

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



THE SOUNDER Vol. 20-3 Feb./Mar. 2021

President's Message

Spring is almost here! Equal parts lightness and darkness. I see reason for optimism with increased COVID-19 vaccinations and the gradual lessening of restrictions on businesses and activities. A return to work in-person seems much more within reach than it did even a couple of months ago. Spring is also the last quarter of our program year (July 1 – June 30), and with that comes some preparation for the end of this program year and the start of the next.

We put out a call for nominations for 2021-2022 board members earlier this month, and we now have a slate of board members for next program year. We will hold elections at the start of April, even though none of the named positions are currently contested. Throughout the program year, we are always open to bringing on new members to our board, so please feel free at any time the interest strikes you to get in touch with us about joining our board. We have one new board member for the remainder of this year and into the next – Sally Stopher, from Spokane. Please join me in welcoming Sally to our board – we greatly appreciate



Sam Lord, Chapter President

her willingness to step up and help with running the chapter.

We have several training events coming up. We will be hosting AGA National's webinar related to Ethics on April 7th. An email will go out shortly with more information on how to participate using the Seattle chapter's allotment of virtual "seats" for this event. In late April, we are happy to support the annual Government Accounting and Auditing Conference, hosted by the Washington State Society of Certified Public Accountants (WSCPA). We will send a link to

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Welcome, New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following two new members who joined the chapter in February 2021.

Ms. Hayley M. Keithahn, Court Records Access Coordinator, Administrative Office of the Courts

CAPT Jason Ray Miller, CGFM, Army Finance Officer, US Army Reserve & Seattle Department of Transportation

Upcoming Training Event

Please join us for our next training event, an AGA National webinar, on Wednesday, April 7: "Ethics." See inside for more details.

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AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2020-2021

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2020-2021! Please join us online for these virtual training events and help us make this program year a success. Each session provides one continuing professional education credit, except for the AGA National webinars, which provide 2 CPE.

AGA Seattle Continuing Professional Education Calendar 2020-2021

Wednesday, April 7, 2021. AGA Webinar, *Ethics*

Tuesday, April 27, and Wednesday, April 28, *Governmental Accounting & Auditing Conference* co-sponsored with the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants. All virtual training. For registration and more information, go to <https://app.wscpa.org/cpe/035188jrl:governmental-accounting-auditing-conference-2021-webcast>

We will provide information on the May training event as we confirm the date, speaker, and topic.



Past Events for the 2020-2021 Program Year

Friday, October 16, 2020. Colleen Rozillis and Halie Garcia, Moss Adams, *Enterprise Risk Assessments: Best Practices for Maximum Insights*

Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM, and Tony Eayrs, *Problem Solving in a Toxic Workplace*, featuring content from a recent *Journal of Government Financial Management* article entitled *Toxic Management*, by Matt Ferguson, CPA, MBA

Wednesday, December 9, 2020. AGA Webinar, *Implementing, Controlling, and Monitoring Emergency Funding under the CARES Act*

Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Valerie Moseley, CPA, *Annual Tax Update*

Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Panel Discussion of AGA's *Citizen-Centric Report - Innovative Summary Reporting to Citizens*



THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

April 7, 2021

Speakers

Melinda DeCorte, CPA, CGFM, CFE, PMP

Partner, Cotton & Company LLP; Chair, AGA Professional Ethics Board

Dave Cotton, CGFM, CPA, CFE

Chairman, Cotton & Company; Vice Chair, AGA Professional Ethics Board

Topic/Time

Ethics

This participant-interactive session will explain the Yellow Book's Threats and Safeguards approach to remaining ethical and then examine some recent real-world ethics cases in other professions.

11:00 – 12:50 pm (Pacific)

Place

Virtual (GoToWebinar Event)

Cost

MEMBERS - \$0 AND NON-MEMBERS - \$0

Registration Required

Please RSVP to indicate interest by emailing Sam Lord at sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov. The chapter will be purchasing a group of 30 "seats" at this virtual event. Priority will be given to Seattle chapter members through March 26th, at which point we will open it up to non-members. Both members and non-members can indicate interest now, and selection for the 30 seats will be on a first-come, first-served basis. We will send a link to those who are selected for final registration.

CPE

2 CPE will be awarded.

AGA Training Webinars

AGA National provides webinars throughout the year to make earning CPE hours easy. All of the webinars, unless denoted with a members-only icon, are open to anyone. They feature experts speaking on emerging issues to help you stay informed on topics including auditing, ethics, governmental accounting, internal controls and performance. [Group registration](#) options are available to those who would like to attend together in one location. Otherwise, [individuals](#) are able to register and attend from their own device.

AGA members enjoy multiple free learning opportunities throughout the year via AGA members-only webinars. Group registration is not available for members-only webinars. Learn more about [members-only webinar registration](#) and CPE credit.

Below is the webinar schedule through May 2021:

- ◆ April 7, 2021, 2-3:50 PM Eastern Time (2 CPE), *Ethics* [AGA Seattle Chapter's April training event]
- ◆ April 21, 2021, 2-3:50 PM Eastern Time (2CPE), *CARES Act*
- ◆ May 12, 2021, 2-3:50 PM Eastern Time (2CPE), *Fraud/Data Analytics*

If you have questions about this training, you can send any questions to AGA at [email AGA](#).

AGA Spring Training Events

AGA has lined up three training events for government financial professionals that will be held in April and May 2021. Attending these training sessions will allow you to earn CPE credits and make the most of your AGA membership. More information about these three events is provided below. If you have questions, please contact meetings@agacgfm.org.



To allow for final workshop logistics, the last day to register is **Monday, April 12, 2021** at midnight ET.

2021 Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Workshop April 14, 2021 | Virtual | 7 CPEs | Registration: \$125

The purpose of the workshop is to provide participants with practical insight and tools to help to continue to build out Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and to use ERM to drive real and sustainable organizational value.

The workshop will include presentations as well as facilitated virtual breakouts surrounding discussion on the effect of COVID-19 on organization mission, priorities and the workforce and the role of ERM in budget uncertainty.

This event is co-sponsored by AGA and the Association for Federal Enterprise Risk Management. Click [here](#) for more information about the 2021 ERM Workshop.

Artificial Intelligence & Advanced Analytics Summit



May 5 | 6.5 CPEs
A Virtual Event

Click [here](#) for more information about the 2021 AI&AA Summit.

Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Analytics (AI&AA) Summit

May 5, 2021 | Virtual | 6.5 CPEs | Registration: \$125

Join AGA at this event as we explore how data analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will forever change the way we work. Experts from across government and industry will discuss current challenges, best practices, use cases and emerging technologies related to AI and data analytics in the public sector. Learn how these technologies can help advance agency missions and increase productivity. These key questions will be answered: Who is using it in government and how? What are the use cases? How far are we in the evolution of maturity? How do you get started?

Performance Improvement Officer / Chief Financial Officer (PIO/CFO) Summit May 19 | Virtual | 4 CPEs

Join the hundreds of PIOs, CFOs and other government officials, managers and analysts who attend the PIO/CFO Summit each year to discuss the policies that impact and call for greater collaboration among the federal financial management, evidence, and performance communities.

Registration is free for AGA members who work for government. It is \$50 for government employees who are nonmembers.

Click [here](#) for more information about the PIO/CFO Summit.



Articles and Photos Wanted

We are always looking for articles to include in *THE SOUNDER*. Please submit items for inclusion and attribution. We also like to decorate the first page of The Sounder with a local photo each month.

If you have an article or picture to contribute, please send it to Karyn Angulo, Newsletter Editor, at newsletter.agaseattle@gmail.com.

When we use your photo, we will acknowledge you in our credits section.

President's Message, continued from page 1

chapter members for AGA-specific registration when it becomes available. We are also finalizing one more training event for the May/June timeframe. As a reminder, AGA National's events calendar contains numerous training events held by AGA chapters from around the country, and some of those are free to AGA members (not just the host chapter's members). You can access the calendar at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Event-Calendar/Chapter-Events.aspx>.

Over the past couple of months, we held our annual tax update event with Valerie Moseley, and a panel discussion on Citizen-Centric Reporting facilitated by Seattle Chapter board member at-large Ken Smith. Both events were virtual via our GoToWebinar platform, and we anticipate that all of our events for the remainder of this program year will be the same. In February, we held a virtual event with Beta Alpha Psi students at Seattle University. Our panelists were AGA members representing local, State, and Federal governments. We hope to hold one or more similar events before the end of the program and academic year. If you would be interested in participating, please feel free to reach out to me and let me know.

March brings with it CGFM month, AGA's annual membership renewal drive, and a new community service event for the Seattle Chapter. AGA National has a special promotion this month for those considering applying to become a CGFM - \$21 (normally \$70 for members and \$99 for non-members). We will be reaching out to chapter members who have not yet renewed their AGA memberships, but we have a goal of getting 60% of those members who hadn't renewed by March 1st to renew by March 31st. If you've been putting off renewing your membership, please help us achieve our goal by renewing when you get the chance. We have had successful chapter fund-raising events for Sound Generations and Northwest Harvest over the last few months, and we have one more event planned for this program year. Gabrielle Sivage, our chapter President-elect, describes it in more detail later in this newsletter, but we will be raising funds for Treehouse, a non-profit that supports youth in foster care. Please consider making a donation in connection with our campaign or even just taking a look to learn more about this organization.

Lastly, we will be sending out surveys to chapter members requesting feedback on our chapter activities and ideas you may have for future events. We will also ask questions about your CGFM experiences and needs for those who have that certification or who are considering attaining it.

As always, please feel free to reach out to any of our board members if you have questions about the chapter or our activities.

Thank you, and Happy Spring!

Sam Lord

AGA Seattle Chapter President

Important Reminder: The AGA Seattle Chapter uses the most recent chapter membership roster from AGA National to target communications to our members about upcoming training and community service events, nominations for awards and our annual election, and other chapter activities. Please be sure to include a valid email address in your member profile. Thank you!

Chapter News

Member Spotlight—Meet Our Newest Board Member

The AGA Seattle Chapter is pleased to announce our newest board member, Sally Stopher, who joined the board in February. Sally is a finance professional with nearly 20 years of experience serving public agencies. This experience was gained in local government agencies and in public education. While currently serving as the Director of Grants, Contracts and Purchasing for the City of Spokane, Washington, Sally's career has included senior management positions covering most facets of government finance, including financial reporting, budget development and management, compliance, procurement, and risk management. She became involved with AGA while becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). In addition to her CGFM certification, Sally is also a Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS), a Certified Professional Contract Manager (CPCM), and a Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO). She is excited to join the AGA Seattle Chapter board!

In her free time, Sally enjoys traveling with her husband (post COVID!), hiking, boating, and spending time with her adult children.



Sally Stopher, Director of Grants, Contracts, and Purchasing, Spokane, Washington



It's Membership Renewal Season!

We are reaching the end of the annual membership renewal season. If you have not yet renewed your AGA membership, you can quickly and easily renew online:

- ◆ Log in to your [My AGA](#) account.
- ◆ Click "Proceed to Checkout" and verify your AGA membership dues amount(s).
- ◆ Click "Check Out" and enter credit card payment.
- ◆ Click "Submit Payment."

AGA National is raffling off ONE more **free virtual registration** to PDT 2021. Everyone who has already renewed, and those who renew prior to March 31, at 11:59 p.m. ET, will be entered to win. The Seattle Chapter is also offering a renewal incentive. **Members who renew by March 31 will be entered into a drawing for one of two \$35 gift cards. Winners can choose among four retailers: Amazon, Costco, Home Depot, and Starbucks.**

AGA Seattle Chapter News and Updates

Young Professionals and Students—Sam Lord, Chair

On February 4th, the AGA Seattle Chapter hosted a virtual event with the Beta Alpha Psi student group at Seattle University. Beta Alpha Psi is an honor organization for financial information students and professionals, encouraging the study and practice of accountancy, finance, business analytics, or digital technology. In the past, we have held similar events in-person at the school, and last year's event took place just days before restrictions started to go in effect in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ken Smith, Seattle Chapter board member, president of The Accountability Group, LLC, and former professor at Central Washington University, moderated the panel discussion. Panelists talked about their organizations, their paths to their current roles, opportunities for students, and the skills and classes valued in their workplaces. Panelists included Delores Lee, Mary Ann Hardy, and Cess Adrineda from the Government Accountability Office (GAO); Sally Stopher, Director of Grants, Contracts, and Purchasing for the City of Spokane (and our newest Seattle Chapter board member); Michael Olson, Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Kirkland; Angela Funamori, from the Office of the Washington State Auditor; and Sam Lord from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General.

We hold these student events several times a year at various area colleges and universities. Government accounting, finance, and accountability is not a career path emphasized by most programs, so we consider outreach to schools an important part of building awareness of government as a possible career path for students. We try to include panelists in a variety of roles from organizations at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels. If you are (or might be) interested in participating in a future event, please feel free to contact Sam Lord at sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov for more information. The panel format provides variety for the students, but it also means the amount of time required for preparation by each panelist is greatly minimized. The students are a great audience, and while we look forward to being able to conduct in-person events at some point again in the future, we will likely try to retain a virtual element as well for those students and panelists who might not be able to participate in person.

Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM)—Gabrielle Sivage, Chair

March is CGFM month, and AGA National has been promoting specials in CGFM emails for those already signed up for updates and for those earning CPE.

CGFM Exam Guide 2 self-paced study modules are now fully online. Choose the method that works best for you. Do not hesitate to contact AGA National if you have a disability that they can reasonably accommodate in meeting your study needs and if you require reasonable accommodation for test taking. See the [AGA website](#) for more information about examination procedures.

Limited Time! \$21 CGFM Application Fee
Now is a great time to apply to the CGFM program! In celebration of CGFM Month, AGA has set the CGFM application fee at *only* \$21 through March 31. This is a \$49 savings off the member rate. Don't delay — this offer won't last! The application fee is normally \$70 for AGA members (\$33 for student members) and \$99 for nonmembers.



Chapter Updates, continued from previous page

National Council of Chapters (NCC) – Karyn Angulo, NCC Representative

At the January 27 board meeting, board members approved Sam Lord to be the incoming NCC representative for the AGA Seattle Chapter. It's been a pleasure and an honor to serve as the chapter's first NCC representative. I've enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with peers from other AGA chapters, represent my chapter at the national level, and serve as a liaison between national and chapter leaders. Sam will bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the job. Please join me in congratulating him on his new role and welcome him as your new representative!

The NCC held its first conference call of the year on January 28. At this meeting,

- ◆ Ann Ebberts, AGA Chief Executive Officer, provided a brief update on "Inside AGA," which is AGA National's 2019-2020 Report to Our Members. She also discussed the Governance Structure Survey feedback and upcoming virtual events at AGA.
- ◆ Gerry Boaz, AGA President-Elect, summarized the December National Governing Board meeting.
- ◆ Wendy Morton-Huddleston, AGA President, provided a #Powerof7 update, encouraging members to recruit new members and to donate time and money to 7 non-profits.
- ◆ Susan Fritzlen, AGA Chief Operating Officer, talked about the value of membership and the roles and responsibilities of chapter leaders, including membership recruitment and retention. She encouraged everyone to read the AGA newsletters (Membership Matters, Leadership Matters, and Topics) so we can stay up-to-date and be knowledgeable about AGA programs and services. She also provided an update on AGA's new Mentoring Program and encouraged people to volunteer as mentors! Volunteers are asked to create and complete a mentor profile, where you can specify your areas of expertise and the number of mentees you are willing to take on. Once a robust mentor database is established, AGA will invite mentees to sign up.
- ◆ Megan Brien, AGA Chapter Services Manager, provided information about the LEAD 2021! Virtual events that will be held on May 7 (areas 1-4) and May 14 (areas 5-8). Chapter presidents and NCC representatives, and four additional officers can attend for each chapter.
- ◆ After these presentations, NCC representatives shared information in several key areas relevant to chapters, including:
 - ◇ The new ACES awards program. We learned more about the goal of the ACES program and how it operates, and members asked questions about some specific program requirements.
 - ◇ Membership & Renewals. The AGA fiscal year runs from April 1 – March 31, and chapter leaders are encouraged to reach out personally to members to encourage them to renew their membership by March 31.
 - ◇ Events. As chapters have adjusted to pandemic restriction, they continue to host virtual events. The two most popular platforms that chapters are using are Zoom and GoToWebinar. Conferences i/o has helped chapters with the CPE certificate process, although there have been some challenges with integrating it with other webinar and virtual event platforms.

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Chapter Updates, continued from previous page

Community Service—Gabrielle Sivage, Chair

January - February 2021 Community Service Project—Addressing Food Insecurity

The AGA Seattle Chapter thanks you and yours for raising \$105 for the January - February 2021 Food Insecurity Project for which the Community Service Committee selected platinum-rated Northwest Harvest to receive funds. Northwest Harvest is a non-profit organization that provides millions of pounds of nutritious food to a broad network of food programs across Washington. We set up a donations page through GoFundMe to raise funds to address unprecedented need due to the pandemic. We thank everyone who contributed to this fundraiser.

March – May 2021 Community Service Project – Springing for Kids

Spring often promises daffodils, barbecues, and the sound of children and families playing. On the heels of the Chapter and our friends raising \$105.00 to take a bite out of increased food insecurity, AGA Seattle’s final fundraising project for this program year focuses on Treehouse and its support to foster kids and caregivers. The mission of Treehouse, located in Seattle, is to give foster kids a childhood and a future. Treehouse envisions—and strives to create—a world where every child that has experienced foster care has the opportunities and support they need to pursue their dreams and launch successfully into adulthood. You can learn more about Treehouse services and support for foster kids [here](#) as well as information on support to caregivers.

We hope to support children and youth in enjoying spring during a cooped-up year, whether spring 2021 means playing, learning, or earning college or car insurance funds doing yardwork or dog-walking in comfortable shoes and clothes. Vulnerable youth, along with their caregivers, rely on Treehouse Seattle for goods, services, scholarships, internships, mentors, and much more. From March through May 2021, the AGA Seattle Chapter is excited to feature this community service project in hopes that fall brings with it an opportunity to connect for an in-person service project. AGA Seattle Chapter members and friends can donate to the giving page we have set up [here](#). Giving pages below are smartphone-built, and you can use Apple Pay, Google Pay, and other payment methods.

You have many options when giving to Treehouse:

- ◆ All giving options can be made anonymously, and you will still receive a tax receipt.
- ◆ All giving options allow you to not opt into receiving communications from Treehouse.



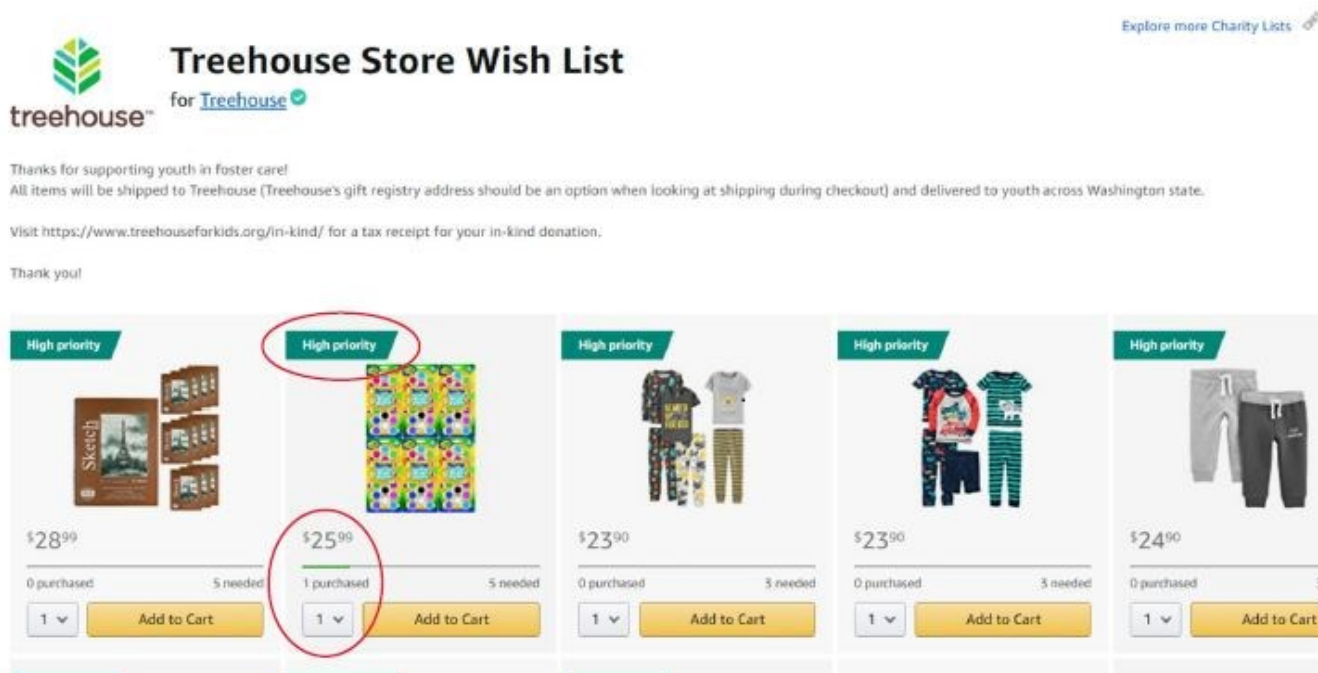
The image shows a screenshot of the Treehouse website. At the top left is the Treehouse logo, and at the top right is a green 'Donate' button. Below the navigation is an illustration of a room with pink walls and a window with red curtains. A young girl in a white dress and a young boy in a green shirt and blue pants are dancing on a blue rug. In the background, there is a desk with a laptop, a water bottle, and a small treehouse logo. Musical notes are floating in the air.

We've been providing dance class funding for 2 youth since last spring. In the fall, they advanced to the next level of classes. Due to COVID-19, the winter semester was moved back to remote online classes, but both youth continue to participate and build their dance skills!

These are just some examples of the ways we have supported our youth over the past six months. Join Treehouse as we partner with youth experiencing foster care during the pandemic and beyond.

Chapter Updates, continued from previous page

- ◆ You can give in memory or in honor of someone else, and you can leave social messages and encouraging words.
- ◆ In-kind wish list directed fundraising for Treehouse is accessible here treehouseforkids.org/wishlist on Amazon. Wish lists are only accessible from the link and not by searching Amazon.
 - ◇ The wish list features a “High priority” banner for immediately needed items.
 - ◇ Wish list purchases are safely delivered to Treehouse and sent to youth across Washington State.
 - ◇ If you purchased through the wish list, use this link <https://www.treehouseforkids.org/in-kind> to generate an email receipt for your tax deductible in-kind donation to Treehouse.



If you choose to use the Wish List to give, please considering emailing a screenshot, .pdf, or image of your purchase(s) or receipt to info.agaseattle@gmail.com. Let us know if we can post your in-kind donation online with or without your name. If nothing else, though, we thank you for the opportunity to count all contributions by members and friends of the AGA Seattle Chapter.



Financial Condition as of December 31, 2020

Checking - .00% interest	\$ 3,059.42
Savings -.05% interest	<u>\$ 9,880.89</u>
Total Assets	\$ 12,940.31
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 12,940.31</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	\$ 12,940.31

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending December 2020

Beginning Cash Balances		\$ 12,939.89
Lunch Meals, Speaker Costs (incl. parking), & Name Tags	\$ 0.00	
Cash Expended		\$ 0.00
AGA Dues Received	\$ 0.00	
Interest Income	\$ 0.42	
Subtotal Cash Deposits		<u>\$ 0.42</u>
Net Cash Change		<u>\$ 0.42</u>
Ending Cash Balance		<u>\$ 12,940.31</u>

Financial Condition as of January 31, 2021

Checking - .00% interest	\$ 2,715.42
Savings -.05% interest	<u>\$ 9,881.14</u>
Total Assets	\$ 12,596.56
	\$ 0.00
Liabilities	<u>\$ 12,596.56</u>
Members' Equity	\$ 12,596.56
Liabilities & Members' Equity	

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending January 2021

Beginning Cash Balances		\$ 12,940.31
Lunch Meals, Speaker Costs (incl. parking), & Name Tags	\$ 0.00	
Web Conference Training	\$ 349.00	
Cash Expended		\$ 349.00
AGA Dues Received	\$ 5.00	
Interest Income	\$ 0.25	
Subtotal Cash Deposits		\$ 5.25
Net Cash Change		\$ 343.75
Ending Cash Balance		\$ 12,596.56

Financial Condition as of February 28, 2021

Checking - .00% interest	\$ 2,715.42
Savings -.05% interest	<u>\$ 9,881.37</u>
Total Assets	\$ 12,596.79
	\$ 0.00
Liabilities	<u>\$ 12,596.79</u>
Members' Equity	\$ 12,596.79
Liabilities & Members' Equity	

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending February 2021

Beginning Cash Balances		\$ 12,596.56
Lunch Meals, Speaker Costs (incl. parking), & Name Tags	\$ 0.00	
Web Conference Training	\$ 0.00	
Cash Expended		\$ 0.00
AGA Dues Received	\$ 0.00	
Interest Income	\$ 0.23	
Subtotal Cash Deposits		<u>\$ 0.23</u>
Net Cash Change		<u>\$ 0.23</u>
Ending Cash Balance		<u><u>\$ 12,596.79</u></u>



The Sounder

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[HTTPS://WWW.AGACGFM.ORG/
CHAPTERS/SEATTLE/HOME.ASPX](https://www.agacgfm.org/chapters/seattle/home.aspx)

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

The purpose of the Association and the Chapter is to be an international, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of government financial management. The Association shall serve its members by providing or sponsoring appropriate educational programs, encouraging professional development, influencing governmental financial management policies and practices, and serving as an advocate for the profession. The Association shall serve government officials and the public by sponsoring efforts to ensure full and fair accountability for all public monies, and by providing a variety of pro bono services throughout the United States and its territories that support that end.

AGA Seattle Chapter Board Members Program Year 2020-2021

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