



Chapter News

Volume 2, Issue 1

October/November 2015

Association of Government Accountants Mission:

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability

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Message from the President

AGA Members and Friends:

What is it about cooler days and autumn color changes that make us think about professional opportunities for growth? Maybe it's the kids going back to school. Maybe it's the earlier sunset and time spent reading in the evenings. Or maybe it's the schedule of upcoming AGA West Michigan training events.

The main focus of our chapter has been and continues to be quality education and CPE at an affordable price.

Your West Michigan AGA Chapter provides between 24 and 40 hours of CPE-qualifying and affordable educational events each year. The webinars are complimentary (i.e. free! Thank you Rehmann for sponsoring the series) and the live events are priced very competitively.

On November 5, there will be an AGA/GFOA double feature. The morning session will be a technology workshop, Intermediate/Advanced Excel, and the afternoon will be GFOA's annual governmental GAAP update.

Two great CPE events in one day—8 hours of CPE, and lunch, for just \$200!

You can also attend just the morning or the afternoon if that works better with your schedule or needs.

More educational events are scheduled through July, 2016. To see the complete line-up and to register go to: <http://www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events>.

While there, I invite you to view presentation slides and handouts from previous events. You might also want to check out the resources available if you plan to sit for the CGFM certification testing.

Your AGA West Michigan chapter donates \$1 from each event registration, and an additional \$100 as a cash gift, each quarter to a community service charity. This quarter, October 1 – December 31, the donation will be made to the Salvation Army West Michigan Northern Indiana Division. Chapter members are encouraged to suggest future charitable recipients. Email your ideas to communityservice@agawestmichigan.org.

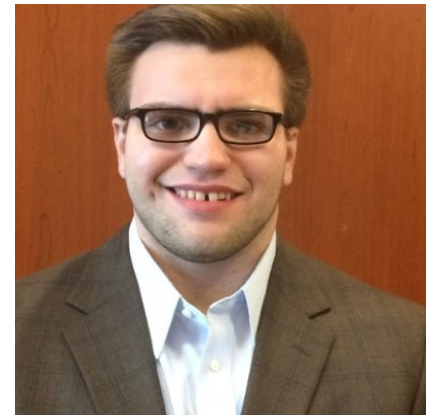
As always, we want to hear from you! We urge you to let us know the training topics and other events you would like to see offered by West Michigan AGA. Feel free to contact me or any of our board members with your ideas.

**Karen L. Doyle
President, West Michigan Chapter Association of Government Accountants**

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Student Board Member Highlight



Each year, AGA West Michigan awards a "Student Board Member" scholarship of \$1,000 for the recipient's participation on the Chapter Executive Committee.

The 2015/2016 recipient of this award is Tyler Wilk – a senior at Davenport University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Upon graduation, Tyler plans to continue on for his Master's degree. Tyler is an Army veteran and received five Army Achievement Medals.

Tyler is also involved in several extracurricular activities including the National Society of Leadership and Success, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Laughfest, and Davenport University's Student Veterans of America for which recently finished his term as president. Tyler's role as the student board member is to help inform students about career opportunities in governmental accounting, assist the Early Career Chair in reaching out to the student population, assist in completing periodic newsletters and maintain the AGA's Facebook page. He will also assist in planning the Student & Early Career Event planned for February 2016. Congratulations Tyler!

Focus on Early Career and Student

Did you know?

- AGA West Michigan awards a "Student Board Member" scholarship each year. The recipient participates in Chapter Executive Committee meetings and receives a \$1,000 college scholarship.
- Our Chapter invites local college students to attend Chapter events free of charge. Two "student scholarships" are offered for each local event on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Association of Government Accountants is a 15,000-member professional organization devoted to meeting the professional development, education, networking, and certification needs of its members.

AGA represents government financial managers working in local, state and federal governments as well as the private sector and academia.

The Association seeks to advance government accountability at all levels of government through its Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, which has recognized more than 13,000 individuals for their unique skills and experience.

To learn more about the Association, its many programs, or any of its 90 chapters, visit us online at www.agacgfm.org.



Like us on Facebook to learn about chapter events, links to helpful sites and job opportunities

Chapter Recognition

The National Association of Government Accountants provides a Chapter Recognition program to develop a continuity of sound leadership and programs. The program recognizes local chapter performance in eight areas:

- *Chapter Leadership
- *Certification
- *Membership/Early Career
- *Community Service
- *Education
- *Communications
- *Accountability
- *Awards



AGA West Michigan is pleased to report that the chapter attained platinum status for the 2015 program year. The West Michigan Chapter has attained platinum status every year since 2011. This achievement is indicative our chapter’s emphasis on providing quality education and guidance to our membership. In July of 2015, AGA West Michigan Chapter Immediate Past President Connie Vander Schaaf accepted the award on behalf of the chapter from AGA National President William Miller at the Professional Development Training in Nashville, Tennessee.

Community Service Highlight

October 1, 2015—December 31, 2015
The Salvation Army
West Michigan Northern Indiana Division

Website:
www.sawmni.org

Mission:
The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Area of Service:
West Michigan and Northern Indiana

January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016
Paws With a Cause

Website:
www.pawswithacause.org

Mission:
Paws With a Cause enhances the independence and quality of life for people with disabilities nationally through custom-trained Assistance Dogs. PAWS increases awareness of the rights and roles of Assistance Dog Teams through education and advocacy.

Area of Service:
Nationwide, including West Michigan

The Chapter sets aside \$1 from each event registration as a cash gift to the charity and makes a chapter cash donation of \$100 per quarter.

New CGFMs since start of 2014 Program Year

Dwight Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM (July 2013)

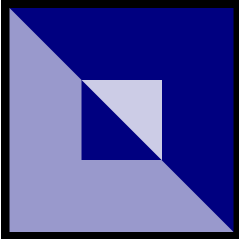
Casey Zaski, CPA, CGFM (Apr 2014)

Did you know? AGA West Michigan provides study materials for the CGFM exam that members may borrow free of charge? Please contact education@agawestmichigan.org for more information.



Congratulations to our Chapter's newest Certified Government Financial Managers!

43 percent of West Michigan Chapter membership holds a CGFM certification



Training Opportunities

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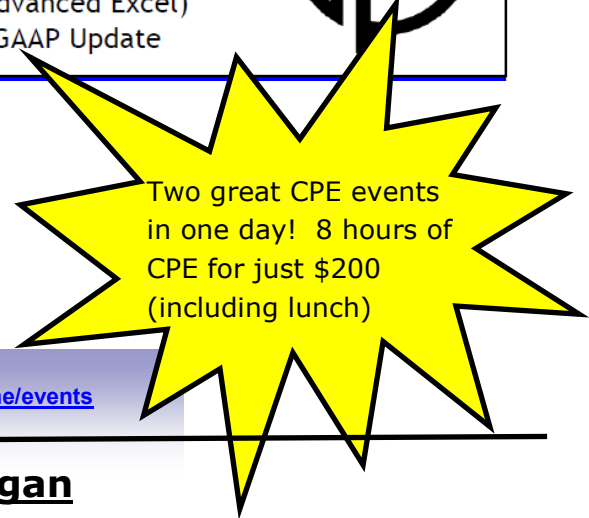
Local Training Opportunities



The West Michigan Chapter of the
Association of Government Accountants Presents

AGA/GFOA Double Feature

AGA's Technology Workshop (Intermediate/Advanced Excel)
and the GFOA's 20th Annual Governmental GAAP Update



Two great CPE events
in one day! 8 hours of
CPE for just \$200
(including lunch)

Thursday, November 5, 2015. 9:00 am—5:00pm

Morning Session:

Technology Workshop—Intermediate/Advanced Excel

Afternoon Session:

GFOA GAAP update

Register at <http://www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events>

Planned Future Events by AGA West Michigan

- January 2016 Webinar - 2016 Governmental GAAP Update
- February 2016 Live Event - Early Career/Student Night & Panel Discussion
- March 2016 Live Training - Excel PowerPivot Workshop (laptop required)
- April 2016 Webinar - Pension/OPEB Standards

National Training Opportunities

oct.
21

Fraud Risk Management in Government Programs
October 21, 2015
Webinar | 2 CPEs

nov.
4

OMB Uniform Guidance: Impact on the Grant Community
November 4, 2015
Webinar | 2 CPEs

nov.
18

One Thing a Leader must Do
November 18, 2015
Free Members-Only Webinar | 1 CPE

Register at <https://www.agacgfm.org/home.aspx>

Excel Tips

Formula Frustrations

Have you ever made a last minute line addition to an excel schedule but failed to update your summing formula? **That's a red face moment!** Save your credibility by adding lines at the top and bottom in your summing formula as portrayed in the figure to the right. Include the column heading in your summing formula (**unless it is a number**) and add a line between your last line of data and the formula with a top border line (cell C13 in the example). The row height of the added line can be reduced so that it is barely visible. With the formula set up this way, anyone can add a line and the formula will adjust to pick up the new line of data.

	A	B	C
1			2015-2016
2	GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	Budget
3	Dept 101-TOWNSHIP BOARD		
4	101-101-702.000	Board of Trustee Salary	\$7,200
5	101-101-715.000	Social Security WH	447
6	101-101-715.002	Medicare EE	105
7	101-101-727.000	Supplies	500
8	101-101-728.000	Postage	65
9	101-101-750.000	Dues and Subscriptions	40,000
10	101-101-860.000	Mileage	100
11	101-101-900.000	Printing & Publishing	3,000
12	101-101-956.000	Meetings	1,000
14	Total Dept 101-TOWNSHIP BOARD		\$52,417
15			

*Do you have an excel tip you would like to share?
Please email us at newsletter@agawestmichigan.org*



2015/16 CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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