



Quarterly Newsletter

A New Look A New Vision A New Opportunity

BY VICTORIA CLARK

AGA is not just three letters with a catchy slogan. It is an organization built on a strong foundation of innovation and leadership. It connects and empowers professionals who support government, from financial management to IT, human resources, cybersecurity and more, to advance good government initiatives, grow their expertise and accelerate their careers.

Historically an organization focused on federal government accountants, Association of Government Accountants (AGA) saw an opportunity to extend their reach. In 2022 the organization's name was changed to AGA and took on a new mission. ADVANCE. GROW. ACCELERATE. This new branding strives to expand the organization's reach outside of government accountants and hopes to influence all sectors advancing government accountability.

Along with a new look and a new brand, comes a new vision. AGA endeavors to advance government responsibility across all facets and all level of government. With its core values being Service, Accountability, Integrity and Leadership, AGA will help shape and drive the future of government accountability.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 11-12: [CGFM LIVE, VIRTUAL COURSE 1: GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL](#)

SEPTEMBER 27, 2:00PM:
WEBINAR -
COMMUNICATION

OCTOBER 10-13: [CGFM LIVE, VIRTUAL COURSE 2: GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING, FINANCIAL REPORTING AND BUDGETING](#)

NOVEMBER 30: LOCAL PDT -
CHARLESTON, SC CHAPTER
TO HOST LOCAL PDT

The Charleston, South Carolina Chapter of the AGA is a diverse group of individuals including students, entry-level employees and senior executives from Federal agencies and other local and state governments, school districts, colleges and universities, and private firms. Whatever your role is in government financial management, AGA offers you the opportunity to get involved and unleash your potential.



Welcome New Members

We are thrilled that you have chosen to be a part of our vibrant community. Congratulations on taking a step towards enhancing your professional growth and expanding your network. As new members, you bring fresh perspectives and unique experiences that will enrich our collective knowledge and contribute to the growth of our organization. Your voices are important to us. We encourage you to actively participate in our events, contribute your ideas, and take on leadership roles when the time is right.

Your perspectives and contributions will shape the future of our organization and help us better serve our members and the broader community. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our existing members for their continued support and dedication. Your involvement and passion have been instrumental in making the AGA Charleston SC Chapter the thriving community it is today. We encourage you to extend a warm welcome to our new members and offer your guidance and assistance as they navigate their journey within our organization.



A Message from the Chapter President

By: Megan Jones

It brings me great pleasure to reengage the AGA Charleston SC Chapter after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. It has been a challenging time for all of us, but I am grateful for your unwavering support and commitment to our chapter despite the circumstances.

As we begin a new program year, I want to assure you that your chapter is more determined than ever to revitalize our work. We have some exciting new initiatives planned for the year, and I am confident that we will achieve great things together.



I am energized and excited about what this year has in store for each and every one of you. I encourage all members to take an active role in our organization's activities this year. Whether it be through volunteering, attending events, or contributing your expertise and ideas, your participation is crucial to our success. Together, we can make this the best year yet.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the AGA Charleston SC Chapter. I look forward to a successful and fulfilling program year ahead.

Maximize Your Potential

Leadership through service is one of the most important ways to advance in your personal and professional growth. AGA has no shortage of opportunities for you to get involved and maximize your potential. We are looking to fill leadership positions, as well as Primary Chapter Committees that assist in coordinating activities in various areas. Whether your strengths are organization, finance, communication, education, or anything in between, your skills will help make this the best year yet for AGA Charleston SC Chapter.

There are current leadership vacancies in the following areas:

- President-Elect
- Education Director
- CGFM Director

We are also looking for volunteers for all Chapter Committees. You can find the full list of vacancies on our Chapter Website. If you are ready to take the next step in engagement and leadership, please email Megan Jones at JonesMV@state.gov.

Community Corner

Community Service is such an important part of AGA. In fact, in AGA's Strategic Plan, service is mentioned as both a core value of the organization as well as part of the strategic goals and objectives that AGA seeks to achieve each year. In our very own backyard of Charleston, SC, there are ample opportunities to serve our community while building partnerships of trust and comradery with local organizations who need support and volunteers. This year, we are going to make it our focus to include a variety of service opportunities that will keep us engaged

with our community as well as highlight our various members' strengths and interests. To kick off our year, we are asking for your participation with the "Back to School Supply Drive" that is happening now through August 15th. We are partnering Neighbors Together to collect school supplies for those who are in need to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to put their best foot forward. And thank you in advance for supporting our community and strengthening our AGA Charleston Chapter!

Neighbors Together Amazon Wishlist

For volunteer opportunities contact Sonya Willemse at WillemseSP@state.gov

PDT 2023 at a Glance

A few members of our chapter had the opportunity to participate in this year's Professional Development Training. They will be sharing their experience in our next AGA Charleston SC Chapter meeting. Until then, here are some of their highlights from the week.



PDT allows professionals from a variety of backgrounds to come together and share advances, challenges, and creativity in their field. Hot topics from PDT 2023 are the advances of AI-generated learning, the usage of BoT files for streamlined efficiency, and how to read and prepare fiscal audits for your team and department. While these topics may not be new, they have made severe advances in the last few years that will change the way Government tasks are executed. I really am looking forward to seeing everyone in Denver next summer! ~~~ Casey Szegi



AGA's PDT2023 was an amazing and invaluable experience! I attended numerous sessions that directly relate to my role at the Department of State as well as sessions that provided knowledge and best practices in leadership. In addition to the specialized training sessions was the opportunity for networking. Agency and industry leaders were in attendance and the connections I made will prove to be beneficial to our AGA Charleston SC Chapter, my career, and my personal life. I would strongly encourage any member (and future members!) to attend this premier AGA event. AGA National has announced that PDT2024 will be in Denver, Colorado from July 13-July 17, 2024. Mark your calendars!"

- Megan Jones

The AGA's 2023 PDT in Orlando, Florida was a wonderful opportunity to attend multiple educational and informational sessions about today's hot topics in the accounting and finance world and the chance to network with individuals from different agencies and companies." – Ashely Gaskins

