



Volume 15-01 September 2015

President's Message

"As you navigate through the rest of your life, be open to collaboration. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." This quote by Amy Poehler resonates with me as I look forward to the year ahead with the Seattle Chapter of AGA. This group of accountability professionals truly challenges and inspires me every time we meet. I am excited for this coming year and want to invite you to spend some time with us as we focus on collaboration, continuing professional education, and outreach. Our profession is witnessing some significant changes in employee engagement, necessary technical skills, and human capital. We will be exploring and weighing in on these issues together.

The AGA Seattle board met this summer for a strategic retreat



Diane MaKaeli, Chapter President

with our Regional VP Judy Shock and discussed the evolving needs of our membership and chapter as a whole. We are dedicated to sustaining a vibrant chapter and providing opportunities to match the needs of our members. We truly want to hear your thoughts and learn how we can continue to challenge and inspire you, increase our value as professionals, and make those connections that build our

Continued Page 8

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Seattle Chapter:

Megan R. Tracer

Financial Assistant

Port Gamble SKlallam Tribe

~ and ~

Stuart A. T. Trippel

Executive Director, Business and Student Support Services

Shoreline Community College

Upcoming Events

Monday, October 19, 2015, 12:00-12:50 pm

"Social Security as It Relates to Government Retirees" by Meena Cheng, CFP

Lunch & Presentation at Columbia Center, 28th floor

Inside this issue:

Training Events 2-3

AGA Activities 4-8

Chapter Recognition Program 10

Financial Report 11

Board Members 12

AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2015-2016

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2015-2016! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success.

Monday, September 21, 2015 - GAO 28th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.

Journal Article Discussion Led by Ken Smith (See following description)

Monday, October 19, 2015 - GAO 28th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.

Meena Cheng, Certified Financial Planner and founder of Impact Financial

Topic: of Social Security as it relates to government retirees,

Monday, November 9, 2015 - GAO 28th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.

Monday, December 14, 2015 - GAO 28th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.

Monday, January 11, 2016 - GAO 28th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Tower.

Tina Polf CPA

Topic: 2015 Tax Update

Monday, February 8, 2016 (TBD) - GAO 28th Floor Training Facility,

Pierce Murphy, Director of the Seattle Office of Public Accountability

Topic: mission and structure of the OPA and the role of accountability in light of current media interest in police misconduct.

Monday, March 14, 2016 (TBD) - GAO 28th Floor Training Facility,

CGFM Recognition Meeting

Monday-Tuesday, April 25-26, 2016

2016 Government Accounting and Auditing professional development training , Greater Tacoma Convention Center

Monday May 8, 2016 - Emerald Award Meeting

September 21, 2015 CPE Journal Article Discussion & Membership Meeting

By Sandra Starnes

Ken Smith led a lively discussion on the AGA Journal of Government Financial Management article titled "Making Human Capital Management a Strategic Business Priority in a Changing Financial Management World." Participants broke into groups to discuss what challenges they face surrounding human capital management or on better defining what is meant by strategic business priority. Getting everyone back together as a group was not a simple task due to all the great discussions being held, but with tact and a little determination Ken was able to bring the group back together to share their thoughts and concerns.

After the Journal article discussion, a brief intermission was taken prior to the membership meeting at which board members discussed the status of the by-law changes and the future membership meeting format of 1 CPE hour devoted to a journal article and 1 CPE hour devoted to a speaker. This new format will offer members greater options and opportunities for CPE by attending one or the other or both of the CPE events. Also discussed was the Chapter Recognition Program and the need to enter the activities of the chapter into the national database prior to the end of September.

**BUILD YOUR BUSINESS?
FIND OUT WITH IMA!**

At the IMA’s Social Media Workshop, you will learn to harness the power of social media to pack the house at your next event, to build your brand and your reputation, and to attract a following for your business! Join us, and get inspired!

In today’s business climate, you must use social media effectively. Join us, and learn how! Space is limited, and will fill up quickly.

RSVP now at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2220214>

Social media expert Jocelyn Milici Ceder will share:

- ✎ tried-and-true social media tips
- ✎ digital strategies to compete in the modern world
- ✎ ways to use online content to boost ROI

MEET THE PRESENTER



Jocelyn Milici Ceder has worked for Expedia, University of Washington Foster School of Business, and BottleRock Napa Valley. She is now senior content strategist at Brown Paper Tickets. Jocelyn has led numerous social media, video, email marketing, and content projects and teams over the past 20 years.

- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 21, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Check In / Happy Hour : 5:15 – 5:45;
Dinner to start at 5:45
Presentation begins at 6:10 p.m.
- WHERE:** Bogey’s Public House at the Auburn Golf Course
29630 Green River Road SE, Auburn, WA, 98092
- COST:** Members: \$35 Guests: \$40 Students: \$20
CPE: Earn 2 hours of CPE credit.



The mission of IMA (Institute of Management Accountants) is to provide a forum for research, practice development, education, knowledge sharing, and the advocacy of the highest ethical and best business practices in management accounting and finance.

The Mount Rainier Chapter of the INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS is sponsoring the above event.

See www.mtrainier.imanet.org for further details.

BOARD ANNUAL RETREAT

The Chapter Board held its first annual offsite retreat on August 2nd. The facilities in Kingston were provided by the S'Klallam Tribe, as arranged by Chapter Secretary Sandra Starnes.

The retreat was beneficial in giving the board members an opportunity to develop a mission statement, map out the Chapter's goals, and develop strategies to reach the goals. Specifically, board members outlined general meeting locations, topics, speakers, and dates and developed plans to improve member participation in outreach, community service, CGFM designation; and communication with members, including improvements in our website.



(L-R) Sam Lord, Mary Ann Hardy, Diane MaKaeli, Pat Bohan, Sandra Starnes, and Ken Smith. Present but not shown: Judy Shock, Regional Vice President

PHOTOS WANTED

We like to decorate the first page of The Sounder with a local photo each month. If you have a picture to contribute, please send it to Tim Dobler at DOBLER5@MSN.COM. When we use your photo, we will acknowledge you in our credits section.

NEVER MISS A KUDO

Our AGA Chapter was awarded the highest level (Platinum) award for the AGA's Annual Chapter Recognition Program (CRP). This program consists of eight areas: : Chapter Leadership, Education, Certification, Communications, Membership/Early Careers, Accountability, Community Service, and Awards.

Besides obtaining the highest level recognition award, we also had the highest number of participants (4) at the AGA's Professional Development Training (PDT) in recent memory.

All members are invited to participate in this year's recognition program. Following are listed the categories for point accumulation. Details can be found on the AGA web site at agacgfm.org/AGA/MyAGA/Chapters/CRP-2015-2016-v2.pdf

If you have something to contribute, please let us know. Besides taking credit for your work, we will be happy to highlight your accomplishments if you so desire.



AGA National President Bill Miller (leather coat) presents the Platinum CRP Award to Seattle Chapter Board Members (left to right) Sandra Starnes, Sam Lord, Out-Going Chapter President Ken Smith, and President-Elect Diane MaKaeli.

AGA Chapter Recognition Program for 2015-2016

Section I - Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation

- Goal 1. Chapter leadership
- Goal 2. Planning and preparation
- Goal 3. Regional, sectional and national AGA participation

Section II - Education & Professional Development

- Goal 1. Education to help meet continuing professional education (CPE) requirements
- Goal 2. Education to help individuals attain the skills to pass the CGFM examinations and maintain their certification
- Goal 3. Professional development to help all members and prospective members obtain additional skills
- Goal 4. Provide awareness and marketing of educational events

AGA Chapter Recognition – Program Year 2015-2016

continued from Page 5

Section III - Certification

- Goal 1. Support CGFMs
- Goal 2. Market CGFM service mark locally
- Goal 3. Assist potential new CGFMs in attaining certification
- Goal 4. Designate a chapter resource to work with CGFM certification

Section IV - Communications

- Goal 1. Chapter meetings and member participation
- Goal 2. Communicate chapter business, events and other items of interest to members, employers and government accountability leaders
- Goal 3. Communicate within AGA

Section V - Membership: Focus on Early Career and Student Members

- Goal 1: Actively recruit new members
- Goal 2: Retain members
- Goal 3. Make young professional and student members a priority
- Goal 4. Support the growing career of young professional and student members
- Goal 5. Offer educational opportunities for young professional and student members

Section VI - Accountability

- Goal 1. Make accountability outreach a priority for both the chapter and chapter members
- Goal 2. Establish a Chapter accountability outreach plan
- Goal 3. Promote accountability in chapter events
- Goal 4. Participation in AGA's performance accountability programs

Section VII - Community Service

- Goal 1. Participate in community service
- Goal 2. Promote community service and AGA

Section VIII - Awards

- Goal 1. Recognize the Association and the people who make it up
- Goal 2. Promote the advancement of government financial management to the community and employers

Meet Your Board Members

Sam Lord

**Auditor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services**

AGA Seattle Chapter Treasurer & Community Service Committee Chair



I am a relative newcomer to the government accounting field. I started as an auditor with the HHS Office of Inspector General almost five years ago. I had previously been involved with the AGA while looking for contacts to find out more about government accounting and auditing careers. After being hired as an auditor, I became a regular AGA member and attended lunchtime training meetings at the Columbia Center. The chapter board convinced me that serving as a board member would be a rewarding experience, and I took them up on their suggestion. I haven't regretted it and would highly recommend it to anyone who might be considering it.

I've been surprised at how many other people in government accounting have followed a somewhat non-traditional path to their current career. I previously served in the military and worked in project management within the tech community. While getting my MBA at the University of Washington, I found accounting interesting, but ended up going along a different path. A subsequent career transition point got me to thinking more about accounting, and I went back to school at North Seattle College to obtain accounting credits I needed to sit for the CPA exam. After talking with a number of people working in the government accounting field, I ended up finding a job opening at my current Seattle field office location.

Like many of the board members, I am very interested in connecting with current college students and recent graduates to let them know more about careers in government accounting and accountability. I have been fortunate to attend the AGA National Professional Development Training for the last two years, with opportunities to meet government accounting professionals from all over the country and from all levels of government. It is exciting to see such an amazing group of people who are excited about what they do and looking for ways to bring new people into the field.

In my personal life, I enjoy spending time with my wife and two sons and working outside in our garden. I grew up in the area, and while I moved away for a number of years for school and career, I was happy to move back closer to family and friends. A little known fact is that I am a devout Lego fan, and having two boys who like to play with them has been a great "excuse" to get back into collecting them.

networks well into the future.

At our retreat we decided to be open to trying some new things this year, while honoring and supporting the traditional benefits of being a member of AGA. Our Past President, Ken Smith, will be leading a monthly CPE discussion prior to our regular member meetings on hot topics and new trends. We kicked this off at our first meeting of the year on September 21 at the Columbia Center. We discussed the Journal of Government Financial Management article, "Making Human Capital Management a Strategic Business Priority in a Changing Financial Management World." It was engaging, thought-provoking and eye-opening. I actually found it fun and enlightening as well. These additional monthly CPE opportunities expand the value of your AGA membership with the potential to achieve up to 30 CPE credits this chapter year. We look forward to receiving your feedback, ideas, and requests for these exciting new collaborative engagements.

Our dedication and passion for government service offer a wealth of opportunities for members and future members alike. Our outreach this year will include accounting students at local colleges and early career professionals. If you would like to join us in providing a look inside our profession, and you have the ability to offer a job shadow opportunity, please contact us and let us know. We are dedicated to working collaboratively with you to promote government accountability and bring visibility to our profession as millennials and second career professionals seek answers regarding their futures and the impact they can make in their communities.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings, and I know all our seasoned and new board members do as well. We invite you to spend time with us as we grow and inspire this amazing field of ours. I hope to see you soon.

Diane MaKaeli

New Member & CGFM Promotion Opportunity

Do you know someone who wants to earn their CGFM?

Consider reaching out to colleagues who are not members but may be interested in certification.

This may be a good opportunity to re-engage members with a CGFM study group!

Details on the program are available here: www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/springpromo2015

Questions about CGFM? Contact: agacgfm@agacgfm.org

AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

Chapter Recognition Program categories	Points to Date
Section I - Chapter Leadership, Planning, & Participation	2,450
Section II - Education & Professional Development	325
Section III - Certification	600
Section IV - Communications	975
Section V - Membership with a Focus on Early Career and Student Members	1,675
Section VI - Accountability	0
Section VII - Community Service	0
Section VIII - Awards	800
Total	6,825

Recognition Levels:

A **Bronze Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 10,000 and 14,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Bronze status.

A **Silver Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 14,501 and 17,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Silver status.

A **Gold Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 17,001 and 19,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Gold status.

The **Platinum Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 19,501 and 22,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Platinum status.

Financial Condition as of August 31, 2015

Checking	\$ 2,713.64
Savings	\$ 2,636.54
12 Month Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$ 4,632.85</u>
Total Assets	\$ 9,983.03
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 9,983.03</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	\$ 9,983.03

Cash Flow Report, as of August 31, 2015

Beginning Cash Balances	<u>\$9,947.94</u>
Cash Expended	<u>(\$ 0.00)</u>
Board Dinner Reimbursements	<u>\$33.26</u>
Interest Income	<u>\$ 1.83</u>
Subtotal Cash Deposits	<u>\$ 35.09</u>
Net Cash Change	<u>\$ 35.09</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u>\$9,983.03</u>



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

President

Diane MaKaeli
360-410-0820
dmakaeli@gmail.com

President-Elect

Ken Smith, Ph.D.
206-616-8698
smithka1@cwu.edu

**Membership Chair/
Historian**

Karyn Angulo, U.S. GAO
206-287-4868
angulo@agaseattle.org

Education Chair / Professional Development Chair

Mary Ann Hardy, U.S. GAO
206-654-5594
hardym@gao.gov

CGFM Chair / Webmaster

Gabrielle Sivage, Seattle DOT
202-277-8250
gsivage@gmail.com

Treasurer / Community Service Chair

Sam Lord, HHS OIG
206-615-2257
Samuel.Lord@oig.hhs.gov

Secretary

Sandra Starnes, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
sandra@pgst.nsn.us
360-297-9667

Early Careers Chair

John Kurpierz,
Institute for Better Governance
JohnRKurpierz@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Tim Dobler, Retired
206-364-3499
Dobler5@msn.com

Research Chair

Elizabeth Naftchi, U.S. HHS
206-615-2046
enaftchi@hrsa.gov

Board Member

Pat Bohan, U.S. GAO
206-287-4824
BohanP@GAO.GOV

Board Member

Ryan Guthrie, U.S. GAO
206-287-8461
GuthrieRR@GAO.GOV

This newsletter was produced by board member Tim Dobler, with the assistance of Karyn Angulo. Thanks to chapter members who contributed articles and photos for this issue. Masthead Photo "Sailing in Elliot Bay" by Tim Dobler.