



Chapter Chronicle

Quarterly-Volume 1

September: 2024

(June, July, & August 2024)



Chapter Executive Committee

Lisa Antinori, President
James Caldwell, President Elect
Donna Facen, Treasurer
Gerald Plafcan, Secretary
Andrea Barksdale, Past President
Trevor Gibbons, Education
Donald Bellcock, Membership
Elouise Evans, Community Service
Dr. Cynthia Taylor-Shavers,
Accountability & Bylaws
Tyler Cain, Historian (Records)
Vacant, Events & Awards
Vacant, CGFM Director
Vacant, Communication Director
Vacant, Student Representative

Chapter Mission:

- AGA is a professional association advancing accountability, transparency, and leadership by promoting education, certification, innovation and collaboration across all levels of government and to stakeholders, our citizens.

Chapter Vision:

- To represent the premier association for advancing government accountability in our community

Chapter Core Values:

- Service
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Leadership

Message From the Chapter President

As we embark on another exciting year, I am both honored and inspired to serve as your 2024-2025 Chapter President. The strength of our chapter lies in the dedication, expertise, and passion of its members, and I am confident that this year will continue that tradition.

Our focus for this year is on Value Creation—a theme that resonates with the core mission of our chapter and reflects our commitment to driving meaningful impact in all we do. We aim to create value in several key areas:

- For our members, through professional education & recruitment
- For our professional certification, CGFM Scholarship
- For our community through volunteering and socializing
- For our future, through the support of young professionals and students

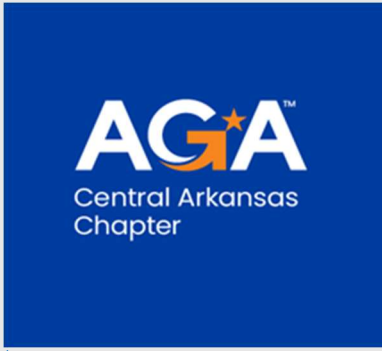
Each of us plays a vital role in this journey of value creation. Whether attending chapter meetings, participating in events, or engaging with fellow members, your involvement is essential. Together, we will create value that transcends individual achievements, shaping our profession, our community, and the future of public service.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities our chapter offers. Your active participation will make this year truly exceptional. Let's work together to create lasting value for ourselves and those we serve. Thank you for your commitment, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together.

With warm regards to our chapter members,

Lisa D. Antinori

Chapter Recent Highlights



June 2024 Chapter Awards & Gavel Exchange Ceremony



Andrea Barksdale & Tyler Cain

2023-2024 Financial Manager of the Year

Tyler Cain, CGFM, CPM

Chief Financial Officer

Arkansas Department of Labor & Licensing



Donald Bellcock
Outstanding Member of the Year



Elouise Evans
Community Service Award



Jessica Primm (not pictured)
President's Award



Chapter Gavel Exchange:
Lisa Antinori, President,
Andrea Barksdale, Past President

Mr. Cain has been named the Financial Manager of the Year by the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter (AGACA). Currently serving as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing, Cain has a distinguished career spanning over 43 years in governmental accounting, auditing, financial management, and leadership. Previously, he was the Deputy CFO for the Arkansas Department of Commerce – Arkansas Division of Workforce Services (ADWS).

He holds a degree from the University of Central Arkansas and has earned the Certified Government Financial Accountant (CGFM) and Certified Public Manager (CPM) credentials. His professional affiliations include associate membership in the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants and membership in the American Society of Public Administration. Additionally, he is a Notary Public and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He has also participated in the Faulkner County Leadership Institute and ADWS Leadership Development programs.

Cain has been an active member of the AGACA since 1984 and currently services on the board as the association's Historian. He is highly valued member of the Chapter's Executive Committee (CEC). He has also served as the AGACA President during the COVID-19 pandemic and kept the chapter operational even creating value. He has recruited multiple board members to serve on the CEC. He is a beloved and admired mentor to many and greatly appreciated.

Living in Conway, Arkansas, with his wife Jessie, Cain is a family man with two sons and six grandchildren. He has frequently contributed to the educational endeavors of the state, with his most recent presentation titled "Be the Bridge." This award is a well-deserved recognition of his extensive contributions and leadership.

Congratulations - Tyler!



July 2024

We are also proud to announce that our chapter was honored with the prestigious **Platinum Award**. The Central Arkansas Chapter remains dedicated to creating value and opportunities for our members.

**Congratulations
Andrea Barksdale**

**Value Creation
Leadership**

Chapter Recent Highlights



PDT Attendees left to right: Tyler Cain, Sandy & Patricia Becker, James Caldwell, Andrea Barksdale & Lisa Antinori

It is excited to share that our association had a strong presence at the 2024 National Professional Development Training (PDT) held in Denver, Colorado, from July 13-17. Our delegation's participation underscores our commitment to professional growth and excellence. The event provided valuable opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and bringing fresh insights back to our local chapter.

Andrea Barksdale, Past President accepted the **Platinum Award** for our Chapter from Frank E. Petersen, III, AGA National President

**Congratulations-
CEC & Members**



Andrea Barksdale, Past President



AGA National Volunteer of the Year



August 2024^t

CEC GOALS

Membership Meetings

8 Free CPE

Bring a Friend

Professional Certification

Proclamations

CGFM -30th Anniversary

CGFM Scholarship

Membership Recruitment

Contest & Awards

Community Service

Adopt a Street

Kids Chance

Arkansas Food Bank

Angel Tree

Many other

Networking/Social Activities

Holiday Social

Founder's Day

Lunch & Learn

Awards Ceremony

Young Professional &

College Students

Honorary CEC Member

College Visits

Session Planning

Join the CEC today gain

Leadership & Career

Development

Thank you for your continued commitment to our chapter and for embracing this year's theme of value creation. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

Chapter Planning

CEC Activities – Focusing on Value Creation

As we reflect on the month of August, the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter's Executive Committee (CEC) has been hard at work laying the foundation for a successful year ahead. Our focus has been on establishing the strategic plans and goals for the chapter, all centered around this year's theme: Value Creation.

Value creation is at the heart of everything we do, whether it's through our roles in government accountability, financial management, or supporting our local chapter initiatives. This month, we challenge each of you to reflect on the value you bring to your organization and to the chapter.

What Does Value Creation Mean to You?

Creating value is more than just meeting the expectations of your role. It's about delivering meaningful, measurable outcomes that align with your organization's mission and goals. But have you ever paused to think about your unique value proposition?

Understanding your value proposition means knowing exactly how your work impacts others and how your expertise contributes to the larger goals of your organization. This is a critical part of our theme for the year, and we encourage you to take the time to assess the ways in which you create value in your role, as well as how that value is captured and communicated.

Strategic Planning for the Chapter

In our August CEC meetings, we've worked collaboratively to establish specific goals that align with our chapter's mission and focus on value creation: We are committed to delivering educational sessions that not only help our members meet CPE requirements but also equip them with the tools and knowledge to create more value in their roles. Our chapter will focus on expanding its presence within the Central Arkansas area, increasing engagement among both new and existing members. We believe a vibrant and engaged community fosters an environment where value creation flourishes. The CEC offer leadership experience and mentorship opportunities to help our members identify their value proposition and further enhance their careers.

Your Challenge: Know Your Value Proposition

As we move forward, we challenge each of you to take a moment and ask yourself: What value do I bring to my organization? How does my work contribute to the success of the chapter and our community? Am I effectively communicating the value I create to my colleagues and supervisors?

By knowing your value proposition, you will not only contribute to your personal growth but also help drive the success of the organizations you serve.



A special thanks to **Keith Freeman, CPA**, Quality Assurance Manager, Arkansas Legislative Audit for the August 20th meeting presentation on GAO Yellow Book -2024 Updates (1 CPE Earned)



AGA-Central Arkansas Street Cleaning - Social
Saturday-9am (9/28/24)
 We will distribute supplies upon your arrival:

- Bags
- Gloves
- T-shirts
- Safety vests
- Water & Treats

All we need is you to sign-up by email & include your cell phone number in the message. It's fun & quick!

Bring a friend & children
lisa.antinori@hotmail.com
 Keep our Street Beautiful

Membership Meetings

| Date | Topic | Speaker |
|----------------|--|---|
| September 17th | ADA Rehabilitation Services: Stay at Work/Return to Work | Yvonne Rowland Program Coordinator Arkansas DWS |
| October 15th | Keep Risk in Check: Avoid being Front Page News | Heather Dunahoo, CPA Assistant Director, GOA, Washington, DC |
| November 19th | Value Creation of Public Employee Claims | Nathan Culp, CWCP, JD Public Claims Director Arkansas Insurance |

Mark your calendars

3rd Tuesday of the month 12:00pm-1:00pm

Trevor Gibbons, Education Director
Trevor.Gibbons@dfa.arkansas.gov

Community Services

Members are encouraged and welcome to participate:

Saturday, September 28, at 9:00 am

Street Cleaning – Adopt-a- Street

Meet us at AWCC, 324 S Springs, Little Rock, Arkansas



Kids' Chance of Arkansas

October 23rd, 2024

Halloween Spooktacular

Adult Costume Contest
 Dinner, Dance, Drinks:
 6:00pm to 11:00pm
 Tickets: \$150 each

Contact:
lisa.antinori@hotmail.com

Be a collection site for the Food Bank: November-2024



Donate or Shop for Angel Tree: December-2024

Making a difference in our Community

Elouise Evans, Community Service Director
elouise.evans@dhs.arkansas.gov



AGA National Events



Fraud-Prevention
September 19–20
Washington, DC
14 CPE

Online Members \$650

Registration at

The Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training focuses on management's responsibility for ensuring good internal control systems, and the role of accountability professionals to minimize the risk of fraud, waste and abuse. Leaders in government and private industry discuss the latest discovery techniques, lessons learned and how governments are cooperating to improve services to citizens.

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/Fraud/Home.aspx>

**Technology
&
Transformation
Summit
FREE for AGA Members**



November 6

6 CPE

Registration at

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/TTS/Home.aspx>

2025-PDT

3- Reasons You Should Attend:

- 1. Earn up to **24 CPEs****
Quality Education
- 2. Stay on the cutting edge.**
Top-notch speakers from federal, state and local government, academia and the private sector.
- 3. Network and connect.**
Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues who face the same or similar issues on the job. Exchange ideas to bring back to your organization and build the profession.

AGA's 2025 Professional Development Training!

Register today for AGA's 2025 Professional Development Training on July 27-30 in Nashville provided valuable insights from leading government financial management professionals and industry experts. With over 3,000 attendees, PDT offers three and a half days of educational sessions designed to equip federal, state, local government, and private sector financial professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to enhance leadership, improve performance in cost-constrained environments, and address shared challenges using best practices.



Sept 25 AGA Webinar: [The Catalyst of Communication](#)

Sept 30- [2025 NextWave Program](#) Application Deadline



Scholarship Awarded-June 2024
James Caldwell, CGFM
Chapter President-Elect



Congratulations-James!

CGFM AGA Promotions

To celebrate the 30th anniversary, AGA be offering various promotions throughout 2024.

CGFM candidates, for each CGFM exam you take in September and/or October 2024, you'll receive FREE access to the corresponding 2024 online study guide(s).

As a bonus, you'll get a \$30 discount on your exam fee(s).

Schedule your exam now!

Professional Certification

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification acknowledges the specialized skills essential for today's government financial managers. To earn this certification, candidates must pass three comprehensive exams: 1-Government Environment; 2-Governmental Accounting & Financial, Reporting and Budgeting; and 3-Government Financial Management and Control.

AGACA CGFM Scholarship Opportunity:

The AGA Central Arkansas Chapter is excited to offer two \$240 CGFM scholarships to assist with examination fees and preparation materials. These scholarships will help cover part of the CGFM application and examination costs. Each fiscal year, a maximum of two scholarships will be awarded.

Deadline:

Scholarships will be granted to the first two qualified applicants who pass their exams. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications must be received by May 31.

Qualifications:

- Must be an active Central Arkansas AGA member in good standing
- Must be employed as a governmental employee local or state
- Must pass all three parts of the exam before applying
- The applicant must pay exam and application fees

Awards:

Winners will be notified via email and will receive their checks at the annual AGA Central Arkansas Awards ceremony in June.

Questions contact: Gerald Plafcan at gplafcan@conwaycorp.net

Celebrating 30 Years

How do you become a CGFM?

To earn the CGFM, you must fill out an online application (<https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM.aspx>) and meet the following requirements:

Ethics — read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics

Education — have a bachelor's degree in any subject area from an accredited U.S. college or university

Examinations — pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations

Experience — have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management



James Caldwell - New CGFM represented Central Arkansas at PDT2024



Emily Gordon, student leader,
Southern Arkansas University
Thank-you for partnering with our
chapter for Soctober-2023

College students and young professionals, in collaboration with organizations like the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter-CEC, play a pivotal role in shaping the future of government workers. By fostering early engagement in public sector practices, promoting continuing education, and encouraging leadership development, these partnerships equip the next generation with the tools and knowledge to drive innovation, efficiency, and accountability in government operations. Together, they are creating a strong foundation for a more dynamic and effective public workforce toward the future.

FUTURE VALUE!

College Students

-AGA-CAC Student Representative Program offers a college student the opportunity to serve as a nonvoting member of the Chapter Executive Committee or Board. This role is designed to give college students exposure to professional governance, enhance their understanding of the chapter mission and activities, and provide a platform for their voice and ideas.

Eligibility Criteria:

-Academic Standing: Must be at minimum a college junior or senior including graduate program currently enrolled in a relevant academic program such as accounting, finance, public administration, information technology, human resources or a related field. GPA Requirement: Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

-Membership: Must be a member of the Central Arkansas Chapter AGA or agree to join upon selection.

-Commitment: Must commit to attending monthly Executive Committee or Board Meetings and participating in Chapter events. Recruit and inform other students of the program. Assist in volunteering at community activities. Other professional association activities as desired. College students apply today!

Contact Lisa Antinori, Chapter President at lisa.antinori@arkansas.gov



Southern Arkansas University

(SAU-Marching Band)
Kappa Kappa Psi-Delta
Chi Members
Destiny Jones, Hillary
Engelhardt, Kashia Ly,
Ky Hawkins, Grace
Walker, Emily Gordon,
David Gordon, Logan
Pierson, Cage Arnold,
Liz Wilson, Director of
Bands: J.P. Wilson,
Megan Riffe, and Trinity
Kolo

Young-Professionals

-Just starting your career in government financial management? AGA is here to support you!

-For three years, you can enjoy AGA national \$45 and chapter membership-\$10 for \$55 per year a discounted rate since you are new to the workforce. Early Career membership in AGA gives you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections, boost your job performance and advance your career while positively impacting your community and country.

-Share your viewpoint as a volunteer on your chapter's executive committee or one of the national boards and committees

-To join AGA as an Early Career member, you must have fewer than three years of any full-time work experience 30 and under.

Contact Don Bellcock, Membership Director at Donald_R_Bellcock@arkansas.gov



**DRAFT
TODAY**

Don Bellcock,
Membership Director
Donald_R_Bellcock@arkansas.gov

Membership Benefits

Expand Network

Expand your network with 90+ chapters nationwide and over 14,000 Members

Create Connection

Participate in AGA online mentoring program. Be a mentor and/or seek a mentor! Join social and community events

Collaborate

Volunteer to serve on committees and boards: Leadership Development

Continuous Learning

Membership & Educational events learning or staying inform and meet the experts. Earn Free CPE!

Awards & Recognition

**-Outstanding Member
-Volunteer of the Year
-President's Award
-Financial Manager of the Year**

Membership-Focus



AGA Central Arkansas Chapter (AGACAC)

Membership – Challenge Initiative

Central Arkansas Chapter Membership Eligibility for Awards:

1. The membership challenge kick-off runs from September 9, 2024, through February 9, 2025, to be eligible for the member with the highest number of new paying recruitments.
2. To qualify for awards, AGACAC membership recruiters must secure a minimum of three (3) new paying memberships.
3. The name of the AGACAC recruiter must be included at the time the new paying member joins through the online application for proper tracking and award eligibility.
4. In the event of a tie, where two or more recruiters have the same number of new memberships, the reward will be granted to the recruiter whose new membership(s) were submitted and paid on the earliest date.

Awards:

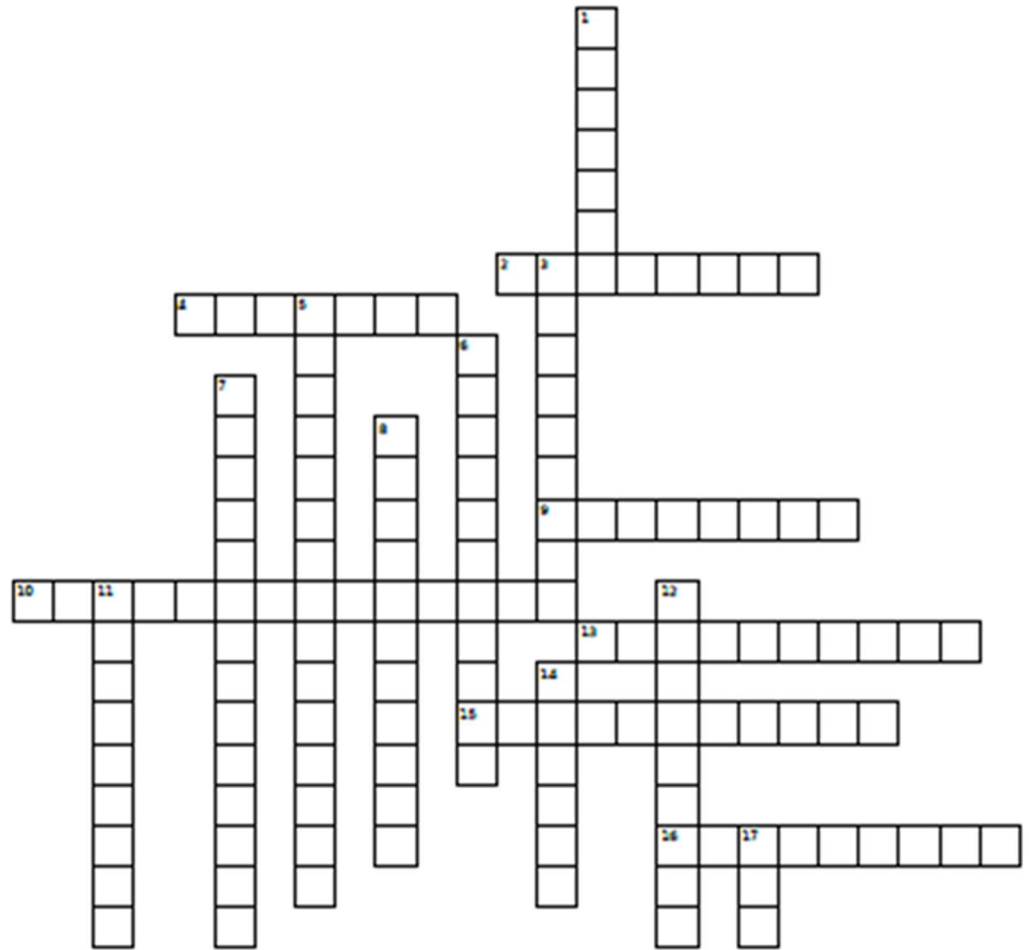
- **1st Place:** Free registration to the AGACA 2025 Spring PDT plus a \$100 award.
- **2nd Place:** Free registration to the AGACA 2025 Spring PDT plus a \$ 50 award
- **3rd Place:** Free registration to the AGACA 2025 Spring PDT plus a \$ 25 award

SCORE TOUCHDOWNS TODAY

Crack the Code Crossword Puzzle

Down:

1. The behavior expected by employers and professional organizations.
3. Being trustworthy, straightforward, and honest in professional services.
5. Acting with skill, good judgement and respect in performing duties.
6. Acting without bias in professional activities.
7. The obligation of government professionals to demonstrate responsibility.
8. The quality of being believable and trustworthy.
11. Providing the highest level of performance in line with professional guidelines.
12. Maintaining skills for effective and efficient work.
14. The general audience who relies on government professionals
17. Adhering to legal requirements in professional conduct.



Across:

2. The individuals that government employees serve.
4. Showing consideration for others' dignity.
9. Considering long-term benefits for government and its people
10. Accepting the consequences of actions or inactions
13. Instilling in others a strong belief in ethical actions
15. A characteristic expected from those serving the government
16. Performing job task with persistence and dedication

Good Luck!

For hints and assistance see: <https://www.agacgfm.org/About/CodeOfEthics.aspx>