

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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AGATM

Philadelphia
Chapter



February 2025

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Thriving Together: Your Vibrant Gateway to Government Financial Management Excellence with AGA Philadelphia!

Welcome esteemed AGA members! As leaders in shaping financial strategies and upholding fiscal integrity in government agencies, you are the cornerstone of AGA Philadelphia. Thank you for being essential to our community, where excellence in government financial management begins and thrives!



Renew your AGA Membership by March 31st!
(PG. 6)



Upcoming AGA Professional Development Trainings!
(PG. 13)

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AGA PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

LAYNA HOLMES-BUTLER
CGFM, CPA

Layna Holmes-Butler is an accomplished accounting and audit professional with a strong focus on delivering comprehensive solutions to individuals and businesses.

Her expertise encompasses a wide range of services, including agreed-upon procedures, financial statement preparation following GAAP standards, general ledger management, accounts receivable and payable, and fixed asset accounting. Layna also specializes in conducting compliance audits in alignment with Government Auditing Standards (the Yellow Book) and relevant laws and regulations.

Throughout her career, Layna has worked with major clients such as The Mercadien Group, J. Miller & Associates, and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Her dedication to excellence and adherence to industry standards make her a valuable asset to the accounting and auditing community.



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AGA Philadelphia Chapter: 2025 Chapter Leadership

Chapter President: Layna Holmes-Butler

First Vice President: Kyle Smith

Chapter Treasurer: Layna Holmes-Butler

National Council of Chapters Representative: Kyle Smith

ACE Reporting: Teri Lewis

Membership: Clarence Johnson

Programs, Meeting, & Events Chair: Stephanie Sowalsky

Social Media/Webmaster: Erin McAlinney



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Join the AGA Philadelphia Chapter Leadership Board!

Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community? Here's your chance! The Philadelphia Chapter is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Leadership Board. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student seeking valuable internship experience, we welcome you to be part of our dynamic team.

Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.



www.agacgfm.org



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CGFM®

Certification



What is a CGFM?

The CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) credential, awarded by AGA, showcases expertise in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across different government levels. It's a respected certification that highlights specialized knowledge and experience essential for effective government financial management. CGFM opens doors to new career prospects and sets you apart as a distinguished professional in the field.

CGFM Certification Benefits:

1. Enhanced marketability across government sectors.
2. Networking opportunities with fellow government financial managers.
3. Boosted confidence in your role.
4. Potential for employer incentives like raises, promotions, and bonuses.
5. Increased value as an employee, both in reality and perception.
6. Support for ongoing education to stay updated with the latest developments and technologies.

Use this link to learn more about CGFM memberships!

www.agacgfm.org

How Do I Become a CGFM?

1. Fill out an online application and agree to AGA's Code of Ethics.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
3. Pass three CGFM examinations.
4. Gain at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.



For any additional questions, please contact the Office of Professional Certification: 800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931) or cgfm@agacgfm.org

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Don't Forget: Join or Renew Your AGA Membership!

Benefits:



- **Connect, Collaborate, & Network:**
 - Expand your network, participate in our online mentoring program!
 - Volunteer to serve on AGA committees and boards.
 - Find a position or look for qualified candidates on AGA's Job Board
 - Join the conversation on LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook.
- **Continuous Learning:**
 - Participate in educational events — learn from and meet the experts.
 - Save money with registration discounts on national and chapter training events.
 - Sign up for four (4) complimentary members-only webinars.
 - Attend the Transformation & Technology Summit for FREE!
 - Attend the Women's Forum for FREE!
 - Leverage discounts on CGFM renewal and application fees.
- **Stay Informed & Find Solutions:**
 - Access online tools, developed by government experts to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration.
 - Stay up to date through the quarterly Journal of Government Financial Management.
 - Learn about and share best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
 - Get the latest innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.

**JOIN
NOW**



Don't Hesitate!
Register Now!

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Student Membership Opportunities



Why AGA?

Considering a career in government financial management? Want to meet government professionals in the federal, state, or local government levels?

Join AGA for FREE! Student membership in AGA provides you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections and discover your future career while positively impacting your community and country.

**APPLY
NOW**



Scholarships

Academic scholarships, National Collegiate Leadership Scholarship, Government Finance Case Challenge, Datathon



Career Coaching & Professional Community

Mentoring Programs & Local Chapters



Tools & Resources

'Accountability Talks' Podcast & Guest Speakers



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ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS



Discover '**Accountability Talks**,' a podcast delving into the government accountability community. Hear from thought leaders, gain career insights, and join our vibrant community!

[Click here to listen!](#)

About the Host



Meet **Paul Marshall, CPA, CGFM, CIA, CICA, PMP, VP at MIL Corporation and dedicated AGA member with 20+ years in government accountability.** He champions best practices in audits, financial reporting, and more, serving on AGA boards at local and national levels.

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Upcoming Webinars & Events

You Do Not Want to Miss Out!



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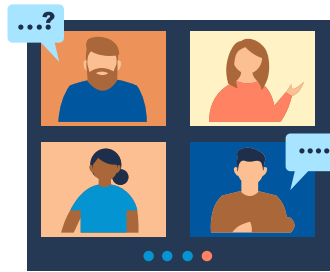
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VIRTUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



Join us on Zoom for our virtual membership meetings to discuss the future of financial management and beyond! Let's connect, collaborate, and propel our profession forward together. Don't miss out! Mark your calendars and join the Zoom meeting for insightful discussions and networking opportunities. Links to meetings will be shared as the dates approach. See you there!

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

If you have any questions, please contact our Chapter President, Layna Holmes-Butler at hlayna@hotmail.com

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National Events



Webinar: ERM

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: IT

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Information Technology (IT)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



FREE – Members–Only Webinar

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

| 2:00–3:15 PM ET | 1.5 CPEs | FOS: PD

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Personal Development (PD)

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National Events



Webinar: RPA/Machine Learning

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: IT

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Information
Technology (IT)

**[Click Here to
Register Now!](#)**



Webinar: Ethics

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: BETH

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Behavioral Ethics (BETH)

**[Click Here to
Register Now!](#)**



Webinar: Fraud/Data Analytics

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: AUDG

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Auditing – Governmental
(AUDG)

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Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

Save the Date for AGA's future Professional Development Training (PDT) events!



Nashville, Tennessee

July 27-30, 2025

Gaylord Opryland Hotel



Dallas, Texas

July 26-29, 2026

Gaylord Texan Hotel



Chicago, Illinois

July 18-21, 2027

Hyatt Regency Chicago

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Premier Group is a Proud Sponsor of the AGA Philadelphia Chapter!

Premier Group is a full-service CPA firm founded by Joye Sistrunk in 2005, embodying a passion for numbers, community purpose, integrity, and a mission of trust.

At Premier Group, we are dedicated to serving a diverse range of clients, including government agencies, federal contractors, nonprofits, and mid-sized businesses. Our commitment to excellence, teamwork, and collaboration ensures that every client receives personalized attention and the highest quality of service. Partner with us to experience the difference that passion, purpose, and integrity can make in achieving your financial goals.
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Our Services Include:

Audit and Assurance Services: Thorough examination and verification of financial records, assuring stakeholders.

Financial Budgeting and Forecasting: Expert analysis and planning to help clients make informed financial decisions for the future.

Risk Management: Identification, assessment, and mitigation of risks to safeguard financial assets and operations.

Litigation Support: Professional assistance in legal matters involving financial disputes, providing expert testimony and analysis.

Tax Advice and Preparation: Strategic tax planning, compliance, and preparation services to minimize tax burdens and optimize financial outcomes.