

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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# AGIA™

Baton Rouge  
Chapter

FEBRUARY 2025



**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!

**Don't Forget  
Renew your AGA  
Membership!  
(PG. 6)**



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



# A Message from The Chapter President

**Dear AGA Members and Friends,**

As we step into February, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for your dedication to our chapter and the greater government financial management community. Your commitment to professional growth, integrity, and service continues to strengthen our network and make a lasting impact.

This year, we remain focused on providing valuable opportunities for learning, networking, and collaboration. Whether through engaging events, insightful discussions, or career development initiatives, we strive to support you in every stage of your professional journey. Stay connected with us and take full advantage of the resources AGA offers!

I also want to remind you to **renew your AGA membership by March 31st** to maintain access to exclusive member benefits, including training opportunities, certifications, and a supportive professional community. Your membership is vital in advancing our shared mission and ensuring we continue to foster excellence in government financial management.

Thank you for being an integral part of the AGA Baton Rouge Chapter. Let's make 2025 another year of growth and success together!

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

**Warm regards,**

**Miranda Maten  
President  
AGA Baton Rouge Chapter**

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**02/15**

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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.



## 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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# Don't Forget: 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.

**JOIN  
NOW**



**Don't Hesitate!**  
**Register Now!**

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**06/15**

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# WELCOMING OUR NEWEST AGA MEMBERS!

**Carlos Dickerson**  
**Garret Debate Lee**  
**Zhongqun Lee**  
**Ursula Major**  
**Shena Pierson**



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# WISHING A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AGA MEMBERS!

**Natashia Mims Carter**

**Tiffani M. Dorsa, CPA**

**A. Scott Erwin**

**Jannay Y. Gwin**

**Bukola Oluwade**

**Sandra Seaberry**

**Kerri Traxler**

**Victoria R. Williams**

**Yolanda Williams**



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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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Baton Rouge Chapter



# 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)



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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**



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# National Events



## Webinar: ERM

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**  
2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: IT

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

**Field of Study:** Information Technology (IT)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



## FREE Members-Only Webinar

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
| 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!](#)



## Webinar: RPA/Machine Learning

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025**  
2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: IT

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

**Field of Study:** Information Technology (IT)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

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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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