifetime members to be awarded in early 2025. In January 2022, NOVAGA had three members attain lifetime status, bringing our total lifetime members to 36.

To all of our Lifetime Members, thank you for your continued support, and service to chapter, AGA. The NOVAGA Chapter recognizes congratulates chapter members on their milestone anniversaries from November 2024 through March 2025.

LIFETIME MEMBERS (40+ YEARS)

*Christine Baughman
David W. Bieritz
Dennis K. Black
Charles L. Cipolla
Geoffrey B. Frank
Edward C. Gillen
Richard L. Jackson
Ronald H. Johnson
Thomas J. Muldoon
Robert B. Peterson
Charles J. Roy
Douglas R. Smith
Dale C. Williams
Shelton R. Young*

ANNIVERSARIES – CONTINUED

(30 YEARS)

Glenn R. Swartz, Jr.

(25 YEARS)

George W. Hall

(20 YEARS)

*Susan P. Cash
David L. Concannon
Shannon J. Donovan
Hillary W. Harms
Dana Omo
Kristin Elizabeth Wulff*

(15 YEARS)

*Shirley Fowler Burns
Coleen Copen
Kelley Grow
Chris Houchin
Paul Lionikis
Michael Ness
Samira C. Willis*

(10 YEARS)

*Ya-Han Y. Chen
Daniel A. D'Anglada
Christopher J. Flannery
Christine Ann Fulkerson
Frank Garcia, Jr.
Mary Elizabeth Grant
Meredith Hackett*

(10 YEARS CONT'D)

*David T. Haney
Lamonte M. Henderson
Julian E. Horner
Joseph I. Hungate, Iii
John E. Johnson
Adams K. Kondeh
Naznin S. Rahman
Heather L. Rasmussen
Breon D. Sarrano
Loveleen Sethi*

(5 YEARS)

*John R.P. Charters
Dawn D. Coulter
Pamela L. Crockett
Christine Daoud
James Davila
Heather L. Dixey
Jermicka A. Evans
Ruth Everiss
Roderick H. Fillinger
Brian M. Klishis
Jeffrey C. Lovelace, Jr.
Lisa A. Mitchell
Jane Monica Nesca
Patrice Netus
William J. Russell, Iii
Alexis Sather
Lauren M. Sipple
Brian J. Sledz
Clyde T. Willis, Jr.*

(1 YEAR)

*Nicole Bailin
Matthew Barrett
David N. Beard
Bruce Douglas Brooke, Iii
Coral Brun
Neil T. Burke
Amy Coleman
Jasmine Coleman
Ryan P. Collins
Catherine Couturiaux
Jason Denny
Randi E. Eckard
Miranda Edwards
Jonathan Fjare
Ronel N. Fokou
Aissa Hennouni
Elena Hillenburg
Rachel Leighann Hooley
Dana James
Melissa Jenner
Adam Kerr
Melven Lundien
Analeeza Martinez
Marianne Meagher
Christopher Mercado
Elliott Gerald Munizza
Oscar Quiroz
Gabrielle Leigh Royka
Julisa Sanchez
Alex Nathaniel Shapiro
Jeffrey A. Stiggle
David Thomas
Thanh Hau Ly Thi Tran
Luke Voivoda
Jordan Larkin Wilcher*

**By proclamation
of the governor,
Governor
Youngkin has
named March
2025 as Certified
Government
Financial
Manager month.**



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH

WHEREAS, the Association of Government Accountants has a network of more than 14,000 members in 90 chapters in the United States and around the world representing state, federal, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, investigators, information systems analysts, grant professionals and financial managers in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Richmond Chapter of Advance, Grow, Accelerate (AGA) is the association that connects and empowers financial related 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; and

WHEREAS, the AGA Richmond Chapter members have responded to the AGA's mission of advancing government accountability, as it continues to broaden educational efforts with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor, and character in its Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, the AGA Richmond Chapter is making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of the Commonwealth by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of the AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate education and employment history to abide by the AGA's Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, the CGFM program of the AGA requires the successful completion of three examinations requiring expertise in Governmental Environment, Budgeting, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Auditing; and

WHEREAS, each CGFM holder is required to maintain certification by completing at least 80 hours of continuing professional education in government financial management topics or related technical subjects every two years; and

WHEREAS, Certified Government Financial Manager Month promotes opportunity and ethics in financial management throughout government, advances government accountability through the CGFM program, and celebrates the hard-working men and women who demonstrate dependability, initiative, and practical stewardship of states resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Glenn Youngkin, do hereby recognize March 2025, as **CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH** in our COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Glenn Youngkin
Governor

Kerry Lee
Secretary of the Commonwealth



CGFM CORNER

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM®) certification demonstrates competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. The CGFM® is unique because it not only encompasses a specialized focus on government financial management, but it also has broad coverage of various aspects of financial management at all levels of government.

NOVAGA recognizes and applauds our chapter members who have obtained their CGFM® certification since the last publication of the chapter's newsletter.

NEW CGFMs

Robert Sandidge
July 2024

Meili Niu
December 2024

Mr. Billy D. Whisenant
December 2024

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CGFM](#)

CGFM CHANGES

New 2024 editions of the 3 CGFM study guides are now available!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Starting September 1, the CGFM examinations began following the updated content outlines.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The updated CGFM examinations are now in place (with immediate score reporting).

CGFM EVENTS

We held a CGFM Study Group on **January 16, 2025**. 21 attendees joined the event, which covered Government Environment.

Please stay tuned for an upcoming CGFM Study Group on the **first part of Module 2** this spring! Also, please share with your network that **March is CGFM Month!**

CGFM TIPS

Tip #1

Take advantage when study groups are offered because they can help you stay focused and engaged with the material.

Tip #2

Make a rough study schedule to plan how you will learn the material. Adjust the schedule as needed based on how you are doing with practice questions.

IS YOUR AGA MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?

AGA's program year ends June 30th. Check your membership card or log into your AGA profile today to confirm your renewal date. If you haven't already renewed, consider doing so today!

Your AGA membership gives you many benefits, including education and networking opportunities, discounts on chapter and national events, and access to many resources. In fact, each year, AGA members receive at least 14 hours of complementary training / CPE credit on a variety of topics – FOR FREE!

Membership in the NOVAGA chapter only increases this benefit! NOVAGA is one of 90+ AGA chapters nationwide and supports AGA's core values of service, accountability, integrity, and leadership. The NOVAGA chapter provides networking opportunities within and with other local chapters, CPE credit through chapter meetings and special events, and assists members in obtaining their CGFM® certification by offering study groups to its membership.

CHECK YOUR STATUS & RENEW TODAY ↗

AGA™ Northern Virginia Chapter



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WE HELP MAKE GOVERNMENT BETTER

To serve the American people, the government needs sound, efficient, and transparent financial management. At Kearney, we're driven by that purpose every day. We provide services across the financial spectrum and have served every Cabinet-level department, all branches of the military, and more than 30 independent agencies. Consistently recognized as a "Best Place to Work," Kearney cultivates a "people-first" culture.

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL

To make sure you receive all updates on future educational and social events from AGA and NOVAGA, check your profile and make sure your email is up to date! And don't forget to check your spam folder – you may need to add NOVAGA as a safe address to receive updates.



MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The "NOVAGA Program Year 24-25 Membership Survey" seeks to obtain crucial feedback from AGA Northern Virginia Chapter's members and event attendees. The objective is to gather valuable insights that can enhance member experiences, stimulate engagement, and tailor events for maximum benefit to all. The survey explores the respondent's career stage, reasons for joining or renewing membership, event attendance interests, preferences for future event themes, and favored platforms for virtual interaction, and more.



ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS

If you have any pictures taken at any NOVAGA events (virtual or in-person events) or have information that should be included in the newsletter, please email the Newsletter Editor (Sonia Kessler at sonia.kessler@sikich.com or Nishit Kurani at N.Kurani@rmafed.com).

NCC UPDATE | *By Chris Horton*

The National Council of Chapters (NCC) of AGA is a forum where chapter leaders come together with AGA staff and Governing Board members to discuss challenges and brainstorm solutions for AGA chapters. Every chapter has an NCC representative (NCC rep) and the Northern Virginia chapter regularly tasks the Immediate Past President for this role. I will hold the NCC Rep position for the chapter through June 30, 2025, and then Jacob McDonald will assume the role.

The final NCC meeting for the 2024-25 program year occurred on February 5, 2025. We discussed the upcoming LEAD! event on April 23 and 24 in Baltimore, where individuals taking on new chapter

leadership roles go for two days of AGA chapter training. This year, the Northern Virginia chapter is pleased to be represented by President-elect Irfan Satriadhi and Treasurer Kiera Murphy. The NCC meeting also covered member engagement ideas, such as happy hours and chapter events, as well as ways to better communicate with the chapter members.

The Northern Virginia chapter is looking at how to incorporate some of these ideas into its Program Year plan for 2025-26. If you have any questions about NCC or would like to learn more about AGA chapters in general, please contact me at c.horton@rmafed.com.

PAST EVENTS

NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETINGS

Our chapter meetings have been held in person at the Washington Golf and Country Club, located at 3017 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA. Parking is free, and attendees receive 1 CPE credit. For additional details and to register, check your email and the chapter's website. Also, check the Chapter's LinkedIn page for more information on chapter meeting events.

[VISIT CHAPTER'S WEBSITE](#)

[in NOVAGA ON LINKEDIN](#)



NOVAGA has several chapter meetings scheduled for this program year, with great speakers. To our speakers, we thank you so much for giving us your time, energy, and providing us with insight into some great topics.



NOVAGA WELCOMES IRV DENNIS!

On February 20, 2025, NOVAGA hosted The Honorable Irving "Irv" L. Dennis, CPA as the featured speaker. Mr. Dennis provided valuable insights into the strategies and objectives of focusing on efficiency.

With an impressive career spanning over 37 years at Ernst & Young LLP - culminating in his role as Senior Global Client Service Partner - Mr. Dennis brings unparalleled expertise. He is also the founder of 4D Consulting LLP and is the former and future CFO of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Additionally, Mr. Dennis is the author of the highly regarded book, *Transforming a Federal Agency: Management Lessons from HUD's Financial Reconstruction*, which is currently ranked #52 in Amazon's Top 100 Governmental Accounting books.

PAST EVENTS CONT'D

NOVAGA PRESENTS ETHICS

This year's NOVAGA Winter event presented Ethics training to members attending both in-person and virtually. Held Thursday, January 9, 2025, NOVAGA's tailored event presented ethics that met the Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) 2024 requirements.

CGFM STUDY GROUP

NOVAGA co-hosted a hybrid CGFM training event with the DC AGA chapter on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Members attending virtually and in person received 3 CPE credits while studying for Exam 1. Participants learned about the government environment at a high level and tackled several questions.

Thank you, Kevin Shers for scheduling this great event!



NOVAGA ENJOYS THE CAPITALS GAME!

NOVAGA's Early Career Committee sponsored an evening of hockey on March 18th. Members enjoyed watching the Washington Capitals best the Detroit Red Wings 4 to 1. While Ovie didn't score that night, everyone that attended, he did have an assist and is still 8 goals away from beating Wayne Gretsky's NHL record of 894 goals!





PAST EVENTS CONT'D JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

On Tuesday, March 4th and Tuesday, April 3rd, AGA members had the opportunity to give back by volunteering at Junior Achievement (JA) Finance Park in Fairfax County. The event saw volunteers guide 8th-grade students through realistic financial simulations, helping them make key budgeting decisions and learn valuable money management skills.

Before diving into the day's activities, volunteers underwent a comprehensive training session, experiencing the simulation firsthand to better prepare for their roles. Each volunteer was then assigned a specific station, where they mentored students

through various financial topics, including home improvement, investment strategies, childcare, and self-care, all while balance wants with needs.

These events proved to be invaluable experiences for both the students and volunteers. For the students, it was a chance to learn how to manage their finances through interactive scenarios, while AGA members shared personal insights and real-world experiences, empowering the next generation to make informed financial decisions.

If you are interested in attending future JA events with the chapter and being part of this transformative experience, watch NOVAGA's emails and LinkedIn posts for the next opportunity.



MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

On March 25, NOVAGA welcomed Frank Conroy, Chief Inspector, United States Marshals Service (USMS) to discuss leadership, communication, and teamwork and how to apply these pillars to a decentralized agency's A-123 internal control program. Mr. Conroy covered topics of compliance, self-assessments, and quality assurance within an entity's internal control program.

Mr. Conroy has been Chief Inspector for four years. Prior to heading the Office of Professional Responsibility, Mr. Conroy was a Chief Inspector/Deputy Commander in South Carolina, Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal in California, a Criminal Investigator/Deputy in Charge in South Carolina, and a Deputy U.S. Marshal in Tennessee.

EARLY CAREERS COMMITTEE NEWS

As we welcome the spring season, the Early Career Committee remains dedicated to its mission: empowering early-career professionals to build connections within the industry and contribute positively to AGA. By joining NOVAGA, you will gain opportunities to expand your professional network and develop by learning from the brightest minds in both the private and public sectors. As our committee continues to grow, we remain committed to planning events that foster a welcoming and supportive community.

We recently held an event at the Capitals vs. Red Wings game and it was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came out – Your involvement makes the Committee's initiatives successful. As the weather gets warmer, we plan to have more fun events, including minigolf at Perch Putt / Starr Hill and a bike-and-brew tour. Stay tuned for more details!

We encourage all members to participate actively in volunteering and attending future events. For any questions or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rhett Raham (rraham@kpmg.com) or Chad Willhite (cwillhite@kpmg.com).



NOMINATIONS FOR NOVAGA LEADERSHIP

We are excited to announce that the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA (NOVAGA) is now accepting nominations for several positions for the upcoming term (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

- **President Elect**
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**

If you are interested in serving in one of these roles or one of our many committees, please email Irfan Satriadhi at isatriadhi@kpmg.com with a brief summary of your professional background, qualifications, and leadership experience.

All active members of NOVAGA are eligible to be a candidate.

VISIT CHAPTER'S WEBSITE 

SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to our corporate sponsors for supporting our Chapter and our members during this program year. Through your continued support, we can continue hold chapter meetings and CGFM® study groups, and other networking and membership events.

We are excited to announce a new initiative this year: a special discount for small businesses – Platinum, Gold, and Silver levels. We believe this will provide greater opportunities for diverse organizations to engage with our Chapter and contribute to our shared goals.

For information on becoming a corporate sponsor for this program year (2024 – 2025) or the next program year (2025 – 2026), please contact our President, Jacob MacDonald at Jacob.MacDonald@significanceinc.com and the Corporate Sponsor Chair Chris Horton at c.horton@rmafed.com.

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The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (NOVAGA) is an association with more than 900 members from the federal, state, local, public and private practices, with a mission statement to serve professionals 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, connect with us on LinkedIn, or check out our home page at agacgfm.org/Chapters/NOVAGA.



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