

# AGA Phoenix Chapter ([www.agaphoenix.org](http://www.agaphoenix.org))

PY 2018-2019

July 2019



## Message From the President



In June, we held our last meeting of the 2018-2019 program year. Brittney Williams, CPA, CGFM, a long time AGA member and supporter of the Chapter, spoke on Stress Can Be a Good Thing. The event was held at ASU Skysong on June 12<sup>th</sup> and was worth two (2) CPE. Thank you to all that attended this meeting.

In July and August we will be on a break while we plan for the 2019-2020 program year. We will have more information later this summer, including dates, times and topics for our events in the coming year. Look for our Chapter e-mails to resume later this summer and check for details on our website. In the meantime we will also reach out to our members to get their feedback on meeting locations and community service opportunities, so please take the time to let us know what you think. Even though the Chapter will be on a break, July is not without opportunities to get your CPE. This is the month that AGA National will hold its annual PDT in New Orleans, for a total of 25 CPE. You can register to attend in person, or virtually, here: <https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT/PDT-Home.aspx>

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We also have some great news to share from June. This last month, we also had one new member join, Matthew with the State of Arizona, and one member successfully complete all of his CGFM certifications, Jordan with Maricopa County. Welcome, Matthew, and congratulations Jordan! Just a reminder, that the Phoenix Chapter provides multiple resources for our members, so that you can effectively sit for, and pass the CGFM exam. We offer study guides for checkout and an opportunity to be reimbursed for the cost of sitting for the exam, upon successful completion. If you are interested in learning more, please e-mail us at [contact@agaphoenix.gov](mailto:contact@agaphoenix.gov).

Additionally, if you have any questions or feedback for us, please e-mail us at, [contact@agaphoenix.org](mailto:contact@agaphoenix.org). We would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support of the Phoenix Chapter, and we hope to see you soon!

Michelle Huckabay, CPA, CGFM  
AGA Phoenix Chapter President

# AGA Phoenix Chapter Executive Board Program Year 2018-2019

**PURPOSE:** Consists of chapter officers, past president, committee chairs, and other members appointed by the chapter president. Responsible for all chapter business and planning.

<b>OFFICERS:</b> President	Michelle Huckabay, CGFM, CPA
President Elect	Cindy Smith, CPA
Past President	Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM, CPA
Secretary	Paola Matson
Treasurer	Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM, CPA

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## Our Purpose

### Mission Statement

AGA Phoenix Chapter serves Arizona professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality, low-cost continuing education, promoting professional development and interaction among members, and fostering a commitment to community involvement as well as a sense of responsibility for advancing government accountability.

### Vision

AGA Phoenix Chapter actively creates an avenue for membership to share ideas with each other, to share knowledge and time with the community, and to promote the advancement of government standards and accountability within the profession.

## We'd Love Your Input!

Please remember to send in any articles of interest, including any that you may have written on the subjects of management, accounting, or auditing. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

In addition, please send us any special announcements in relation to promotions, marriages, births, anniversaries, certifications achieved, or any other significant event for any of our chapter members. Any article submitted by the second week of the month will be included in the next month's newsletter.

Please email your news for forthcoming newsletters to:

[contact@agaphoenix.org](mailto:contact@agaphoenix.org)



## Goals for 2018-2019 and Beyond

- Membership & Education:
  - Provide 42 education credits throughout the program year. Audio conferences and live speakers.
  - ✓ • Reach out to new members within first month of membership.
  - ✓ • Reach out to all non-renewing members in May/June.
  - Provide social/recruiting event.
  - ✓ • Establish sponsorship program.
- Accountability:
  - ✓ • Prepare chapter’s Citizen Centric Report (CCR) by September 30, 2018 and post to website.
  - ✓ • Submit chapter’s CCR to AGA’s Certificate of Excellence Review Program.
- CGFM Goals:
  - ✓ • Continue reimbursements for chapter members who pass all three sessions of the CGFM tests. Reimbursement includes the cost of the three exams and application fee.
  - ✓ • Communicate and promote CGFM designation to Chapter members .
  - ✓ • Provide CGFM study guides to members on a first come first serve basis. Purchase two new sets this year.
  - ✓ • Seek State proclamation for March as CGFM month and provide recognition to CGFM members.
- Young Professionals:
  - ✓ • Reach out to college accounting clubs to present about jobs in governmental accounting and discuss what AGA is and how it can impact students’ careers.
  - ✓ • Annually award up to two scholarships for students enrolled in an Accounting, Finance or Public Administration curriculum.

2018 & 2019 Budget and Spend through 4/19			
Budget Category	'18 Spent	'19 Budget	'19 Spent
Education	\$18,534.98	\$21,000	\$13,930.52
Membership	\$410	\$1,000	\$630
Travel	\$0	\$3,500	\$2,873.47
Board Expenses	\$223.42	\$500	\$100
Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,000
CGFM	\$15,390.08	\$1,550	\$0
Community Service	\$100	\$750	\$250
Website	\$0	\$0	\$0
Early Career	\$100	\$100	\$0
Audit	\$100	\$100	\$150
Misc.	\$12	\$200	\$180.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,679.75</b>	<b>\$30,200</b>	<b>\$19,114.55</b>

### PY 2018-2019 Committee Members:

- Membership – Mary Adelman, CGFM, CPA
- Education – Keith Orr, CGFM, Jerry Snyder, CGFM, , Anthony St. George, CPA and Robert Harwood, CPA
- Programs – Getzamany Aragon & Michelle Huckabay, CGFM, CPA
- Accountability—Kim Prendergast, CGFM, CPA
- CGFM – Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM, CPA
- Young Professionals / Early Career – Getzamany Aragon and Marvin Mendieta, CGFM
- Scholarship – Kelly Alkhoury, CGFM
- Community Service – Cindy Ensign
- Communications Committee – Anthony St. George, CPA
- Sponsorship—Anthony St. George, CPA
- NCC Representative—Mary Adelman, CGFM, CPA

## **Tips for Preparing for CGFM Exams:**

Begin by **reviewing the CGFM examinations content outlines**, which list the main and subtopics covered in each examination. This should be the focal point of your preparation. It is the core document used as the basis for each examination and a guideline for writing examination questions.

Once you are ready to begin studying for the exam, there are a variety of ways to approach it. You can utilize all, or part of these resources. **The AGA offers instructor led courses**. You can attend an instructor led course in the Washington, D.C. area, or participate in an intensive review course at the annual AGA PDT.

Even if you take the instructor led courses, you will want to perform some self-study following this, in order to prepare yourself for the exams. **CGFM study guides** are available for purchase through AGA National, in hard copy, or as a soft copy. Spend time reviewing these materials and answering the questions from each section of the study guides. Also, the Phoenix Chapter, has CGFM study guides available for check out.

AGA also now offers three online **CGFM practice examinations**, which will help you prepare to take the real exam. These practice examinations, are a must.

**Study groups** can also be helpful. If you know others that are preparing to take the same exam, you can meet regularly to test each others knowledge, and support each other in the journey. Consider joining the AGA Phoenix Chapter study group. To find out more, e-mail [contact@agaphoenix.org](mailto:contact@agaphoenix.org).

Consider these tips, when starting your journey to obtaining your CGFM certification. Good luck and let the Phoenix Chapter of AGA know if we can answer any questions for you, or provide you with any of the Chapter resources.

Link to AGA National study information: <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Candidates/Preparing-for-Exams.aspx>



### **CGFM Study Resources Available:**

For AGA members interested in taking the CGFM please contact our CGFM chair at [cgfm@agaphoenix.org](mailto:cgfm@agaphoenix.org) for more information. Currently there is 3 complete set of materials available for check out.

Also, successful CGFM candidates can apply for reimbursement of the application and examination costs.

Contact our CGFM chair for step by step instructions on the CGFM process:

[contact@agaphoenix.org](mailto:contact@agaphoenix.org)



## Check out AGA's Free Toolkits & Guides:

- Sub-recipient vs. Contractor Checklist
- Blended and Braided Funding
- Leveraging Government Resources in Challenging Financial Times
- Risk Assessment Monitoring Toolkit
- Cooperative Audit Resolution and Oversight Initiative
- Fraud Prevention Toolkit
- Candidate Assessment Toolkit for Grant Managers
- How Federal, State and Non-Profit Collaboration Improved Efficiencies in Delinquent Debt Collection
- Citizen Centric Report: How To

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Tools-Resources/Intergov/Home.aspx>

## Membership Referral Program

Did you know that you can gain \$50 if you get two individuals who are not currently members to join our chapter? All you have to do is have them put your name down on the sponsor section of the membership form.

It is always nice to have new faces become members to our growing organization!

## Board Members Wanted

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee and to be on the Board, please contact AGA at the following e-mail: [contact@agaphoenix.org](mailto:contact@agaphoenix.org)

# We Are Always Looking For People Interested In Joining Our Organization

*NOTE: Excerpts and links below are from AGA's national website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).*

### What is AGA?

Briefly, AGA has been serving the government financial management profession for over 50 years As a not-for-profit educational organization, AGA serves the professional interests of financial managers from the local, state and the federal governments, as well as public accounting firms, responsible for effectively using billions of dollars and other monetary resources everyday. Members are accountants, auditors, contract, financial and performance, budget analysts, chief financial officers, information systems managers, finance directors, inspectors

general, professors, students. Membership in AGA is like tapping into a reservoir of actual real-world knowledge and experience of government financial management experts.

### Benefits of Joining

If you asked a member which of the benefits they value the most, they probably would say education and networking, which often occur at the same time and place. Here are some of our members' favorites:  
Continuing Professional Education and Networking Opportunities  
Keep Up-to-Date on Current Issues  
Keep Abreast of the Latest Technologies and Financial Systems  
Professional Guidance and Certification

### How Can You Join?

Click the links below to access the Membership Application and to find out membership types and dues.



Click <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Learn-About-AGA/Join-or-Renew.aspx>

**to complete the online AGA Membership Application.**

**\*\*Did an AGA member inspire you to join? Don't forget to enter your AGA Sponsor's Name and Member ID on the application.\*\***