



# Chapter News

Volume 1, Issue 2

February/March 2015

## LOCAL EVENTS

AGA Governmental Accounting Training Series—Level One  
Wed., February 25, 2015  
8:30-4:30PM  
CPE: 8

AGA Governmental Accounting Training Series—Level Two  
Wed., March 18, 2015  
8:30-4:30PM  
CPE: 8

AGA Governmental Accounting Training Series—Level Three  
Wed., April 8, 2015  
8:30-4:30PM  
CPE: 8

Webinar-New Uniform Grant Guidance  
Wed., April 22, 2015  
2:00-3:45PM  
CPE: 2

Register and see more local events online at [agawestmichigan.org](http://agawestmichigan.org)

## NATIONAL EVENTS

Leadership Training  
Wed.-Thurs.,  
February 11-12, 2015  
Washington, D.C.  
CPE: 14

Register and see more national events online at [agacgfm.org/events](http://agacgfm.org/events)

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## Message from the President

### AGA West Michigan Members and Friends:

Hopefully you've all enjoyed the holidays and the New Year finds you ready for more of the excellent training opportunities provided by AGA West Michigan. One such training opportunity has already been completed.

### On January 21, Rehmann hosted the Governmental GAAP update webinar which included information on the new pension standards as well as other topics.

Slides to this presentation can be found on the AGA West Michigan website under events. I'm excited to share that February marks the return of the Governmental Accounting

Training Series which includes three all day training series over the next three months. More information on the series (including registration information) can be found later in this newsletter or at the following link: (<http://www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events>). Take advantage of some or all of these training opportunities, and I urge you to invite a friend – they won't be disappointed!

**March is CGFM month, and I will be requesting local governments to designate March as Certified Government Financial Manager month.** Thank you in advance for your support. For those of you interested in participat-

ing in the Certified Government Financial Manager program, please be aware that the AGA West Michigan Chapter has study materials which can be borrowed free of charge!

**I look forward to seeing you at upcoming training events.** As always, if you have topics you would like to see training on, please contact me or any AGA West Michigan Board member with your ideas. Take Care and Stay Warm!

**Connie Vander Schaaf, CGFM, CMA  
President, AGA West Michigan Chapter**

### Association of Government Accountants Mission

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

\*Government accountability: A government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.



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](http://www.agacgfm.org).

## Student Board Member Highlight

Ruben Sholinyan was selected as the 2014-2015 Student Board member. He is a third-year student at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan who is majoring in both Professional Accountancy and Economics. Ruben currently works as an assistant bookkeeper for a local trucking company, a store associate at his school's bookstore, and an accounting and economics tutor at Aquinas College. At his school Ruben is the president of the Business and Accounting League whose mission is to build a bridge between the academic world and the professional world for the students of Aquinas College. Ruben joined the Association of

Government Accountants in order to help inform students about career opportunities in the field of governmental accounting. Upon graduation, Ruben hopes to enter the field of accounting. As the Student Board member, Ruben assists the Early Career Chair in reaching out to the student population, including sending periodic newsletters and maintaining the AGA's Facebook page. He also assists in planning the Student & Early Career Event scheduled for February 11th, 2015 at the East Grand Rapids Community Center, Commission Chambers Room 201.

## Focus on Early Career and Student

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.

### Did you know?

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.

# Governmental Accounting Training Series in Grand Rapids

**AGA West Michigan’s premier training series** features three information-packed days of governmental CPE. Each level offers 8 hours of CPE, and costs just \$125 per day\*, including lunch! Since its inception in 2006, the GATS has had over 300 participants, and is fast becoming one of the state’s leading training programs designed to provide elected officials and others charged with the responsibility of governmental accounting with a basic understanding of the principles of governmental GAAP, and to enhance their skills for accomplishing this important function. This training is ideal for elected officials, clerks, treasurers, bookkeepers, and others desiring a better understanding of governmental accounting and internal controls.

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**February 25, 2015—CPE: 8 Level One (8:30-4:30PM)**  
Introduction to fund accounting, financial reporting, basic grants management, single audit overview, understanding and establishing effective control, and CGFM certification.

**March 18, 2015—CPE: 8 Level Two (8:30-4:30PM)**  
Digging deeper into the GAAP hierarchy, intermediate accounting/reporting, The Yellow Book, federal cost principles (A-87), effective audit committees,

avoiding fraud risks, and citizen centric reporting.

**April 8, 2015—CPE: 8 Level Three (8:30-4:30PM)**  
Advancing into GASB’s codification, footnote disclosures, elements of a CAFR, subrecipient monitoring, audit findings, indirect cost rates, fraud case studies, avoiding common deficiencies, and service efforts and accomplishments reporting.

**Location:** Rehmann, 2330 East Paris Ave., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

\*\*Early bird registration (one week before each event) is \$125 per day for AGA members and \$150 for non-members, and includes lunch on-site. Discounts are available if registering for multiple sessions.

## Community Service Highlight

**January 1, 2015 to March 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

**April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015**

**Michelle’s Rescue**

**Website:**

www.michelesrescue.com

**Mission:**

Michele’s Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal rescue. We are a no kill rescue that takes in and adopts out animals from all over the country. Most of the animals we take in are in line to be “put-down” and need rescues like ours to find them a happy and loving home.

**Area of Service:**

Kent County, 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 2013 Program Year

**Paul Matz, CPA, CGFM (Jan. 2013)**

**Michelle McCloud, CGFM (Jan. 2013)**

**Joe Verlin, CPA, CGFM (Apr. 2013)**

**Dwight Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM (Jul. 2013)**

**Casey Zaski, CPA, CGFM (Apr. 2014)**

**Jason, O’Connell, CGFM (2014)**



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

43 percent of West Michigan Chapter membership holds a CGFM certification



**Association of Government Accountants  
West Michigan Chapter  
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agawestmichigan.org**



**CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
2014-2015**

**Connie A. Vander Schaaf, CGFM, CMA  
President**  
Park Township  
president@agawestmichigan.org

**Karen L. Doyle  
President-Elect**  
City of Zeeland  
presidentelect@agawestmichigan.org

**Dwight D. Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM  
Immediate Past President**  
County of Muskegon

**Erinn A. Trask, CPA  
Early Career Chair & Secretary**  
Rehmann Robson  
earlycareer@agawestmichigan.org  
secretary@agawestmichigan.org

**William G. Love, CPA, CGFM  
Treasurer & Community Service Chair**  
Rehmann Robson  
treasurer@agawestmichigan.org  
communityservice@agawestmichigan.org

**Stephen W. Blann, CPA, CGFM, CGMA  
Education, Training, and Certification Chair  
& Communications Chair**  
Rehmann Robson  
education@agawestmichigan.org

**Paul R. Matz, CPA, CGFM  
Membership Chair**  
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membership@agawestmichigan.org

**Douglas J. Vredeveld, CPA, CGFM  
Accountability Chair**  
Vredeveld Haefner LLC  
accountability@agawestmichigan.org

**Ruben S. Sholinyan  
Student Representative**  
Aquinas College  
studentrep@agawestmichigan.org

## AGA-WM Membership Roster

Dwight Avery, CPA, CCM, CGFM	Mario Guerra	Cynthia Osga, CGFM *
Nathan Baldermann, CPA, CGFM	Scott Gumieny	Amy Rottman, CPA, CGFM
Kate Balfourt	Kristin Hoogerwerf, CPA, CGFM	Diane Schiller *
Jon Bartlett, CGFM	Lori Hopkins, CGFM	Ann Simmons
Nancy Bazan, CPA, CITP, CGFM, CGMA	Brenda Isenhardt, CPA	Timothy Smith
Krystal Benson, CPA, CGFM, CFE	John Jacobs	Peter Stanislawski, CPFIM *
Kristen Biggs, CPA	Mark Kettner, CPA, CGFM	Erinn Trask, CPA
James Birckbichler, CGFM-Retired	Kristin Kratt	Eric Van Dop, CPA
Stephen Blann, CPA, CGFM, CGMA *	Matthew Lewis	Connie Vander Schaaf, CGFM, CMA *
Bhama Cairns *	William Love, CPA, CGFM*	Cynthia VanGelderren, CPA
Carrie Carlson	Paul Matz, CPA, CGFM	Joseph Verlin, CPA, CGFM
Richard Carpenter, CPA, CGFM	Michelle McCloud, CGFM	Douglas Vredeveld, CPA, CGFM *
Teresa Choate, CPA, CGFM	Matthew Mol, CPA *	Sherri Washabaugh
Gerald Deslover, CPA, CGFM	Eleonor Moore	Darcy Weaver
Karen Doyle	Kathy Moore	Casey Zaski, CPA, CGFM
Robert Drexler	Jason O'Connell, CGFM	
Thomas Emery	Jim Oleson, CPA *	
Sheri Geddes, CPA	Rosa Ooms, CPA	

***We strive to meet the varied CPE needs of our membership.***

***Let us know if we are missing a certification and we will update our records.***

***Send updates to membership@agawestmichigan.org***

***Join or renew online at agacgfm.org***

\*AGA West Michigan charter members still active

