

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Baton Rouge
Chapter

OCTOBER 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!



**AGA BATON ROUGE
VIRTUAL FALL PDT!
Register Now!
(PG. 3)**



**UPCOMING WEBINARS
& EVENTS!
(PG. 13)**



A Message from The Chapter President

Dear AGA Members and Friends,

I hope this message finds you well! As we move forward in what has been an incredible year for AGA, I am excited to share details about an event that I believe will be a highlight for our chapter.

We are thrilled to announce the Virtual Professional Development Training (PDT), happening on November 14, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM CST. The theme for this exciting event is *"Financial Gumbo: A Recipe for Professional Growth"*—a perfect blend of expert insights and opportunities to develop professionally while connecting with peers.

This event is open to both members and non-members, and you'll have the opportunity to earn 3 CPE credits! Whether you're looking to sharpen your skills, grow your network, or learn the latest in government finance, this is the event for you. **Members can attend for \$29, and non-members are welcome to join for \$49.** You can register today by following [this link](#). Be sure to reserve your spot early—this is an event you won't want to miss!

I've attached a flyer with all the details to this letter for your convenience. Feel free to share it with your colleagues and friends who may be interested in joining us for this incredible day of learning and connection.

As always, thank you for your continued dedication to AGA.

Warm regards,

**Miranda Maten
President
AGA Baton Rouge Chapter**

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FALL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



Financial Gumbo: *A Recipe for Professional Growth*



DATE: November 14, 2024
TIME: 9:00 AM-12:00PM CST
PLACE: Virtual
CPE's Earned: 3

REGISTER HERE

**Members &
Non-Members
Welcome!**

MEMBERS: \$29
NON-MEMBERS: \$49



Guest Speakers:



Joye Sistrunk
Principal of Premier Group



Gwendolyn Sykes
Past AGA National President



Kimberly Jones
AGA Senior Program
Manager, CGFM & Education

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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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AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



Barbara Aguilard **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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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.

Erin McAlinney

Webmaster/Social Media Manager

Erin McAlinney is a dedicated Social Media Coordinator at Premier Group, where she skillfully manages and enhances the company's online presence. She graduated from the University of South Florida in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Public Relations & Advertising, and from St. Petersburg College in 2020 with an Associate's in Arts in Mass Communications Journalism. Erin has crafted advertising campaigns for small, local businesses and is passionate about staying ahead of emerging marketing and social media trends. She excels at designing graphics, crafting newsletters, and creating engaging content that resonates with audiences. In her spare time, Erin enjoys exploring new food spots and staying connected with family and friends.

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WELCOMING OUR NEWEST AGA MEMBERS!

Diane B. Allison, CPA, CGFO



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Baton Rouge
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WISHING A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AGA MEMBERS!

- **Diane B. Allison, CPA, CGFO**
- **Michelle Hood**
- **Marella A. Houghton, CPA**
- **John Kincer**
- **Wendy C. Simoneaux, CGFM, CPA**
- **Kimberlyn Stewart**



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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



JOIN US



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, EMAIL US AT 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

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

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Baton Rouge
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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



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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



13/19

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National Events

JOIN
US



Free For Members!

Technology Transformation Summit

- **Date:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024
- **Place:** 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW,
Washington DC, 20004
- **CPE's Earned:** 6

TTS 2024 will bring together more than 1,000 government leaders and industry experts to discuss the transformation of mission delivery through IT innovation, personnel, security and cloud technology. Digital transformation is now, more than ever, a critical aspect of efficient, effective mission performance in government.

Registration & Fees

In Person

Government Member	Free!
Government Non-member	\$140

Virtual

Government Member	Free!
Private Member	Free!
Government Non-member	\$140
Private Non-member	\$270

[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

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National Events



Webinar: Ethics

Friday, November 13, 2024

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: BETH

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None
required

Field of Study: Behavioral Ethics
(BETH)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



Webinar: Internal Control

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: AUDG

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Auditing –
Governmental (AUDG)

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



FREE Members Only Webinar

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

2:00–3:15 PM ET | 1.5 CPEs | FOS: PD

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Personal Development
(PD)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

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



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

Who's Ready For Football Season?

Stay caught up on this year's schedule!



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS 2024 SCHEDULE

PRESENTED BY:
**SEAT
GEEK**

PRESEASON

WEEK	DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (CT)	TV
P1	SATURDAY	AUG. 10	AT ARIZONA CARDINALS	7:00 PM	FOX 8 GRAY TV
P2	SUNDAY	AUG. 18	AT SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS	7:00 PM	FOX 8
P3	SUNDAY	AUG. 25	TENNESSEE TITANS	1:00 PM	FOX 8 GRAY TV

REGULAR SEASON

WEEK	DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (CT)	TV
1	SUNDAY	SEPT. 8	CAROLINA PANTHERS	NOON	FOX
2	SUNDAY	SEPT. 15	AT DALLAS COWBOYS	NOON	FOX
3	SUNDAY	SEPT. 22	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	NOON	FOX
4	SUNDAY	SEPT. 29	AT ATLANTA FALCONS	NOON	FOX
5	MONDAY	OCT. 7	AT KANSAS CITY CHIEFS	7:15 PM	ESPN
6	SUNDAY	OCT. 13	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	NOON	FOX
7	THURSDAY	OCT. 17	DENVER BRONCOS	7:15 PM	PRIME VIDEO
8	SUNDAY	OCT. 27	AT LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	3:05 PM	FOX
9	SUNDAY	NOV. 3	AT CAROLINA PANTHERS	NOON	CBS
10	SUNDAY	NOV. 10	ATLANTA FALCONS	NOON	FOX
11	SUNDAY	NOV. 17	CLEVELAND BROWNS	NOON	FOX
12	BYE				
13	SUNDAY	DEC. 1	LOS ANGELES RAMS	3:05 PM	FOX
14	SUNDAY	DEC. 8	AT NEW YORK GIANTS	NOON	FOX
15	SUNDAY	DEC. 15	WASHINGTON COMMANDERS	NOON	FOX
16	MONDAY	DEC. 23	AT GREEN BAY PACKERS	7:15 PM	ESPN*
17	SUNDAY	DEC. 29	LAS VEGAS RAIDERS	NOON	FOX
18	TBD	TBD	AT TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	TBD	TBD

SAINTS HOME GAMES IN BOLD | *SELECT GAMES TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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DATE	OPP	TIME	TV	VENUE
Aug 31, 2024	@ McNeese St.	8:00 pm	ESP+	Cowboy Stadium
Sep 7, 2024	vs Savannah St.	7:00 pm	—	A.W. Mumford Stadium
Sep 14, 2024	@ Jackson St.	7:00 pm	ESP+	Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium
Sep 21, 2024	@ Prairie View	7:00 pm	ESP+	Panther Stadium at Blackshear Field
Oct 5, 2024	vs Nicholls St.	7:00 pm	—	A.W. Mumford Stadium
Oct 12, 2024	@ Texas Southern	7:00 pm	—	Shell Energy Stadium
Oct 19, 2024	vs Alcorn St.	7:00 pm	—	A.W. Mumford Stadium
Oct 26, 2024	@ Florida A&M	7:00 pm	—	Bragg Memorial Stadium
Nov 2, 2024	@ Alabama A&M	3:00 pm	—	Louis Crews Stadium
Nov 9, 2024	vs Bethune-Cook.	3:00 pm	—	A.W. Mumford Stadium
Nov 16, 2024	vs Ark.-Pine Bluff	3:00 pm	—	A.W. Mumford Stadium
Nov 30, 2024	vs Grambling	2:00 pm	NBC	Caesars Superdome



OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME / RESULT	TV
 USC *	Las Vegas, Nev. (Allegiant	6:30pm (CT)	ABC
 Nicholls State	Baton Rouge, LA	6:30pm (CT)	ESPN+
 @ South Carolina	Columbia, S.C. (Williams-	11:00am (CT)	ABC
 UCLA	Baton Rouge, LA	TBA	TBA
 South Alabama	TBA	TBA	TBA
 Ole Miss	Baton Rouge, LA	TBA	TBA
 @ Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark. (Reynolds	TBA	TBA
 @ Texas A&M	Bryan-College Station, Texas	TBA	TBA
 Alabama	Baton Rouge, LA	TBA	TBA
 @ Florida	Gainesville, Fla. (Ben Hill	TBA	TBA
 Vanderbilt	Baton Rouge, LA	TBA	TBA
 Oklahoma	Baton Rouge, LA	TBA	TBA



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