



ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

Albuquerque AGA February 2016

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President's Message

Hello Fellow AGA Members,

March is here and we are revving up for this year's Professional Development Training (PDT) at the Buffalo Thunder Casino and Resort in Santa Fe. Speakers and attendees are preparing to come from across the country, and everything is coming together to make for an incredible training event.

The PDT, jointly conducted by the Albuquerque and New Mexico Chapters, is the only event of its kind offered in the local area. No other New Mexico training event offers accounting and finance professionals the opportunity to attend such a wide breadth of training courses for one price. Additionally, our CGFM Day offered the Wednesday before the PDT provides intensive instruction for those seeking to pass the CGFM Exams and obtain their certification.

On a final note, the time for annual membership renewals is almost here. This year, a \$50 PDT registration discount is being given to members. Similar discounts are offered to members for our numerous other training events offered throughout the year. Don't let your membership lapse and miss out on these valuable benefits.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you and the local government accounting and financial community. I'll see you at the PDT!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Brown, CPA, CGFM

President

AGA Albuquerque Chapter

Welcome New Members!

- ♦ **Ms. DENISE CORRIZ** - NM Workforce Solutions Financial Mgmt Bureau
 - ♦ **Ms. Tai Etcheverry** - Lea County
- ♦ **Ms. Jeanette Frias** - NM Workforce Solutions Financial Mgmt Bureau
 - ♦ **Ms. Tina Lockner** - NM Workforce Solutions Financial Mgmt Bureau
- ♦ **Ms. Svetlana Milam-Kutozova** - NM Workforce Solutions Financial Mgmt Bureau
 - ♦ **Mr. Raul Quintanilla** - NM Workforce Solutions Financial Mgmt Bureau
 - ♦ **Mr. Joshua B. Saffell** - City of Las Cruces
 - ♦ **Mr. Michael Sisneros** - New Mexico Human Services Dept. OIG-IRB
 - ♦ **Mr. Daniel Valdez** - NM Workforce Solutions Financial Mgmt Bureau

Membership Renewal

It's Membership and Certification renewal time!

Renew your membership and CGFM online today:

- Log in with your User Name and password at www.agacgfm.org
- Select the "Proceed to Checkout" at the bottom of the invoice to renew online.

Important CGFM renewal information

To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFMs are required to:

- Pay the CGFM annual renewal fee by March 31.
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) in government financial management topics or related technical subjects within each designated two-year cycle.
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

We have **31%** of the Chapter who have already renewed for the 2016-2017 program year – join their ranks now!

Don't Forget! – While you are renewing your membership, make sure that your information and membership type is correct in the AGA system so you are receiving correct information!

2016 Professional Development Training

July 17-20 | Anaheim, CA or virtual | 24 CPEs

AGA's premier training and networking event

3 Reasons You Should Attend:

1. **Earn up to 24 CPE Hours** - Enhance your lifelong learning and gain the knowledge and understanding to better improve your job effectiveness. The presentations are facilitated by both industry experts and colleagues who have faced similar challenges. In doing so you can earn up to 24.5 CPE hours.
2. **Stay On The Cutting Edge** - Includes top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia and private sector bringing you key findings and educational experiences to augment your job knowledge and skills.
3. **Network and Connect** - AGA's PDT is the place to connect with a variety of government financial experts and industry colleagues from around the nation facing the same or similar issues that you could exchange ideas and moments with to bring back to your organization.

Everyone's Talking About...

More than 95 percent of PDT 2015 surveyed attendees said they would recommend PDT to their colleagues. [See more attendee takeaways from PDT 2015.](#)

Website Survey

THANK YOU to all that participated in the survey that was sent about the ABQ AGA Chapter website! The great input and ideas are now being considered in our redesign efforts, and we will roll out the update of our website in the late Spring.

Congratulations to our members who won the drawing for participating in the survey!

Alan Gutowski & Lucinda Warner

Other AGA Training Opportunities

Dates & Deadlines

9

march

FISMA Introduction

13

april

Data Acct

23

march

Internal Controls

27

april

Fraud Prevention

13

may

CFO/CIO Summit

11

may

Ethics

View registration information for the following training at

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events>



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, THE NEW MEXICO AND ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA) ARE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THAT ARE PART OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS WHICH HAS A NETWORK OF OVER 14,074 MEMBERS IN 100 CHAPTERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD; AND

WHEREAS, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 369 ACTIVE MEMBERS REPRESENTING STATE, FEDERAL, MUNICIPAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS, AND FINANCIAL MANAGERS IN NEW MEXICO; AND

WHEREAS, AGA NEW MEXICO AND ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER MEMBERS HAVE RESPONDED TO AGA'S MISSION OF ADVANCING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AS IT CONTINUES ITS BROAD EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON HIGH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, HONOR, AND CHARACTER IN ITS CODE OF ETHICS, AND ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN PROFESSIONAL ABILITY AND IN SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW MEXICO BY MASTERING INCREASINGLY TECHNICAL AND COMPLEX REQUIREMENTS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER (CGFM) PROGRAM OF AGA PROVIDES A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING PROFESSIONALISM AND COMPETENCY BY REQUIRING CGFM CANDIDATES TO HAVE APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY, TO ABIDE BY AGA'S CODE OF ETHICS, AND TO PASS THREE EXAMINATIONS REQUIRING EXPERTISE IN GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL AND BUDGETING, AND REQUIRES EACH CGFM HOLDER TO MAINTAIN CERTIFICATION BY COMPLETING AT LEAST 80 HOURS OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TOPICS OR RELATED TECHNICAL SUBJECTS EVERY TWO YEARS;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2016, AS

"CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGERS MONTH"

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 29TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

BRAD WINTER
SECRETARY OF STATE



Ethics and Communication Seminar

On February 22nd, the Albuquerque Chapter conducted a seminar training "Ethics and Communication" at the Crown Plaza - Albuquerque. The two part training, provided by Leon Young, addressed the components and techniques of communicating effectively in today's workplace and ethics in today's workplace. This training was of value to professionals of all career levels. One of the key takeaways from the Communication section of the training was the skills needed for effective communication: flexibility, objectivity, adapting to another person's style, questioning techniques, active listening, checking assumptions and summarizing. These are great points that we all can work on to become more effective in our communications. One of the key discussions during the Ethics section talked about policy. Policies must be written, enforced and current. There is no such thing as "unwritten policy". This is something that we all should keep in mind as we follow policies in our day to day lives. The participants in the training gained a valuable understanding of how to communicate and how to deal with ethical issues in today's workplace.

CGFM Corner

Preparing for CGFM Examinations

Begin by reviewing the CGFM examinations content outlines, which list the main and subtopics covered in each examination. This should be the focal point of your preparation. It is the core document used as the basis for each examination and a guideline for writing examination questions.

View the outline for each of the exam at: <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Candidates/CGFM-Process/Examination-Requirements.aspx>

AGA Preparation Options

Instructor-led training courses:

AGA's three comprehensive CGFM courses are offered with two convenient delivery options:

- Individuals can register for open-enrollment courses through Management Concepts.
- For those looking to train 10 or more individuals, AGA offers on-site group training at your location.



CGFM Corner Continued

AGA's Intensive Review Course offers those who self-study time with an AGA instructor, who can explain concepts, provide examples and answer questions. It's also a great refresher-course for those who attended the AGA or Management Concepts instructor-led courses in the past.

Self-study:

AGA offers three CGFM study guides, providing comprehensive overviews of the topics covered in each CGFM examination. Note: If you have already purchased any of the study guides with CPEs, you can access the CPE quizzes.

AGA now offers three online CGFM practice examinations — each corresponding to an actual CGFM examination. Apply the concepts you've learned, identify the areas where you'll need additional preparation and figure out the pace you'll need to complete the 115-question examination within the allotted time.

In addition to the reference materials listed at the end of each study guide, see the list of study references utilized by our examination question writers.

AGA Chapters:

AGA chapters are not just a great way to network; they can also be a great way to prepare for the CGFM examinations. Some AGA chapters offer study groups, on-site courses and/or other assistance to CGFM candidates.

Your Albuquerque AGA chapter offers:

- ♦ **Checkout of study guides for use in studying.**
- ♦ **A "Pass Scholarship" of \$200 when you register and become certified during the 15-16 program year.**
- ♦ **Exam review day, held in conjunction with the annual PDT – review of all 3 exams conducted by ABQ and NM certified chapter members.**

Important Tips for CGFM Candidates:

- * Understand there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to studying for the CGFM examinations. Candidates need to consider their learning preferences, prior knowledge, experience, time and budget in determining the best way to prepare. While AGA courses and study guides provide an excellent foundation in studying for the CGFM examinations, and many candidates find them to be sufficient in their preparation, some individuals may need to go beyond the study guides and review additional materials.
- * Review the CGFM examinations sample questions. These questions are most similar, in both format and type, to the actual CGFM examinations. Also make sure you are familiar with all of the acronyms used on the examinations.
- * Use the score report as your guide. If you don't pass a CGFM examination, you'll receive an instant report that shows your performance by content area. Use that information to help you focus your study preparation.



Recruit New Members and Win Prizes!

AGA Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Recruit new members now for AGA's Member-Get-A-Member campaign and everyone wins! You get a chance to win prizes and your recruits get to enjoy the many benefits of AGA membership.

Who and How to Recruit

Any of your colleagues who work in government accountability are eligible for AGA membership, including accounting, budgeting, financial management, grants, IT, auditing, reporting, fraud, and administration.

When recruiting new members, keep these tips in mind to make it easy on yourself and the recruits: print out membership applications in advance, refer colleagues to the AGA web site, have a copy of AGA's *Journal* handy, tell your colleagues about how you have benefited from AGA, invite colleagues to come to an AGA chapter event, be sure to make yourself available for questions, and follow up with colleagues on their membership interest.

Be sure to let recruits know about the many benefits of AGA membership, including continuing professional education; networking opportunities; keeping up-to-date on current issues, the latest technologies, and financial systems through AGA events and publications; professional guidance and certification; leadership opportunities through committee involvement; and award and scholarship opportunities. Members also receive discounted rates to the annual PDC and other professional development opportunities.

Help AGA Grow

New members help AGA to further develop and become an even stronger organization that can better serve member needs. New members enrich our local chapters with their knowledge and resources. Through their dedication to government accountability, they advance our profession. Be sure to let potential new members know how AGA can benefit their career.

For more information on prizes and other membership details, contact

christopher.gregory@claconnect.com or visit the AGA website:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Recruit-a-Member.aspx>

MISSION STATEMENT

Albuquerque AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

www.agacgfm.org

AGA CORE VALUES

Service, Accountability, Integrity,
Leadership



ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

2015-2016 AGA Albuquerque Chapter Executive Committee

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2016

Internal Control &
Fraud Prevention
Training

Sept. 20-21 | 14 CPEs
Washington or virtual