

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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AGATM

Philadelphia
Chapter

May 2025

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Thriving Together: Your Vibrant Gateway to Government Financial Management Excellence with AGA Philadelphia!

Welcome esteemed AGA members!
As leaders in shaping financial
strategies and upholding fiscal
integrity in government agencies, you
are the cornerstone of AGA
Philadelphia. Thank you for being
essential to our community, where
excellence in government financial
management begins and thrives!



**Join AGA Philly
Leadership
Today!
([PG. 11](#)).**



**AGA National Virtual PDT –
See More Details! ([PG. 15](#)).**

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AGA PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

LAYNA HOLMES-BUTLER
CGFM, CPA

Layna Holmes-Butler is an accomplished accounting and audit professional with a strong focus on delivering comprehensive solutions to individuals and businesses.

Her expertise encompasses a wide range of services, including agreed-upon procedures, financial statement preparation following GAAP standards, general ledger management, accounts receivable and payable, and fixed asset accounting. Layna also specializes in conducting compliance audits in alignment with Government Auditing Standards (the Yellow Book) and relevant laws and regulations.

Throughout her career, Layna has worked with major clients such as The Mercadien Group, J. Miller & Associates, and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Her dedication to excellence and adherence to industry standards make her a valuable asset to the accounting and auditing community.



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AGA Philadelphia Chapter: 2025 Chapter Leadership

Chapter President: Layna Holmes-Butler

First Vice President: Kyle Smith

Chapter Treasurer: Layna Holmes-Butler

National Council of Chapters Representative: Kyle Smith

ACE Reporting: Teri Lewis

Membership: Clarence Johnson

Programs, Meeting, & Events Chair: Stephanie Sowalsky

Social Media/Webmaster: Erin McAlinney



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Join the AGA Philadelphia Chapter Leadership Board!

Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community? Here's your chance! The Philadelphia 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.

Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.



www.agacgfm.org



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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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CGFM LIVE COURSES



AGA is pleased to offer TWO options for CGFM live (real-time) courses for individuals:

- **virtual courses** – live instruction via Zoom.
- **in-person courses** – live class with students and instructor onsite in Alexandria, VA.

Looking for other CGFM course options? AGA also offers [self-paced CGFM courses](#) and [CGFM training for groups](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION

Virtual
Courses

Course 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control

July 15-17, 2025, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation
deadline – July 8

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Don't Forget: Join or Renew Your AGA Membership!



Benefits:

- **Connect, Collaborate, & Network:**
 - Expand your network, participate in our online mentoring program!
 - Volunteer to serve on AGA committees and boards,
 - Find a position or look for qualified candidates on AGA's Job Board
 - Join the conversation on LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook.
- **Continuous Learning:**
 - Participate in educational events — learn from and meet the experts.
 - Save money with registration discounts on national and chapter training events.
 - Sign up for four (4) complimentary members-only webinars.
 - Attend the Transformation & Technology Summit for FREE!
 - Attend the Women's Forum for FREE!
 - Leverage discounts on CGFM renewal and application fees.
- **Stay Informed & Find Solutions:**
 - Access online tools, developed by government experts to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration.
 - Stay up to date through the quarterly Journal of Government Financial Management.
 - Learn about and share best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
 - Get the latest innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.



Don't Hesitate!
Register Now!

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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!

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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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AGA Philadelphia Celebrates National Recognition



AGA Philadelphia is proud to announce that our chapter has earned **three national awards** recognizing our outstanding achievements in recruitment, membership growth, and overall performance.

Top Recruiter Award

Vice President Kyle Smith received national recognition for his outstanding efforts in recruitment, helping us exceed our membership goals.

Membership Growth Award – Group D

Under the leadership of Chapter President Layna Holmes-Butler, CPA, CGFM, our chapter achieved the highest membership growth in our group.

ACE Recognition – Bronze Status

We were also honored with Bronze status in the Achievement in Chapter Excellence program, reflecting our commitment to professional development, operations, and engagement.

These awards are a testament to the dedication of our leaders and members. Thank you for helping AGA Philadelphia thrive.



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Call for Leadership: Join AGA Philly's Executive Committee



The AGA Philadelphia Chapter is seeking dedicated members to join our **2025–2026 Chapter Executive Committee (CEC)**. Without volunteers, our chapter *cannot* thrive—we need your leadership and commitment to continue our mission of advancing government accountability.

If you're interested in serving or would like to nominate another member, please send the **nominee's name, email address, and desired position** to Chapter President Layna Holmes-Butler at hlayna@hotmail.com by **June 6, 2025**.

Elections will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

Available positions include:

President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Community Service Chair, Education Chair, Membership Chair, NCC Representative, ACE Reporting Chair, Programs & Events Chair, Webmaster, Communications Chair, Awards Chair, and CGFM/Professional Certification Chair.

This is a great opportunity to develop professionally, expand your network, and make a lasting impact on our chapter. We hope you'll consider stepping up!

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Upcoming Webinars & Events

You Do Not Want to Miss Out!



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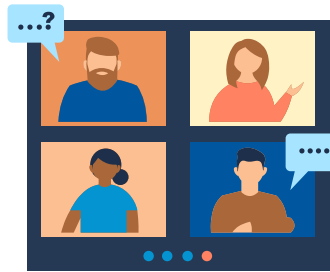
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VIRTUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



Join us on Zoom for our virtual membership meetings to discuss the future of financial management and beyond! Let's connect, collaborate, and propel our profession forward together. Don't miss out! Mark your calendars and join the Zoom meeting for insightful discussions and networking opportunities. Links to meetings will be shared as the dates approach. See you there!

**TBD - Stay Tuned for Emails
from Us!**

**If you have any questions, please contact our Chapter
President, Layna Holmes-Butler at hlayna@hotmail.com**

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National Events

ERM Workshop 2025

June 4 • Washington, D.C. • 5.5 CPEs

Mark your calendar for the 2025 AGA/AFERM Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Workshop, taking place on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. ET at the Grand Hyatt Washington – Constitution Room.**

This interactive workshop offers **5.5 CPEs** and provides practical insights from ERM leaders through engaging presentations and hands-on, small-group discussions. Attendees will move beyond theory to explore real-world strategies, tools, and examples of successful risk management in action.

Agenda planning is currently underway, and more details will be shared soon.

For questions or additional information, contact: meetings@agacgfm.org. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your ERM knowledge and connect with fellow professionals in the field.

Registration & Pricing

General Admission

Government Member	\$160
Government Non-member	\$160

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National Events



A Virtual Event
July 28–29, 2025
14 CPEs

PDT '25 features **100+ expert-led sessions**, equipping you with critical skills to tackle today's biggest technology, productivity, and organizational challenges. In a time of transition and evolving policies, financial professionals at all levels of government must be prepared to adapt. It is a critical time to develop and sharpen your 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.

PDT brings together thousands of financial professionals and industry leaders to exchange ideas, explore innovative strategies and proven solutions for maximizing impact and driving efficiency and productivity in public service. Don't miss this opportunity to **enhance your professional development** and **collaborate with peers from across the industry**.

Need help making the case to attend? AGA offers a **Justification Toolkit** to help you demonstrate the value of PDT to your organization. From key learning takeaways to cost-benefit highlights, our toolkit provides critical information needed to help secure approval for this unparalleled professional development opportunity.

Three Reasons You Should Attend:

- **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 about successful strategies to leverage technology and staff skillsets to their fullest potential, "do more with less", and educational experiences.
- **Network and connect.** Exchange ideas to bring back to your organization and help build the profession. Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues who face the same or similar issues on the job.
- **Earn up to 14 of NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits.** Make sure you keep your credentials current by increasing your overall body of knowledge and improving your job effectiveness and efficiency by acquiring new skills and learning about successful techniques.

Registration & Pricing

**Early Bird Deadline:
June 27, 2025**

	Online Registration	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$250	\$275
Standard	\$350	\$375
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$450	\$475
Standard	\$550	\$575

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National Events

2025 Internal Control & FRAUD Prevention Training

Join accountability professionals from across the country at AGA's 2025 Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training, taking place **September 24–25 in Washington, DC**. This premier event focuses on strengthening internal controls and reducing the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse in government programs.

Attendees can earn up to 14 NASBA-approved CPE credits. Sessions will cover timely topics such as fraud detection, data analytics, improper payments, and risks with government payment cards.

Visit nasbaregistry.org for more on CPE eligibility, and register online to secure your spot. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from top experts and enhance your fraud prevention strategies!

Featured Speakers:



Dr. Kelly Richmond Pope
Author, Education
Innovator & Forensic
Accounting Expert



Gerard Braud
Crisis Communications
Expert

Registration & Pricing

**Early Bird Deadline:
August 29, 2025**

	Online Registration	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$575	\$600
Standard	\$675	\$700
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$750	\$775
Standard	\$850	\$875

[Click Here to
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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

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Premier Group is a full-service CPA firm founded by Joye Sistrunk in 2005, embodying a passion for numbers, community purpose, integrity, and a mission of trust.

At Premier Group, we are dedicated to serving a diverse range of clients, including government agencies, federal contractors, nonprofits, and mid-sized businesses. Our commitment to excellence, teamwork, and collaboration ensures that every client receives personalized attention and the highest quality of service. Partner with us to experience the difference that passion, purpose, and integrity can make in achieving your financial goals.
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Our Services Include:

Audit and Assurance Services: Thorough examination and verification of financial records, assuring stakeholders.

Financial Budgeting and Forecasting: Expert analysis and planning to help clients make informed financial decisions for the future.

Risk Management: Identification, assessment, and mitigation of risks to safeguard financial assets and operations.

Litigation Support: Professional assistance in legal matters involving financial disputes, providing expert testimony and analysis.

Tax Advice and Preparation: Strategic tax planning, compliance, and preparation services to minimize tax burdens and optimize financial outcomes.

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