

Chapter Chronicle

Quarterly-Volume 2

December, 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

Happy New Year – 2025



Message From the Chapter President

I hope your holidays were filled with joy and the love of family. As we step into a new year brimming with promise and potential, I am thrilled to announce our first-ever Founder's Day event taking place in January 2025, celebrating 48 years as an association! This special occasion will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the history and achievements of our chapter, as well as to look ahead to our bright future. Additionally, we will be recognizing our CGFM members in celebration of the Certification's 30th Anniversary. This milestone highlights the importance of the CGFM certification and the dedication of our members who have achieved it.

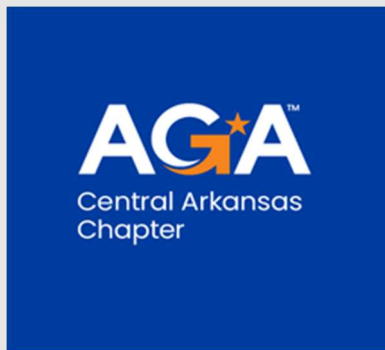
We are excited to introduce the inaugural "Champion of Value" in this newsletter. By knowing your value proposition, you will not only contribute to your personal growth but also help drive the success of the organizations you serve. This new recognition honors a member who exemplifies our chapter's core values of dedication, innovation, integrity, and community service.

Every member's involvement is crucial as we embark on this journey of value, service, accountability, empowerment, innovation, integrity and leadership. Whether you are attending chapter meetings, participating in events, or simply connecting with fellow members, your contribution makes a significant difference. Let's make this year not just memorable but transformative.

I encourage you to actively engage with the numerous opportunities our chapter offers. Your participation will undoubtedly enhance our experience and success. Together, let's create a legacy of value, empowerment, and innovation that will inspire future generations.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment. I look forward to all the incredible things we will achieve together this year, Happy New Year!

Lisa Antinori



Recent Chapter Highlights



September 17, 2024

Membership Meeting
Educational Event
Topic: DWS Stay at Work
Speaker: Yvonne Rowland
Attentees: 39 members 3 guests
total 42 with a goal of 32
Satisfactory Rating:
Excellent/Good: 100% Goal: 75%
1 Free CPE Earned
YTD 2 Free CPEs

October 15, 2024

Membership Meeting
Educational Event
Topic: Keep Risk in Check
Speaker: Heather Dunahoo
Attentees: 39 members 3 guests
total 42 with a goal of 32
Satisfactory Rating:
Excellent/Good 81% Goal: 75%
1 Free CPE Earned
YTD 3 Free CPEs

November 19, 2024

Membership Meeting
Educational Event
Topic: Employee Claims
Speaker: Nathan Culp
Attentees: 31 members 4 guests
total 35 with a goal of 32
Satisfactory Rating:
Excellent/Good 85% Goal: 75%
1 Free CPE Earned
YTD 4 Free CPEs

Welcome to our New Members

Kristin Cavette, Accounting Manager, City of Fayetteville
LeAnn Chadwick, Controller, AR Transformation & Shared Services
Justin Freeman, Audit Coordinator, AR Department of Human Services
Allen Stanley, Associate VP of Finance, UCA
Michelle Wright, Assistant Controller, AR Department of Workforce Services

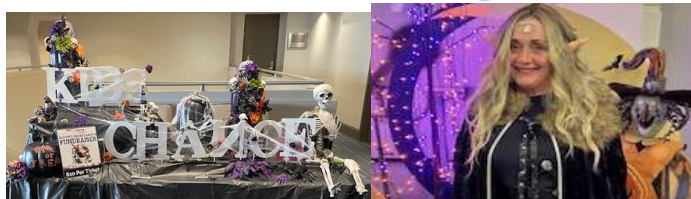
New Young Professional Members

Katelyn Montgomery, Administrative Assistance, City of Sherwood
Mailee Thao, Administrative, City of Fayetteville

New Student Members

Rita Morales, Student
Connie McKnight, Student, UCA

Social & Community Service



The 2nd Annual Kids' Chance of AR Halloween Spooktacular was a great success, all thanks to each one of you! A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to the AGA members who attended and supported Kids' Chance. The event raised over \$8,700 for kids' scholarships. Special shoutout to Lisa Antinori, who attended as a "Lord of the Rings" Elf. and is pictured in her fantastic costume.

Community Service



Our members continue to volunteer for the City of Little Rock's Adopt-a-Street program, diligently cleaning and maintaining the beauty of our streets. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the members who keep our streets beautiful, especially Linda Bouillon, who is pictured in action. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the members who support the AWCC blood drive. Your contributions are invaluable.



December 5, 2024



Recent Chapter Highlights

The Central Arkansas Chapter AGA's Holiday/Winter Social at the Main Event was an absolute blast! Sixteen members signed up for a fun-filled evening of bowling, laughter, and camaraderie. The atmosphere was festive as everyone enjoyed the chance to unwind and celebrate the season together.

We are thrilled to share that, in addition to the fun, our event also had a meaningful impact. We raised \$50 for the Salvation Army Angel Tree program and will be requesting a matching contribution from the national organization to further support this wonderful cause. It's heartwarming to see our community come together not only for fun but also to make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this event a memorable and impactful one. We look forward to more exciting events in the future!



The photos are filled with laughter as the sign flashed “**Always Better Together**”, a perfect message for our membership. Pictured above along with the top of page two from left to right is Don & Sandy Bellock, Tyler Cain, Lisa Antinori, Donna Facen, Pat & Sandy Becker, LeAnn & Kevin Chadwick, Randy Clay, Jo Nell & Gerald Plafcan, an amazing event filled with great food, wonderful people, gifts, lost cards, and laughter, with LeAnn Chadwick winning the bowling poker, lucky draw.

Community Service



Elouise Evans
Community Service
Director

elouise.evans@dhs.arkansas.gov

At Central Arkansas AGA, community service is at the heart of what we do. We believe in giving back to our community and making a positive impact through our collective efforts. Whether it's organizing food drives, participating in clean-up initiatives, or supporting local charities, our members are dedicated to serving and uplifting those around us.

Community service not only strengthens our ties with the people of Central Arkansas but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and purpose among our members. By working together, we can address the needs of our community and create lasting change. We invite all our members to get involved and contribute to our mission of making Central Arkansas a better place for everyone.

Join us in our upcoming community service events and let's make a difference together!



VALUE CHAMPION



Linda Bouillon, MBA, CPA, CGFM

Congratulations Linda!

If you have a team member who adds significant value and deserves recognition as a Champion of Value, please email their information to lisa.antinori@hotmail.com or mail it to P.O. Box 27, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Let's showcase our Champions of Value and celebrate their contributions!

Chapter-Champion of Value

As we uncover our unique value propositions and reflect on the ways we contribute, it is my honor to introduce the inaugural Central Arkansas AGA Champion of Value, Linda Bouillon

Linda Bouillon adds immense value through her professional expertise, community service, and personal dedication. Here are a few ways she makes a significant impact:

Professional Expertise

- **Enhanced Financial Oversight:** As the Agency Controller II at the Arkansas Division of Higher Education, Linda utilizes her Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification to streamline financial operations, ensuring accuracy and accountability. Her skills help optimize financial reporting, and resource allocation, directly benefiting the organization.
- **As a Past Chapter Board Member (8 years Secretary and 2 Communications):** Linda provides guidance and mentorship to her colleagues, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and professional development. Her leadership helps build a stronger, more knowledgeable team.

Community Service

- She always volunteers with the Central Arkansas Chapter AGA Adopt a Street Program with the City of Little Rock. This Keep Arkansas Beautiful program demonstrates her commitment to environmental stewardship and community beautification. Her efforts contribute to a cleaner, more pleasant community, inspiring others to join in the initiative.
- Her volunteerism with the Central Arkansas Chapter AGA has also extended to Our House, Christmas collections for the Dorcas House, winter clothes, food and blood drives the Chapter has sponsored.
- Other recent community service events have centered around helping those in her hometown of Jacksonville with the tornado relief efforts with the children of her church providing snack bags to Emergency Response Workers throughout the city. Linda's role as teacher with the Children's Ministry at her church reflects her commitment to nurturing and guiding others, fostering a sense of community and shared values as noted with the community service event above. Her involvement in this capacity demonstrates her dedication to personal and community growth.

Professional Development

- **Continuous Learning:** Linda's CGFM certification represents her dedication to maintaining high standards of professional knowledge and competence. This not only benefits her own career but also sets a positive example for her peers and has led the path to several people going forward to working towards their own certifications.

Linda Bouillon's multifaceted contributions highlight her as a valuable asset to both her profession and her community. Her combination of professional expertise, volunteerism, and personal dedication makes her a true Champion of Value.



Celebrating 48 Years

Past Chapter Presidents

Orvel M. Johnson, Founder
 Jack McCollum*
 John T. Massey
 Florence Price
 Ronald R. Burch
 Carl F. Quaintance*
 Richard Drilling
 Jerry Stumbaugh
 Donna Anderson*
 Danny E. White
 Rocky Nickles
 Sandy Becker
 Martha D. Goggans
 Lucian H. Shockey
 Donald Bellcock*
 Gerald C. Boon
 Robert "Bob" Broughton*
 Linda Miles
 Brenda R. Jackson
 Marion Carlton
 Brenda G. Horner
 Gregory Scott Crawford
 Kathryn Roberts*
 Jeff B. Mascagni
 Shannon D. Todd
 DeeVee D. Pearson
 William B. Cottrell
 Chandria E. Willis
 Joshua J. Walker
 Phlecia A. Gillespie
 Lanetra D. Whitmore*
 Marcia F. Moore
 Tyler Cain
 Andrea L. Barksdale

*Served Multiple Years

Membership Meetings

Mark your Calendars

-Tuesday January 21st 11:30am -1:00pm



Founder's Day Lunch & Learn

Central AR AGA Founders Day Lunch and Learn Registration

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f1cc02aa022d4a3e9a1cd4a38307e2b3>

Speaker: Dr. Lela Pumphrey

AGA Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



Celebrating 30 Years

We will be celebrating & recognizing our CGFM during the Founder's Day Lunch & Learn, January 21st

-Tuesday February 18th 12:00pm-1:00pm

A playbook respond to identity fraud Cyberattacks
 With Michael Nixon, Branch Chief Financial System, FEMA.

Invite your IT personnel to join us!

-Tuesday March 18th 12:00pm-1:00pm

-Tuesday April 15th 12:00pm-1:00pm

GASB 103 Financial Reporting Model with Lisa Parker, CPA

Contact: Trevor Gibbons, Education Director
(trevor.gibbons@dfa.arkansas.gov)



Upcoming National Events

National Leadership Training 2025

February 19–20, 2025
Washington, D.C. or Virtual

National Leadership Training (NLT) is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find new solutions to challenges, network with peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. [Learn More @ https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/NLT/Home.aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/NLT/Home.aspx)



AI

January 15, 2025
2:00–3:50 PM ET

Continuing Education-Webinars

The webinars are generally offered twice monthly on Wednesdays, and feature experts speaking on emergent issues to keep you in the loop on hot topics in auditing, ethics, governmental accounting, internal controls, performance and more. Webinars are open to anyone. [Learn More @ https://www.agacgfm.org/Training/Webinars.aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Training/Webinars.aspx)



Nashville, Tennessee or virtual
July 27–30, 2025
24 CPEs

Contact our Chapter's
National Council of Chapter
(NCC) Representative:
Andrea Barksdale, Past
Chapter President
barksdalea@blr.arkansas.gov
for more information.

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. [Learn More @ https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/PDT/PDT-Home.aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/PDT/PDT-Home.aspx)



How do you become a CGFM?

LEARN MORE @

<https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM/CGFMPromo.aspx>

Questions contact:

Gerald Plafcan at

gplafcan@conwaycorp.net

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.

CGFM Scholarship Opportunity:

The AGA Central Arkansas Chapter is excited to offer two \$250 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.

March-CGFM Month

Please keep an eye out for communication about the date and time for both the City of Little Rock and the State of Arkansas CGFM Month Proclamations. We want to honor our chapter and CGFM for their commitment. Scheduling with the Governor and Mayor can sometimes be a short-notice event, so grab your CGFM-red color and look forward to seeing you in the picture. Picture below is the March 2024, CGFM Proclamation presentation events.



**Special Thanks
to Donna Facen &
Tyler Cain for coordinating the
CGFM Proclamations**



1st Row. Rhonda Barfield, Donna Facen, Lisa Antinori, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Elouise Evans, Linda Bouillon, Marcia Huber. 2nd Row Vincent Russell, Tyler Cain, James Graham, James Caldwell.





College Students & Young-Professionals

Empowering the Next Generation:

At the Central Arkansas Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), we are passionate about fostering growth and leadership within our community. We are thrilled to announce our new initiative designed to engage college students and young professionals in meaningful ways: the Student Representative Program.

This innovative program offers college students the opportunity to be honored members of our chapter board, where they can gain invaluable experience and insights into the world of government accounting and financial management. By involving young minds in our board activities, we aim to nurture the next generation of leaders who will shape the future of our profession.

We are excited to welcome Kimberly Yipton, a dedicated accounting student from ULAR, as our inaugural Honorary Student Representative. Kimberly has observed our board meetings. She brings a fresh perspective and enthusiasm to our initiatives. Her involvement has not only provided her with hands-on experience but has also enriched our discussions and decision-making processes.

The Student Representative Program is open to all college students who are eager to learn, contribute, and grow. Through this program, we hope to inspire and empower young professionals to pursue careers in government accounting and to become active members of the AGA community.

We believe that by investing in the development of college students and young professionals, we are strengthening the future of our field and ensuring that it continues to thrive. We encourage all interested students to apply for the Student Representative position and join us in our mission to advance government accountability and transparency.

Together, let's build a brighter future for government accounting and create lasting impact in our community.

For more information about the Student Representative Program, please contact Lisa Antinori or Don Bellcock at lisa.antinori@hotmail.com or don.r.bellcock@arkansas.gov

Special Membership Rates exist for Students and Young Professionals. [Learn More](https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership.aspx) @ <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership.aspx>



**DRAFT
TODAY**

Don Belcock,
Membership Director
don.r.bellcock@arkansas.gov

How to become a member?

LEARN MORE @

<https://www.agacgm.org/Membership/Benefits.aspx>

Membership-Focus



AGA Central Arkansas Chapter (AGACA)

Membership – Challenge Initiative

Central Arkansas 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, AGACA membership recruiters must secure a minimum of three (3) new paying memberships.
3. The name of the AGACA 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!

Ethical Adventure Word Search Challenge

It adds a bit of excitement and invites participants to embark on a fun journey through the principles of ethics. Enjoy the puzzle!

H J N B C L B R H Y V W R E O V P G U Y
Q T X G P X Y Z S U R V E N D Y N P O Y
Y K D L F C W N Y W E M E M A E N F T E
R R U X E V O T R A N S P A R E N C Y T
E I E B F B J N T W F Z Q G C C B X H H
S N P S Q G J Q F K J I H V M B I E O I
P T G R P A Q R K I S O H F D M N N N C
E E L L O O C W X O D T U K F D T F E A
C G X L I F N C L L S E A Z V F R Y S L
T R E Y T U E S O E B B N N R I U A T P
R I X P C J M S I U A K X T D H S J Y C
E T C F V O W X S B N D L Q I A T Z J O
S Y E K M Z M W G I I T E O N A R H Y O
A B L C N O X P Z E O L A R R D L D X K
I K L Y G Q K U E Y U N I B S R M I S H
W G E Y Z B W M X T B B A T I H Q J T K
E N N G M G V C H P E Z L L Y L I F V Y
K B C R R W K U X S B N T W I P I P Q U
J C E O O H T T Y M N B C L J S T T N X
I K B W P S I W M V N J H E Y U M J Y G

FIND: Professionalism, Accountability, Confidentiality, Responsibility, Transparency, Competence, Leadership, Excellence, Integrity, Standards, Respect, Ethical, Honesty, Trust

Answers Key to Crossword Puzzle for "Chapter Chronicles Volume 1 September 2024" -

