

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



SEATTLE CHAPTER



THE SOUNDER Vol. 18 - 03 November 2018

President's Message

Dear Chapter Members,

The winter solstice, holiday festivities, and for some, a fiscal year end is rapidly drawing near. With that, we have reached the midway mark of the Seattle Chapter year! This month, on December 5th, we'll be hosting an AGA National webinar training event that will cover internal controls from an A-123 Program perspective that is intended to establish the creation, maintenance, and assessment of internal control effectiveness. On the same day, we'll hold our annual holiday community outreach where members are invited to donate toys to Seattle's Treehouse organization.

Special thanks to Gabrielle Sivage for sharing her time and valuable resources to attend the last half of the CGFM exam training courses hosted by the AGA Utah Chapter. We look forward to hearing many more encouraging thoughts from her about the training in the future.

I want to thank Tony Eayrs and Katherine King for their time in leading a panel discussion on year-end closing processes in local government. In their analysis, they also touched on the relationships local governmental entities must



Karen Murphy, Chapter President

build within their jurisdictions and with outside partners such as state and federal auditors to complete a successful audit.

On January 15th, Tina Polf will present an update of the new income tax law changes impacting the 2018 filing year. Then, in February, the AGA Seattle Chapter wishes to collaborate with Central Washington University on a presentation by Dr. Kenneth Smith and doctoral candidate John Kurpierz on their work related to the importance of internal auditors in Washington State school districts to boost accountability among school institutions.

In closing, I strongly encourage everyone to attend the annual

Upcoming Event

December 5, 2018

11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Internal Control: Ensuring Effective Quality Management of the A-123 Program

See pp.2-3 for more information and change of location.

income tax update coming up next month presented by Tina Polf. Her tax knowledge is invaluable and will help you gain a greater understanding of what the tax law changes signed by President Trump mean for you.

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AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2018-2019

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2018-2019! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the GAO Training Facility on the 37th floor of Columbia Center. Topics will be announced as they are finalized. Please note that these dates are subject to change.

AGA CPE Calendar 2018-2019

Tuesday, September 11, 2018—Roundtable discussion on Intelligent Automation

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, — AGA Webinar, *Internal Control: Leveraging IT to Detect Fraud, Waste and Abuse*

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 — Panel discussion on Year-End Closing Processes

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 — AGA Webinar, *Internal Control: Ensuring Effective Quality Management of the A-123 Program*

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 — Annual Tax Update

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 — “*Internal Auditors in Washington School Districts: A Boon to Accountability*”

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 — AGA Webinar on Cybersecurity

Monday and Tuesday, April 2019 — Government Accounting and Auditing Conference Dates are to be determined but expected to be in late April or early May.

Tuesday, May 14 or 21, 2019 - Date will depend on when the GAAC is scheduled.



IMPORTANT NOTE: LOCATION CHANGE FOR WEBINAR ON DECEMBER 5TH

We will not be hosting the December 5 AGA webinar at our usual GAO training room location in Columbia Center. Instead, please join us at: King County Wastewater Treatment Division

201 South Jackson Street, 5th Floor

When you arrive, please check-in with the receptionist.

We will be hosting our annual toy drive at this training event. If you would like to contribute new, unwrapped toys to this community outreach effort, please bring them to the webinar. Donated toys will be provided to Treehouse, a local nonprofit supporting youth in foster care. See our community service update for information on other community outreach activities your chapter will be undertaking this program year.

RSVPs for this webinar and community outreach were due by Friday, November 30th. Please see the flyer on the following page for more details.



December 6, 2018

Webinar/ Topic	Internal Control: Ensuring Effective Quality Management of the A-123 Program (A-123 programs refer to programs established for creating, maintaining, and assessing internal control effectiveness.) Financial leaders responsible for Risk and Control programs will discuss steps they are taking and tools they use to ensure quality in their organization's A-123 programs to avoid surprises and increase efficiency and effectiveness of risk and control assessments. Participants will learn the different tools and techniques that can be used to ensure quality for a continuous improvement
Time	11:00 – 12:50 pm (lunch and networking start at 10:30)
Speakers	Mike Wetklow, CGFM, CPA, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Division Director, NSF; Mark A. Krieger, CPA, Director, Office of Finance, USPTO; and Moderator: Daniella Datskovska, Director, TFC Consulting Inc.
Place: Change of Location	King County Wastewater Treatment Division, 5th Floor, 201 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA. As you arrive, please check-in with the receptionist. Susan Cohen, KC WTD, phone number is: 206-605-9007 . Please join us at 10:30 a.m. for lunch and networking prior to the webinar. Also, AGA's Seattle Chapter will be hosting a toy drive benefitting Treehouse, and we welcome any new, unwrapped toys. Please feel free to bring your own bag lunch and drink.
CPE/Cost	2 CPEs awarded and the cost to MEMBERS is \$5 / NONMEMBERS is \$10.
RSVP Required	Please RSVP if you plan to attend by Friday, November 30, 2018, to Susan Cohen: (phone) 206-605-9007 Susan.Cohen@kingcounty.gov

CGFM Corner

Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM Chair

Have you completed your 80 CPE's yet? Don't forget that you need to finish your 80 biennial CPE's by year's end if you earned your CGFM in an odd number year, such as 2015, '13, '11, 09' '07, and so on. More information, including filing for exception or reactivation, is available here: <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFMCertification/CGFMs/CPE-Requirements/CPERequirement-FAQ.aspx>.

Remember, the AGA Webinar hosted on 12/05/2018 includes 2 CPEs that count toward the CGFM requirements.

You can also earn "open Journal" CPEs by taking quizzes. There is currently a SALE on the journal quizzes. \$54.50 earns you up to 12 CPEs. Go here for more information: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Learn-Online/Journal-CPE-Quizzes.aspx>

The Seattle AGA CGFM Chair undertook the brutal endeavor of a 6-day live broadcast webinar course on the three CGFM study guides. Joking. It was not brutal and it was split up as 3 days of training each. One grouping was held in October and the second grouping just ended on November 29. The Salt Lake City AGA Chapter hired two trainers to instruct live at their location and broadcast the training to remote sites in Boise, Idaho, and Seattle, Washington. The courses count as 48 credit hours for those currently accredited with a CGFM if it has been at least two years since you passed the exam(s). The cost was only \$550 for AGA members and included the three study binders. The broadcast worked very well overall and the Seattle Chapter hopes to offer the same or similar training in the future. Please send me an email with your name and interest to CGFM.agaseattle@gmail.com. I will keep a log of these contacts and keep you updated on opportunities.

AGA Seattle thanks Niclas Hales and the hospitality of his Chapter for inviting Seattle to participate in this remote training opportunity. Nic is the Assistant Accounting Supervisor at West Valley City, Utah.



AGA Seattle Chapter Community Service Activities

Gabrielle Sivage and Katherine King, Community Service Co-Chairs

Toy Drive and Fundraiser Campaign. In December, the AGAs Seattle chapter is hosting a community outreach drive for Treehouse, a nonprofit benefitting foster children. If you would like to contribute new, unwrapped toys, clothes, and other gifts to Treehouse, please bring them to the webinar on December 5th. Also, don't forget to check out the organization's holiday wish list on its website:

https://www.treehouseforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/HOL19_WishList.png

You can give a financial contribution at our training event on December 5th or keep an eye out for updates to the Seattle AGA webpage where we will post a link once we have set up a Chapter giving page on the Treehouse website. In contributing funds past the holidays, you are making an excellent choice to support Treehouse's many special services, programs, and jobs for community foster care youth.



Tax prep campaign. The Seattle AGA Board is proud to host this great volunteer opportunity with the United Way of King County: Free Tax Preparation Campaign. Over the past few years, the Free Tax Preparation Campaign has helped thousands of families file their taxes and get connected to resources because of volunteers. This unique volunteer opportunity is a great way to get involved and give back to your community because it has a direct impact on families and individuals. With a number of changes anticipated to this year's tax code, volunteers, especially those with accounting knowledge, are needed now more than ever!

For more information and to sign up to volunteer, go to the United Way of King County website at:

<https://www.uwkc.org/volunteer/free-tax-prep/>

Please email us at the Contact Us link on our chapter website (<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Seattle>) if you sign up to volunteer or if you would like to learn more about the program!

Future giving and service campaigns will benefit Sound Generations among others. AGA Seattle will set-up a giving page on Sound Generations website in 2019 and announce the campaign. Sound Generations promotes the emotional, social and physical well-being of older adults through a network of community connections and services. They provide Seattle's Meals on Wheels program and many other worthy endeavors for your support.

Financial Condition as of October 31, 2018

Checking - .10% interest	\$ 1,962.37
Savings -.10% interest	\$ 6,781.81
12-Month CD - .35% interest	<u>\$ -0-</u>
Total Assets	\$ 8,744.18
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 8,744.18</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	\$ 8,744.18

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending October, 2018

Beginning Cash Balances		\$ 8,616.71
	\$ 0.00	
Cash Expended		\$ 0.00
AGA Dues Received	\$ 7.50	
Lunch Revenue	\$ 60.00	
Interest Income	\$ 0.29	
Board Dinner Reimbursements	\$ 59.68	
Subtotal Cash Deposits		<u>\$ 127.47</u>
Net Cash Change		<u>\$ 127.47</u>
Ending Cash Balance		<u>\$ 8,744.18</u>

1st Quarter AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

Chapter Goal: 25,000

Chapter Recognition Categories	June-Sept. 2018	Points Available	Percent Earned
Section I – Chapter Leadership, Planning,	2,575	5,000	52%
Section II – Education & Professional Development	600	4,000	15%
Section III – Certification	350	4,000	9%
Section IV – Communications	1,386	3,000	46%
Section V – Membership with a Focus on Young Professional and Student Members	525	4,000	13%
Section VI – Accountability	400	2,000	20%
Section VII – Community Service	100	2,000	5%
Section VIII – Awards	200	1,000	20%
Total as of September 2018	6,136	25,000	25%

Recognition Levels:

A **Bronze Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 12,000 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 25,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Platinum status.



The Sounder

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG

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 2018-2019**

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This newsletter was produced by board member Karyn Angulo with the assistance of Michael Angulo. Masthead photo submitted by Michael Angulo.