



# Chapter News

Fall 2022

**Association of Government Accountants**  
**Mission:**

*AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability*

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## Message from the President

### AGA Members and Friends:

First off, I am honored to be serving as the President of the West Michigan Chapter of AGA for the 2022-2023 program year. I want to thank our awesome Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) for their dedication and time spent on helping our chapter have another successful year. We have a couple new members this year, Membership Chair, Andrew Wilcoxon and Secretary, Lauren Wenneman. We are thrilled to have them serving on the board. The CEC has been busy all summer working to plan another year of growth filled with accessible and exciting educational programs.

One of our goals for this upcoming program year is to make our education programs more accessible. As we all know, COVID-19 changed the landscape of our industry and in-

creased the opportunity of remote working. We are hoping the virtual educational programs we put on can be convenient for our members and other attendees to view while working in these conditions.

The reason I became more involved in the AGA was the networking and outreach opportunities for students and young professionals. The AGA offers a platform of resources for professionals to access such as training, events, and other opportunities to get more involved in the industry and the community.

Finally, I want to mention our community service activities. Each quarter, the AGA of West Michigan designated a charitable cause to focus on. The Chapter sets aside \$1 from each paid event registration as a cash gift to the charity and makes an additional cash donation of \$100 per quarter. An up-to-date list of our high-



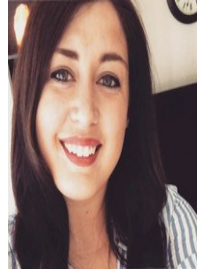
lighted charities for this program year can be found on our website. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter we are using Harbor Humane Society and for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter we are using Mel Trotter Ministries.

I look forward to working with the CEC, past presidents, and all chapter members to accomplishing our goals this upcoming year.

**Kevyn Kozumplik,**  
**CPA, CGFM**

**AGA West Michigan Chapter President**

## AGA West Michigan Welcomes New Board Members



AGA West Michigan is pleased to introduce a new addition to the FY 2022 Board, Lauren Wenneman. Lauren will be serving as the Board's Secretary.

Lauren graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Michigan State University and currently works as a Senior Audit Associate at Gabridge & Company, PLC, in Grand Rapids. Outside of work, Lauren enjoys playing with her two cats, Jack & Stella, and attending concerts and sporting events.

In her new role, Lauren looks forward to educating others on topics related to governmental accounting. Welcome, Lauren!

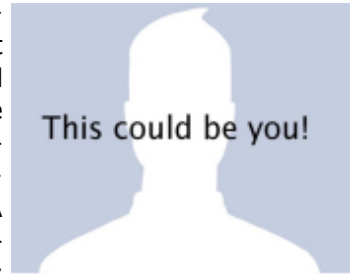


AGA West Michigan is also pleased to introduce Andrew Wilcoxon as a new addition to the FY 2022 Board. Andrew will be serving as the Board's Membership Chair.

After serving in the United States Air Force for six years, Andrew graduated from Grand Valley State University with a major in Accounting. Andrew currently works as a Senior Audit Associate at Gabridge & Company, PLC, in Traverse City. Outside of work, Andrew enjoys four-wheeling, hiking, and playing with his two cats, Tater and Milo.

Andrew chose to serve on the AGA West Michigan board because he enjoys helping people and being part of a team that works together towards a common goal. Welcome to the AGA West Michigan team, Andrew!

Each year, the West Michigan chapter of the Association of Governmental Accountants selects a student to serve as a board member. The student board member serves as a liaison between AGA and the student community, offers comments and suggestions on AGA programs and activities, and helps involve students in AGA. The student attends the AGA board and committee meetings as available, communicates with students about the AGA, and assists in planning the annual student and early career event.



Successful student board members are proactive and interested in helping strengthen AGA as an organization that can serve both the student community specifically and the professional governmental accounting community at large. The student board member works directly with the AGA Early Career Chair.

This position offers an excellent resume enhancement, and helps develop professional skills including outreach and event organizing. You will learn what it takes to run a volunteer-based organization, as well as what local accountants are doing both inside academia and practicing in the field. In addition, you will receive a \$1,000 scholarship (\$500/semester) to be used for academic expenses.

Please visit our website to apply. Any questions can be emailed to Drew Meyer at [earlycareer@agawestmichigan.org](mailto:earlycareer@agawestmichigan.org)

## Did you know?

West Michigan AGA invites local college students to attend Chapter events free of charge. Two "student scholarships" are offered for each local event on a first-come, first-served basis.



**Like us on Facebook to learn about chapter events, links to helpful sites and job opportunities**



## Collaborating to keep you informed!

AGA West Michigan and the Michigan Government Finance Officers Association (MGFOA) are partnering to inform memberships of both organizations on upcoming conferences, seminars, and webinars offered.



### Planned Future Events by MGFOA

- October 6: MGFOA Advanced Cash Management Seminar
- October 19: MGFOA Back to Basics 2022—Session III
- October 26/27: West Michigan Front Porch Forum
- November 8: Advanced Capital Planning and Debt Management

View MGFOA Event Calendar:  <https://www.migfoa.org/?p=calendar>


## National Training Opportunities (Webinars)

*TECHNOLOGY & TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT 2022*

December 8, 2022 | Washington, D.C., or virtual

**FREE** for AGA Members

[register now](#)



To register and see other offerings, visit:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/webinars.aspx>

The Association seeks to advance government accountability at all levels of government through its Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, which has recognized more than 13,000 individuals for their unique skills and experience.

To learn more about the Association, its many programs, or any of its 90 chapters, visit us online at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).

VLOOKUP to the Left? What sorcery is this? The VLOOKUP formula is a powerful Excel tool that saves countless hours of data entry when used with a downloadable report. However, you can only look to the right with a VLOOKUP. Unfortunately, the data download doesn't always come in the order we'd like, and if you have to constantly download a report in the existing format, it's a drag to re-order the data every time you need to refresh the data.

Enter the CHOOSE function to the rescue! The CHOOSE function by itself doesn't appear too useful (nor intuitive) at first blush, but combine it with VLOOKUP and its status is elevated. Essentially, the CHOOSE function allows you to specify which column has the value to look up and which column has the data you're trying to get. Here is the syntax:

```
=CHOOSE({1,2},$C$1:$C$5,$B$1:$B$5)
```

This means the value you're trying to find is in column C and the data you need to pull is in column B.

By way of example, let's assume your data is in the following order:

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Data:</b>			
2	Ins Cov	Position	Name	Hourly
3	C	Scientist	Marie Curie	50
4	S	Primatologist	Jane Goodall	60
5	F	Biochemist	Gertrude Elion	70
		Marine		
6	F	Biologist	Rachel Carson	80

However, in your spreadsheet calculation you need it arranged like this:

	A	B	C
9	<b>Personnel Services Budget</b>		
10			
11	Name	Position	Ins Cov
12	Rachel Carson		
13	Jane Goodall		
14	Marie Curie		
15	Gertrude Elion		

The VLOOKUP will first need the name you're trying to find; for the first line, the value is "Rachel Carson" in cell (A12). So, we know that's how the VLOOKUP will start:

=VLOOKUP(A12) - now we need to tell it what column/range the data are in:

=VLOOKUP(A12,CHOOSE({1,2},\$C\$3:\$C\$6,\$B\$3:\$B\$6), - the translation for this is: Look up Rachel Carson whose name can be found in the range \$C\$3:\$C\$6; when you find the name, look in column B and report back that value.

The remainder of the formula (i.e., ,2,FALSE) reflects the VLOOKUP parameters (the second item you find, and it should be an exact match):

=VLOOKUP(A12,CHOOSE({1,2},\$C\$3:\$C\$6,\$B\$3:\$B\$6),2,FALSE)

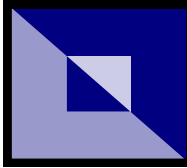
Looking up the insurance coverage is similar, only you want the formula to return the data found in column A. So that formula is:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
9	<b>Personnel Services Budget</b>								
10									
11	Name	Position	Ins Cov						
		Marine							
12	Rachel Carson	Biologist	F						
13	Jane Goodall	Primatologist	S						

To give credit where credit is due: this discussion of the CHOOSE function was modification of the explanation Mynda Treacy provided in her free online reference "Microsoft Excel Tips & Tricks" which can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.myonlinetraininghub.com/100-excel-tips-and-tricks>. Her website is chock full of all sorts of gems like this one, so check it out!

If you need a refresher on the VLOOKUP function, it was discussed in the Fall 2016 newsletter which can be found here: <https://www.agacgfm.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=50c96f2e-57c3-4b75-b8de-1fdd3eaa8482> (You'll need to cut and paste this link).

*Do you have an excel tip you would like to share?  
Please email us at [newsletter@agawestmichigan.org](mailto:newsletter@agawestmichigan.org)*



## October—December, 2022: Mel Trotter Ministries



Mel Trotter Ministries exists to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus Christ, through rescue and restoration for anyone experiencing hunger and homelessness.

Learn more about Mel Trotter here: <https://www.meltrotter.org/>

The Chapter sets aside \$1 from each event registration as a cash gift to the charity and makes a chapter cash donation of \$100 per quarter.



### 2022/23 CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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