



# Quarterly Newsletter

## The Importance of Starting Goals

As the New Year begins, many of us have set both personal and professional goals. While establishing these objectives is a crucial step toward success, there is another equally important step: starting them. While we often dedicate time to planning and goal-setting, that effort is all for naught if we don't follow through by actually starting the process.

Taking the initiative to begin your goals fosters a proactive mindset—one that can serve you well in all areas of your career and personal life. Proactivity promotes positivity and optimism, both of which are powerful tools for creating a supportive and encouraging environment at work and at home.

Even if you don't fully achieve your goals, the key is that you've taken the action to start them. Don't fear failure. If you fall short, reflect on the reasons behind it so that you can apply those lessons when setting future goals.

### Upcoming Events

CHARLESTON PDT  
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY  
MAR 13 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET)

WEBINAR: ERM - 2 CPE  
MODERNIZED MOBILE SECURITY:  
THE PHISHING-RESISTANT  
FUTURE OF AUTHENTICATION  
MAR 5 (2:00-3:50 PM ET)

WEBINAR: FREE MEMBERS-  
ONLY WEBINAR - 1.5 CPE  
MAR 12 (2:00 - 3:15 PM ET)

WEBINAR: RPA/MACHINE LEARNING  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN THE  
AGE OF DOGE - 2CPE  
MAR 26 (2:00 - 3:50 PM ET)

# Community Corner

## Charleston Angel Tree

Last quarter, the Community Services Committee made a meaningful impact by participating in the Charleston Angel Tree program. This wonderful project provides Christmas gifts for local children in need.



## Mary Ford Educational Center

In January, our Reading Buddy program continued its momentum into the second semester of the school year. Our volunteers who visit the school each and every week are such an inspiration.

We are truly making a positive impact to help students polish their reading skills. These youngsters have such a voracious appetite for learning, and we're so excited to be a part of their journey.



## Looking Ahead: Operation Home Ramp Build

Our next event will be on March 22nd with Operation Home, where we will be building ramps for those in need. RSVP is required. More details to come.

For those interested in participating in future events, please reach out to Casey Szegi at [cszegi@agacharleston.org](mailto:cszegi@agacharleston.org).

## Thank You!

We want thank all of our volunteers and supporters. Your commitment and generosity are a true testament to our passion for volunteerism. We're thrilled to continue giving back by supporting our local communities and charities. Please stay tuned for more exciting volunteer opportunities.

# AGA Charleston Supports Water Mission's Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts

In the wake of Hurricane Helene's devastation, Water Mission has taken swift action to aid many of the impacted communities. The nonprofit organization has established dozens of bulk freshwater sites, ensuring access to clean water in areas where it is most urgently needed. Over 1,100 generators have been distributed to power essential services. Even counseling has been provided to local leaders and their families, addressing the emotional and psychological toll from the disaster.

AGA Charleston recently assisted Water Mission in these critical relief efforts through donating much needed items. Water Mission remains actively engaged in the town of Spruce Pine, where they continue to provide clean water to the entire community. This ongoing support exemplifies the organization's commitment to restoring hope and stability in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

The resilience of the Spruce Pine community is inspiring," said Casey Szegi, Community Services for AGA Charleston.

"We are honored to support Water Mission's vital work, ensuring that families have access to clean water and the resources they need to rebuild their lives."

Hurricane Helene has left a profound mark on the region, but with organizations like Water Mission leading the charge, recovery efforts are making significant strides. AGA Charleston encourages others to join in supporting these efforts, helping to bring relief and recovery to communities in need.



## Message from the President

VICTORIA CLARK, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

A new year means new opportunities, and I couldn't be more excited for what's ahead! Last year, we made a real impact in the community, and this year, we're looking to do even more—building connections, giving back, and growing as a chapter. We've also got some great events coming up, including our Charleston PDT on March 13th.

Last year's PDT was full of awesome speakers, valuable networking, and plenty of professional development.

This year, we are looking forward to another amazing event! If you have not already purchased tickets, be sure to do so. If you've been thinking about getting more involved, now is a great time!

We're always looking for volunteers to help with committees or step into leadership roles within the CEC. Whether you have a little time or a lot, there's a place for you. I am looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

# New Member Spotlight

## Rich Gordon

Rich recently joined IFAS as the Team Lead for our Business Process Testing (BPT) team. He brings with him years of experience in program management and a passion for upholding quality standards.



### In His Own Words:

“I recently embarked on a significant career transition, and joining AGA was the next logical step as I aim to develop my leadership skills in this dynamic field. I am looking forward to attending the National Leadership Training (NLT) this month, where I hope to connect with and learn from some of the industry's brightest minds. Additionally, I am eager to participate in further training opportunities and share the insights gained with my team.

AGA also offers a platform for community engagement through volunteer efforts, which aligns with my commitment to both personal and professional growth. In my free time, I enjoy spending quality moments with family and friends, often involving music and sports.”

## Committee Updates

### Education

We had our first AGA Lunch & Learn of 2025 on January 31st. The featured speaker, Brian Ingle, Executive Director of Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts, gave an entertaining and thought-provoking presentation on “Extinguishing Burnout.” Future Lunch & Learns are being planned for the coming months with the chapter also hoping to offer CPEs.

The Mary Ford Reading Buddy program, which started at the beginning of the school year, is continuing into the second semester. The program is a great way for AGA members to give back to the community. Kudos to all those who make this a very special time for the Mary Ford students.

Dr. John Egan, Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies at The Citadel, has agreed to give a leadership presentation for the upcoming Charleston AGA PDT on March 13, 2025, and we're excited to have him represent The Citadel at the all-day conference.

### Meetings & Events

Greetings from the Meetings & Events Committee! So far in 2025, we have hosted two events. As noted in the Education column, the first one was a chapter-wide lunch-and-learn featuring a guest speaker.

We also had a happy hour meet-up at the Kickin' Chicken Downtown. It was great to be able to share some time, snacks, beverages and connections outside of the office. Be on the lookout for communication from us about future events!

And get ready for exciting learning opportunities coming up at our PDT on March 13 at Charleston Southern University. We hope to see you all there!

If you have not registered yet, you can do so [HERE](#).





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