

Chapter Chronicle

Quarterly-Volume 4

June 30, 2025

Chapter Executive Committee

Lisa Antinori, President
James Caldwell, President Elect
Donna Facen, Treasurer
Gerald Plafcan, Secretary
Andrea Barksdale, Past President
Trevor Gibbons, Education
Donald Bellcock, Membership
Elouise Evans, Community Service
Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Accountability & Bylaws
Tyler Cain, Historian (Records)
Vacant, Program Director
LeAnn Chadwick, Awards Director
Vacant, CGFM Director
Sara Harshman, Communication Director
Vacant, Student Representative



Chapter Mission:

AGA is a professional association advancing accountability, transparency, and leadership by promoting education, certification, innovation, and collaboration across all levels of government and to stakeholders, our citizens.

Chapter Vision:

To represent the premier association for advancing government accountability in our community

Chapter Core Values:

- Service
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Leadership

Message From the Chapter President

As my term as Chapter President comes to a close, I find myself filled with both gratitude and pride. What began as a call to create value together has evolved into a year of transformation fueled by your dedication, collaboration, increased involvement, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

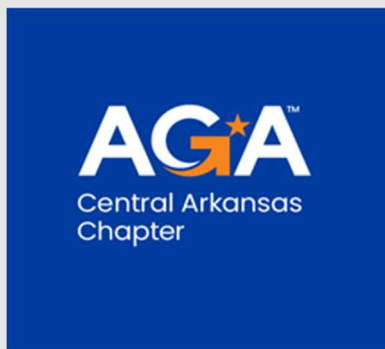
Together, we celebrated milestones with our inaugural Founder's Day, honored our CGFM-certified members during a landmark 30th anniversary, introduced the "Champion of Value" recognition to spotlight those who embody our chapter's spirit of service, volunteerism, professionalism, and innovation. We deepened our commitment to professional growth, lifted one another up through community, and invested in the leaders of tomorrow.

What I've witnessed over the past year is the true heart of leadership not housed in a title, but echoed in your participation, passion, and shared vision. The legacy we've built isn't just mine, it's ours. We close out not just a successful program year, but a historic one with the beginning of AGA's 75th Anniversary. What an honor it has been to lead the Chapter during the beginning of this milestone year, where the theme of value creation was brought to life through your actions and our chapter impact.

Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside such an inspiring community. While my role as President transitions to Past President and National Council of Chapters (NCC) Representative, my belief in our chapter potential does not. I have every confidence that the seeds we've planted this year will create growth nurtured by our shared values of service to our citizens, accountability, integrity, and leadership.

As we look ahead, may we continue to elevate, innovate, and inspire, building upon this year's achievements as we shape the future of public service together. May you continue to lead boldly, serve selflessly, and inspire those around you.

With deep appreciation, *Lisa D. Antinori.*



April 15, 2025

Membership Meeting-Education

Topic: GASB

Speaker: Lisa Parker, CPA

Attendees: 40 members 1 guests,

total 41 with a goal of 30

Satisfactory Rating:

Excellent/Good:90% Goal: 75%

1 Free CPE Earned

Fiscal YTD 9 Free CPEs

May 22, 2025

Chapter PDT – 2025 &

Membership Meeting

Pathway to the Implementation of
AI in Government Practices

Speakers

Chris Lynch, Director of Advanced
Technologies, Northwest AR
Community College

Mike Rogers, Chief Workforce
Officer, AR Governor's Office

Robert McGough, Chief Data
Officer, AR Department of
Transformation & Shared
Services

IDRIVE Arkansas Team, ARDOT

Attendees:

28 Members, 12 Guests &

Speakers

Satisfactory Rating:

Excellent/Good:90% Goal: 75%

Attendee Guest

7 CPE Earned (YTD 16 CPE)

Recent Highlights



LeAnn Chadwick, Awards Director, and Lisa Antinori, NCC Representative & Past President, proudly represented the Central Arkansas Chapter at AGA LEADS25! in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference provided an inspiring platform for collaboration and forward-thinking program planning for the 2025–2026 year. Pictured on the left: Region 4 Chapter leaders gearing up for another impactful year ahead, collaborating, networking, and celebrating the 75th Anniversary!

Welcome to our New Members 2024-2025

LaCondia Baily, Fiscal Support Analyst, ADLL

James Bellcock, Statewide Program Coordinator, DFA

Julia Butler, Fiscal Support Analyst, ADLL

Carson Callaway, Controller, Department of Parks, Heritage, & Tourism

Kristin Cavette, Accountant, City of Fayetteville

LeAnn Chadwick, CPA, Controller, Transformation & Shared Services

Yvonne Cook, Auditor, Department of Human Services

Kathy Crawford, Statewide Program Specialist, DFA

Justin Freeman, Audit Coordinator, Department of Human Services

Sara Harshman, Procurement Manager, Division of Information Services

John Joyner, Statewide Program Coordinator, DFA

Thomas Leitmeyer, Statewide Program Coordinator, DFA

Tammy Williams, CFO, Department of Commerce

Michelle Wright, Assistant Controller, DWS

New Young Professional Members

Katie Montgomery, Accountant, City of Sherwood

Mailee Thao, Senior Financial Analyst, City of Fayetteville

New Student Members

Rita Morales, Student

New Education/Transfer Member

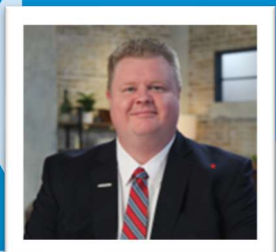
Dr. Lela “Kitty” Pumphrey, Professor, Henderson State University

Dr. Connie McKnight, CPA, Professor, UCA

We are delighted to welcome you to the AGA-Central Arkansas Chapter!

CEC Election Results

President-Elect



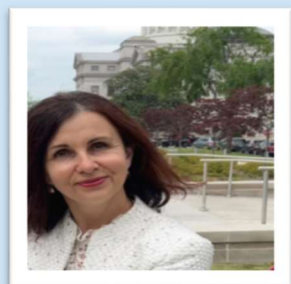
Jason Kunau

Treasurer



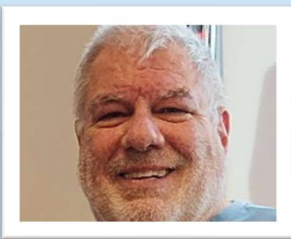
Donna Facen

Secretary



Daniela Buhayevska

Accountability Director



Dennis Calaway

Chapter Recent Highlights

In April, we held our annual election and are pleased to welcome the newly elected **Chapter Executive Committee**. This group of dedicated leaders will begin their service in July and will guide our chapter through an exciting journey that continues during AGA's historic **75th Anniversary** year. We look forward to the vision and leadership they'll bring as we build on our tradition of excellence, accountability, and integrity in public service.

President-Elect: Jason Kunau, CGFM, CICA

Jason first joined AGA during his college years and has remained a committed member ever since. Originally from Alabama, he made Arkansas his home in 2024 and currently serves as the Associate Executive Director and CFO of Arkansas PBS. He's the kind of leader who makes things happen behind the scenes to keep organizations strong and thriving. Professionalism, and warm energy he brings to the chapter. Jason has earned a reputation for strategic vision and operational excellence. His commitment to public service and financial integrity makes him a valuable leader. We're thrilled to have Jason stepping into this leadership role and look forward to the insight.

Chapter Treasurer: Donna Facen

Donna was re-elected as our Treasurer. She currently serves as Fleet Financial Manager for the City of Little Rock Fleet Services Department, where she oversees budgeting, accounting, and compliance for more than 1,400 City units. A dedicated City employee for 38 years, she brings a wealth of experience in finance and public service leadership. Donna is an active member of AGA, GFOA, and NFBPA, and has held numerous leadership roles, including serving as President of the Arkansas GFOA. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Donna is widely respected for her professionalism, integrity, and commitment to excellence. She's an outstanding treasurer and was honored with the President's Award for 2025.

Chapter Secretary: Daniela Buhayevska, CPA

Daniela Buhayevska currently serves as the Controller for the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, overseeing financial operations and ensuring fiscal integrity for one of the state's key public programs. She brings a strong background in public finance, having previously served as a liaison for the DFA Office of Accounting's Financial Reporting Section in the preparation of the ACFR, as well as in roles with the DFA Office of Budget and UAMS spanning accounting, budgeting, and financial analysis. Originally from Ukraine, Daniela became a U.S. citizen in 2002. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from UALR, an MBA from UCA, and a degree in Banking Business from a university in Ukraine. Daniela earned her CPA license in 2020 and continues to be a dedicated contributor to public financial excellence.

Accountability and Bylaw Director: Dennis Calaway, MBA, LUTCF, RHU

A lifelong Arkansan from the Delta, Dennis brings a wealth of experience in business and public service. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and an MBA—all from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Dennis has served in a range of professional and ministry roles throughout his career and was elected Randolph County Treasurer in 2022. In addition to his involvement with AGA, he is an active member of the Arkansas Treasurer's Association and currently serves as President of the NR AR Society for Human Resource Management for 2025.

Chapter Recent Highlights

Chapter Executive Committee

Awards/Events Director



LeAnn Chadwick

Awards/Events Director: LeAnn Chadwick, CPA

LeAnn Chadwick currently serves as the Controller for the Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services, a role she has held since December 2023. Her career in public service began in 1995 with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), where she spent 16 years in audit roles before moving into leadership positions in fiscal services. Throughout her tenure, LeAnn played a key role in developing the Motor Fuel Tracking System and contributed to the implementation of the state's new Oracle ERP system. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a proud graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, holding a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. LeAnn, whose enthusiasm and attention to detail will bring fresh energy to our chapter's celebrations and recognitions. With a passion for honoring excellence and creating meaningful experiences, they are poised to elevate our events and ensure that every achievement is celebrated with the distinction it deserves. We look forward to the creativity and dedication they will bring to this vital role.

Program Director

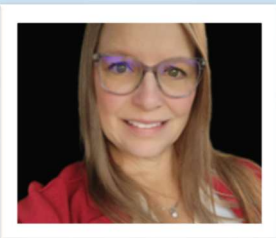


Donald R. Bellcock

Program/Meetings Director: Donald R. Bellcock

Don, a dedicated public servant with over 30 years of auditing experience for the State of Arkansas, currently serves as an Audit Coordinator with the Department of Inspector General. He earned his BBA in Accounting from Harding University and is a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. Donald has held numerous leadership roles within the AGA community, including Past President of the Central Arkansas Chapter, AGA Region 4 Vice President, and recipient of the 2023-2024 Central Arkansas Outstanding Member of the Year award. We are honored to welcome him back to the Chapter Executive Committee as Program and Meeting Director. Donald is widely respected for his steady leadership, collaborative spirit, and enduring commitment to advancing government accountability. We are honored by his continued contributions to the CEC.

Membership Director

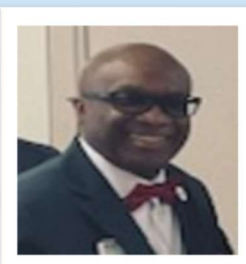


Michelle Wright

Historian/Records Director: Michelle Wright

Michelle Wright currently serves as an Assistant Controller with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, where she plays a key role in preparing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). Her career in public service began in 2009 as a Fiscal Support Specialist with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. By 2011, she advanced to Accounting Coordinator, overseeing the Cash Receipts area and ensuring accurate park revenue reporting and cash balancing. Michelle earned her BBA in Marketing with a minor in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Michelle brings her passion for mentorship and outreach to the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter as Director of Membership and Early Careers, where she looks forward to fostering engagement and inspiring the next generation of professionals.

Records Director



Tyler Cain

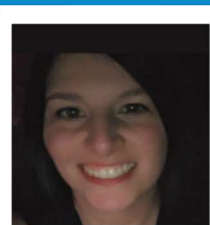
Historian/Records Director: Tyler Cain, CGFM, CMA

Tyler is a dedicated public servant and financial leader. Tyler brings decades of experience and institutional knowledge to our chapter's legacy. He is the CFO of the Department of Labor & Licensing, where he oversees financial operations, strategic planning, and fiscal accountability for the agency. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to transparency and excellence in government finance. A lifetime member of our chapter, joined in 1984, and has been a steadfast contributor ever since. Over the years, he has held various leadership roles and continues to preserve and promote the chapter's rich history through his work as Historian Records Director. His long-standing service and passion for public accountability make him a valued pillar of our chapter and a true steward of our legacy as AGA celebrates the 75th Anniversary.

Chapter Recent Highlights

Chapter Executive Committee

Communication Director



Sarayla Harshman

Communication-Social Media/Webmaster Director: Sarayla Harshman

Sarayla Harshman currently serves as the Procurement Manager for the Arkansas Department of Shared Administration Services, Division of Information Services. With a career spanning over 15 years in public service and administration, she has held key roles at Arkansas State University, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the State of Arkansas. Her background includes experience in accounts payable supervision, fleet administration, and executive support. She is known for her dedication to service, operational efficiency, and her commitment to supporting mission-driven organizations across the state.

Community Co-Director

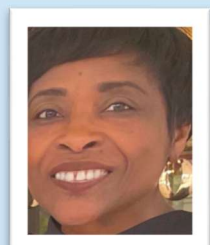


Rosalind Reams

Community Service Co-Director: Rosalind Reams, MBA

Rosalind Reams serves as a Senior Auditor with the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Office of Payment Integrity, bringing 30 years of dedicated service to the State of Arkansas. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Henderson State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Outside of work, Rosalind is an avid sports fan who embraces new challenges. She enjoys traveling, reading, and spending meaningful time with her family. A passionate advocate for community engagement, Rosalind actively volunteers with several service organizations across the state. Rosalind's energy and commitment to public good are sure to make a lasting impact.

Community Co-Director

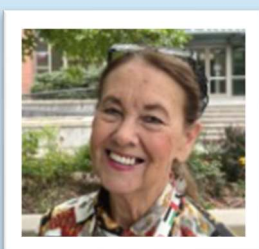


Alyce Briley

Community Service Co-Director: Alyce Briley

Alyce Briley serves as a Senior Auditor with the Arkansas Department of Human Services, bringing over 20 years of experience in customer service and accounting. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and earned a diploma from the Broadway School of Real Estate. Alyce is passionate about community service and volunteers regularly at the Arkansas Food Bank, where she contributes her time three to four times a month. She finds great fulfillment in helping others and views service as a vital part of her life. Outside of work, Alyce enjoys traveling, reading, watching baseball, and staying active in her community. Her dedication to public service and enthusiasm for giving back make her a valuable addition to the AGA Central Arkansas leadership team.

Certification Director



Dr. Lela Pumphrey

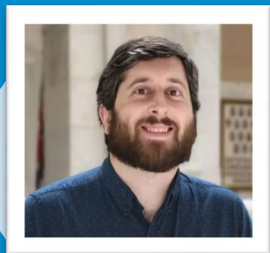
Certification Director: Dr. Lela Pumphrey, CGFM, CPA (Idaho), CIA

Dr. Lela Pumphrey is a seasoned accounting educator with more than 30 years of experience in higher education and public accounting. She has taught at institutions including Idaho State University, Arkansas State University, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, with international teaching experience in New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates. Her academic focus includes governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting. Before entering academia, Dr. Pumphrey spent a decade in public accounting and served as a bank internal auditor. She has been actively involved in professional organizations and is a frequent presenter at conferences in the U.S. and abroad.

Chapter Recent Highlights

Chapter Executive Committee

Education Director



Trevor Gibbons

Education Director Trevor Gibbons, CPA

We're thrilled to welcome back Trevor Gibbons to the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter's CEC! Trevor serves as an Accounting Coordinator in the ACFR section of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant, CPA. He was honored as our Outstanding Member of the Year for 2024-2025, a testament to his exceptional dedication and leadership. His previous contributions as Education Director left a lasting impact, and we are excited to once again benefit from his insight and expertise during the upcoming program year. Trevor's continued commitment to professional excellence and public service strengthens our chapter's mission and momentum.

Past President

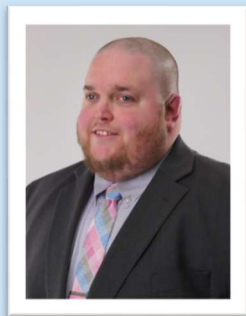


Lisa Antinori

Past President & National Chapters Council (NCC) Representative: Lisa Antinori, MBA, CPA (North Dakota), CGMA

Lisa serves as a Self-Insurance Administrator with the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, part of the Department of Labor and Licensing. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Webster University and has dedicated 15 years to public service with the State of Arkansas. Lisa earned her CPA credential in North Dakota in 2002 and was awarded the CGMA designation in 2012, reflecting her expertise in strategic financial management and leadership. Her vision and unwavering dedication have played a pivotal role in the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter's achievements over the past year, earning distinguished recognition as Volunteer of the Year, including the prestigious Platinum Chapter Award. We're grateful for her continued service to the CEC and look forward to the insight she brings to this role on both a local and national level.

Chapter President



James Caldwell

Chapter President: James Caldwell, CGF, CTBME,

James has been serving the State of Arkansas since 2015 and now holds the position of Chief Fiscal Officer for the Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services. Leading a talented team of 28 employees, James ensures that shared services divisions across the state operate efficiently, reflecting his commitment to teamwork and customer service. We proudly welcome James as our Chapter President for the 2025-2026 program year. A proven leader and dedicated public servant, James was honored as March Champion of Value and received the 2024-2025 Community Service Award, underscoring his commitment to excellence and impact. With a clear vision for growth and engagement, James aims to build on the chapter's momentum by promoting impactful programming, professional development opportunities, and meaningful community outreach. His dedication to public service and integrity aligns strongly with AGA's mission, and we look forward to the inspiration he'll bring to our members and initiatives throughout the year, especially as we celebrate **AGA's 75th Anniversary**.

AGA Established 1950



**Central Arkansas
Chapter-Ext. 1978**

As we welcome our newly introduced Chapter Executive Committee (CEC), we are reminded of the power of volunteerism and leadership in shaping the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter. Each member of our CEC has stepped forward not only to serve but to create meaningful experiences that strengthen our professional community. We encourage all members to engage in chapter activities throughout the **75th Anniversary of AGA**, a milestone that honors decades of accountability, advancement, and connection. Whether through participation, volunteering, obtaining your CGFM, or leadership development, your involvement makes a lasting impact.

Let this be the year your voice is heard, your skills are sharpened, and your contributions help move the chapter forward.

Champion of Value Congratulations James

Celebrating James Graham



Grant Manager

Arkansas Department of Labor & Licensing

April - 2025

The AGA Central Arkansas Chapter is proud to recognize **James Graham** as April's **Champion of Value** for his unwavering commitment to public service and his impactful contributions to our chapter's community initiatives.

James recently represented our chapter at the *Appreciation Luncheon* hosted by **Our House**, a local organization dedicated to empowering families and individuals facing homelessness. His presence reflected the chapter's ongoing commitment to community engagement and service; a value James exemplifies both professionally and personally.

James earned his bachelor's degree from **Philander Smith University** in Little Rock. Since beginning his career with the State of Arkansas in 2002, he has built an impressive legacy across multiple agencies. From managing grants and inspecting women's shelters at the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), to auditing the DFA Drug/Task Force program, to being responsible for the purchase of election equipment at the Secretary of State's office, James has consistently risen through the ranks, driven by integrity and purpose.

He later joined the Department of Education, where he monitored educational grants for schools, and today he serves as Grants Manager for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and State Appraiser Support Grant, with the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing. His dedication to advancing workforce development and public safety makes a lasting difference in Arkansas communities.

James also serves as the **Chairman of Graduate Arkansas**, a charter school focused on re-engaging disconnected students and helping them earn their high school diplomas. Through innovative instruction, student support, and community partnership, Graduate Arkansas is building a national model for dropout and credit recovery, thanks in part to James's visionary leadership.

In addition to his professional service, James remains deeply rooted in his faith and community through active involvement at **St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church**.

We are honored to count James Graham as a valued member of the AGA Central Arkansas Chapter. His steadfast leadership, compassionate spirit, and commitment to lifelong learning truly make him our **Champion of Value**.

Thank-you for your Outstanding Service!

Champion of Value Congratulations Carl

Celebrating Carl Danley, Jr. CFE



**Assistant Director
Financial
Workforce Services
Department of
Commerce**

May - 2025

With nearly two decades of dedicated service to the state of Arkansas, Carl Danley, Jr. exemplifies the values at the heart of AGA integrity, excellence, and purposeful leadership. A member of the Central Arkansas Chapter, Carl's professional journey is rooted in both academic rigor and a steadfast commitment to public service.

Carl holds a bachelor's degree in finance and master's degrees in accounting and finance, forming a comprehensive background in financial analysis, strategic planning, and regulatory compliance. His education has played a vital role in shaping a career focused on internal controls, auditing practices, and fraud prevention skills he brings to every role with precision and passion.

Beginning his state career while still in college, Carl has served the public for nearly 18 years. His drive to help others has guided his professional path from the start. "I've always believed in using my skills and experience to serve a greater purpose," he shares. Throughout his tenure, Carl has impacted programs that promote transparency and accountability, embracing the challenge of improving lives through responsible financial stewardship.

Carl is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), a designation that has significantly enhanced his ability to detect, investigate, and prevent financial misconduct. This certification strengthens his contributions in tax auditing, risk assessment, and safeguarding financial integrity. It's a mark of his dedication to ethical excellence and continual professional growth.

Service doesn't stop at the office for Carl. He actively volunteers with his church, his children's school, and his fraternity, but it's coaching youth sports a commitment spanning 15 years that ignites his passion most deeply. "There's something fulfilling about being able to pour positivity into our youth," Carl states. His coaching is more than recreation; it's mentorship, character-building, and empowerment all values that mirror his approach to public service.

Carl's professional and community networks include Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the AGA. These organizations have been pivotal in shaping his leadership, offering mentorship, industry insights, and development opportunities that reinforce the principles of service and accountability.

Carl Danley, Jr. is not only a seasoned professional he's a mentor, a servant leader, and a true **Champion of Value**. His unwavering dedication continues to inspire those around him, and his story reflects the very best of AGA's mission and the Central Arkansas Chapter's enduring legacy.



Elouise Evans,
Community Service Director
elouise.evans@dhs.arkansas.gov



Make a Difference!

Our chapter's community service initiatives are more than just events, they're opportunities to create lasting impact together.



Contact your
Community Service
Co-Directors

Alyce Briley

Alyce.J.Briley@dhs.arkansas.gov

Rosalind Reams

Rosalind.Reams@dhs.arkansas.gov

Community Service



AGA Central Arkansas Lane Sponsor for Kid's Chance: In April, we proudly stepped up as a sponsor for the Arkansas Kids' Chance Bowling Scholarship Fundraiser, an inspiring event dedicated to supporting the educational goals of children affected by workplace injuries. Our chapter contributed \$250 to the cause, and thanks to a matching donation from AGA National, the impact was doubled. Together, this support helps fund scholarships that open doors to higher education for deserving students across the state. More than just a donation, this effort reflects our ongoing commitment to community service and purpose-driven action. We recognize that our mission extends beyond the walls of government accountability; it thrives in meaningful partnerships and shared compassion for others. We're honored to play a role in creating brighter futures and thank every member who helped make this sponsorship possible. With every strike and spare, the event bowled over barriers and uplifted dreams.



Members Lend a Hand in Keeping Little Rock Streets Clean: Saturday morning May 17th and June 14th, AGA Central Arkansas Chapter volunteers rolled up their sleeves and took to the streets, literally, as part of the City of Little Rock's Adopt-A-Street Program. Through this civic partnership, our members demonstrated their commitment to public service not just professionally, but personally. Armed with gloves, trash bags, and a shared spirit of stewardship, volunteers gathered to help beautify our community one stretch of pavement at a time. Their work reflects the heart of AGA's values: accountability, responsibility, and service beyond the office walls. Our members made a visible impact while promoting environmental awareness. Special thanks to Linda Bouillon and my grandchildren Ryker & Finley!

Our House recognized our years of sponsorship, donations, and service:

Our House, a local nonprofit devoted to empowering homeless and near-homeless families and individuals in Central Arkansas. James Graham graciously represented our chapter at the event in April, continuing our long-standing tradition of advocacy and community engagement. For years, AGA Central Arkansas has supported *Our House* through sponsorships and service, reflecting our shared mission of accountability and meaningful action. The luncheon served as a heartfelt reminder of the tangible impact that consistent support can make, providing job training, children's programs, housing resources, and pathways to self-sufficiency. This recognition wasn't just about financial contributions; it celebrated a relationship built on shared values and a dedication to uplifting lives. From volunteer efforts to advocacy, our members have embraced the opportunity to serve not only through our profession, but with purpose. We're grateful to *Our House* for their incredible work and proud to stand alongside them as partners in building a stronger, more compassionate community. Special thanks to James Graham for representing our chapter with grace and pride.



Trevor Gibbons, CPA
Education Director

Trevor.Gibbons@dfa.arkansas.gov

Membership CPE Meetings
3rd Tuesday of the month at noon
August to May

Calling All Great Ideas

Our Education Director is gearing up for upcoming membership meetings, and your input could shape an incredible learning experience. Whether you're passionate about personal development, accounting, audit, grants management, HR, fraud, or the ever-evolving world of IT, we want to hear from you!

Have a dynamic speaker in mind? A compelling topic that deserves the spotlight? Drop our Education Director a line and share your suggestions. If you've heard an inspiring message lately or know someone who delivers with energy and expertise, let us know!

Let's make our continuing education offerings impactful, relevant, and driven by our members' voices. Your ideas could be the next standout session in our lineup!

Membership Meetings

Mark your Calendars

Date: Tuesday, August 12th **Time:** 12:00-1:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Jonathan Taylor, Executive Director
Governor's Council on Development Disabilities, DFA

Topic: Development Disabilities Program

Date: Tuesday, September 16th **Time:** 12:00-1:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Seunghyun Kim, Ph.D. Assistant Professor
School of Business, University of Little Rock

Topic: Technology Outlook and UALR Education

Speakers are subject to change during the program development in July.

Chapter PDT – 5/22/2025

AGA Central Arkansas Spring Seminar Delivers Innovation and Insight

The AGA Central Arkansas Chapter hosted an exceptional Spring Seminar that left attendees inspired and informed. With a focus on emerging technologies and public sector excellence, the event featured a dynamic lineup of speakers and topics that showcased the power of collaboration and learning.



Raymond Girdler,
IT Security
Robert McGough,
Chief Data Officer
AR Implementing AI
Panelist



Denise Powell, IDrive Administrator
Holly Butler, Communication Coordinator
Melanie Hester, System Administrator
ARDOT Implementing IDRIVE Arkansas



Chris Lynch,
Professor
AI Cybersecurity

Arkansas LAUNCH, a skills-based platform connecting job seekers to career opportunities and training. As chair of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, Mike Rogers leads a cross-agency effort to strengthen workforce development across the state. AI and technology have made this platform possible.



Thanks for attending with a special kudos to CEC members Don Bellcock, Trevor Gibbons, Sara Harshman, Michelle Wright, LeAnn Chadwick for making the event amazing! Outstanding job putting this technology together!



LeAnn Chadwick, CPA
Awards/Event Director



Lisa Wilkerson
Financial Manager of the Year



Trevor Gibbons
Outstanding Member



James Caldwell
Community Service



Donna Facen
President Award



Gavel Exchange

Annual Awards Banquet & Gavel Exchange Ceremony

Chapter Celebration at Cypress Social on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 5:00 PM, our chapter gathered at Cypress Social to celebrate the close of an impactful program year and recognize the dedicated members who made it all possible. The evening was filled with connection, appreciation, and pride in the accomplishments we've achieved together, ACE Platinum Award. Thank you to everyone who contributed throughout the year you are the heart of our chapter's success!

A special thanks to LeAnn Chadwick for her contributions towards the event.



The awards are prepped and ready to honor the incredible dedication, leadership, and collaboration that made it all possible.



The gavel was officially passed from Lisa Antinori to James Caldwell, who warmly welcomed the incoming CEC members. Each was presented with a commemorative 75th Anniversary AGA lapel pin, symbolizing the legacy and future of our chapter's leadership.



Honoring Our Outgoing Chapter Leaders CEC members from the prior program year were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their dedicated service. A special thank-you was extended to those who completed their term, celebrating their contributions to our chapter's success. Along with special thanks to Linda Bouillon for her dedication.

Financial Manager of the Year

Champion of Value

Congratulations – Lisa

Celebrating Lisa Wilkerson



**Assistant
Administrator
Office of Accounting

Department of
Finance
and
Administration

June-2025**

Lisa Wilkerson, a native of Missouri, commenced her tenure with the Arkansas state government in 1991 following her husband's acceptance of a leadership position at a local Schwan's facility in Arkansas. Upon completing the relocation, Ms. Wilkerson joined the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, where she served in the Financial Aid division. In this capacity, she worked closely with thousands of Arkansas students who received the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship—a newly established initiative at the time that significantly enhanced access to higher education. Recognizing the profound impact of this funding on families statewide, she became a trusted resource, known for her unwavering commitment to assisting students and their families with the scholarship process.

Ms. Wilkerson was subsequently promoted to the role of Budget Analyst and later assumed leadership of the department's personnel division. In each role, she approached her responsibilities with dedication, continually striving to serve the citizens of Arkansas with efficiency and integrity.

In 1997, Ms. Wilkerson transitioned to the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) as a Budget Technician. She was later elevated to the position of Budget Division Manager. In 2007, following the retirement of the Assistant Administrator of DFA's Accounting Division, she was appointed to the role, facilitating a seamless transition owing to her established professional relationships across state government. Accounting teams across various departments relied on her expertise, often seeking guidance at all hours. Her leadership philosophy emphasized the significance of public service, reinforcing to new employees that serving taxpayers was both an honor and a solemn responsibility.

Throughout her more than 34 years of service in state government, Ms. Wilkerson has worked under six gubernatorial administrations, both Democratic and Republican, maintaining an unwavering commitment to fiscal stewardship and public service. In addition to her core responsibilities, which include ensuring appropriations and funding align with state law, she oversaw the distribution of billions of dollars through federal programs, including CARES and ARPA. Her extensive knowledge and experience have informed DFA leadership decisions on expenditure-related matters, including the evaluation of thousands of legislative proposals.

As Ms. Wilkerson prepares for retirement later this year, she leaves behind a distinguished legacy marked by professionalism, expertise, and an enduring commitment to the people of Arkansas. Her colleagues across state government will miss her leadership and insight. While she eagerly anticipates spending more time with her family and pursuing personal interests, her lasting contributions will continue to shape fiscal policy and governance in the years to come.

In recognition of her outstanding dedication to public service and her exemplary leadership in financial management, Ms. Wilkerson will be honored as the **AGA Central Arkansas Financial Manager of the Year**. Additionally, she has been named the **AGA Champion of Value for the month of June**, a reflection of her tireless commitment to integrity, impact, and excellence. These honors celebrate not only her distinguished career, but also her embodiment of AGA's core values in service to the state of Arkansas.

Thank-you for your Excellent Service to our Citizens!



A Virtual Event
July 28-29, 2025
14 CPEs
Members \$350

Registration at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/PDT/PDT-Home.aspx>

In-Person in
Washington, D.C. or
Virtual Event
September 24-25, 2025
14 CPEs
Members \$575

Registration at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/Fraud/Home.aspx>

3- Reasons You Should Attend:

1. **Earn CPEs**
Quality Education
2. **Stay on the cutting edge.**
Top-notch speakers from federal, state and local government, academia and the private sector.
3. **Network and connect.**
Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues who face the same or similar issues on the job. Exchange ideas to bring back to your organization and build the profession.

AGA National Events

Lisa D. Antinori, NCC Director/Past President



A Virtual Event
July 28-29, 2025
14 CPEs

PDT brings together thousands of financial professionals and industry leaders to exchange ideas, explore innovative strategies and proven solutions for maximizing impact and driving efficiency and productivity in public service. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your professional development and collaborate with peers from across the industry.



September 24-25, 2025

Washington, D.C. or virtual

This event provides participants with practical insight from Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) leaders. The workshop includes presentations as well as facilitated table discussions, where we move from academic discussions to "how-to" explanations and examples. The small, facilitated groups enhances opportunities for both hands-on work and Q&A.

November 6, 2025 • A Virtual Event • FREE for AGA Members!



2025 Technology & Transformation Summit (TTS) November 6, 2025

This event brings together over 1,000 government leaders and industry experts to explore the transformation of mission delivery through IT innovation, workforce development, cybersecurity, and cloud technology. Now more than ever, digital transformation is essential to achieving efficient and effective mission outcomes across government! **FREE* for AGA members! 6 CPEs**

Registration at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/TTS/Home.aspx>



Dr. Lela Pumphrey
Certification Director
pumplela@hotmail.com



Interested in Becoming a CGFM?
Let's Learn Together! If you're considering the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification, reach out to Dr. Lela Pumphrey for details. Once we have a few interested members, we'll plan a study group to support your journey.

I recently passed the first exam and am currently preparing for the third but I'd love to connect with others for a study group focused on the second exam.

Let's support each other and grow professionally through this shared experience!

Professional Certification

CGFM

Elevating Excellence in Government Financial Management

The **Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)** designation, awarded by AGA, represents a gold standard in public sector financial expertise. It demonstrates mastery in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across federal, state, and local levels.

CGFM holders bring a deep understanding of the unique challenges and responsibilities tied to managing public funds. The credential not only validates technical proficiency, it also reflects a commitment to ethics, accountability, and continuous learning.

To earn the CGFM, candidates must:

- Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- Complete **two years of professional-level experience** in government financial management
- Pass **three rigorous examinations** covering the governmental environment, financial reporting, and internal controls

Whether you're advancing your career or strengthening your agency's financial integrity, CGFM is a powerful tool for impact. It's more than a credential; it's a commitment to good government. Learn more:

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

CGFM Scholarship Opportunity

The AGA Central Arkansas Chapter is excited to offer two \$250 CGFM scholarships to assist with examination fees and preparation materials. These scholarships will help cover part of the CGFM application and examination costs. Each fiscal year, a maximum of two scholarships will be awarded.

Deadline:

Scholarships will be granted to the first two qualified applicants who pass their exams. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications must be received by May 31.

Qualifications:

- Must be an active Central Arkansas AGA member in good standing
- Must be employed as a governmental employee local or state
- Must pass all three parts of the exam before applying
- The applicant must pay exam and application fees

Awards:

Winners will be notified via email and will receive their checks at the annual AGA Central Arkansas Awards and gavel exchange ceremony in June.



Ready to Lead?

We're looking for student voices with passion, commitment, and a desire to make a difference. If you're ready to represent your college, collaborate with seasoned professionals, and build a legacy of impact—reach out and apply today.

The future of government accountability starts with you.

Contact

James.Caldwell@arkansas.gov

NETWORKING



**Creating
lasting
partnerships
from the start**

College Students

Empowering Future Leaders: Join AGA as a Student Representative

As AGA celebrates its 75th anniversary, we're not only reflecting on decades of government accountability, we're investing in the next generation of changemakers. The Central Arkansas Chapter invites college students to take an active role in this legacy by joining us as Student Members and stepping into leadership as a Student Representative on the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC)

What Is a Student Representative?

This role offers more than a seat at the table, it offers a voice. Our Student Representative:

- Serves on the CEC alongside experienced professionals
- Represents their college within chapter leadership
- Shares AGA events, scholarships, and initiatives with peers
- Helps create connections between the classroom and the chapter

It's a unique opportunity to experience collaboration, leadership, and purpose in action.

Why Get Involved?

By joining AGA and serving on the CEC, students gain:

- Hands-on experience in governance and outreach
- Access to workshops, mentoring, and networking events
- A professional edge through community service and resume-worthy achievements
- Opportunities to grow leadership, communication, and organizational skills

Whether you're planning a career in public service, finance, policy, or administration, AGA offers valuable exposure to what it means to lead with integrity.

Young-Professionals

Just starting your career in government financial management? AGA is here to support you!

For three years, you can enjoy AGA national \$45 membership a discounted rate since you are new to the workforce. Early Career membership in AGA gives you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections, boost your job performance and advance your career while positively impacting your community and country.

Share your viewpoint as a volunteer on your chapter's executive committee or one of the national boards and committees

To join AGA as an Early Career member, you must have fewer than three years of any full-time work experience 30 and under.



**JOIN
TODAY!**

Michelle Wright
Membership Director
michelle.d.wright.adws@arkansas.gov



Membership

As the AGA commemorates its 75th anniversary, I'm honored to spotlight the enduring legacy of the Central Arkansas Chapter a community first established in January 1978, grounded in accountability, service, and connection.

For nearly five decades, our chapter has grown into a vibrant network of professionals who champion integrity and excellence. From workshops to service initiatives, every member has contributed to our continued success—and this year, our national Platinum recognition speaks volumes about that shared commitment.

But the true strength of our chapter lies in engagement. Whether it's joining a committee, lending support at events, or celebrating member milestones, your involvement fuels our impact. Active participation leads to professional development, deeper connections, and meaningful community contributions.

As we close another remarkable chapter together, I encourage each of you to consider how you can shape the next one. Step into a role. Share your voice. Let your presence leave a lasting imprint on our future.

AGA Central Arkansas Chapter (AGACA)

Membership Benefits

Expand Network

Expand your network with 90+ chapters nationwide and over 14,000 Members

Create Connection

Participate in AGA online mentoring program. Be a mentor and/or seek a mentor! Join social and community events

Collaborate

Volunteer to serve on committees and boards: Leadership Development

Professional Certification

! If you're passionate about public service and committed to professional excellence, the CGFM is more than a credential, it's a career investment.

Continuous Learning

Membership & Educational events learning or staying informed and meet the experts. Earn Free CPE!

Awards & Recognition

- Champion of Value
- Outstanding Member
- Volunteer of the Year
- President's Award
- Financial Manager of the Year

Ethical Adventures

Answer Key (Volume 3)

Filling blanks

For those who journeyed through our last installment of puzzles and ethical brain teasers, here are the final answer keys to test your accuracy and celebrate your learning.

Answer key Word List:

1. **Integrity**
2. **Honesty**
3. **Respect**
4. **Accountability**
5. **Transparency**
6. **Fairness**
7. **Trust**
8. **Professionalism**
9. **Responsibility**
10. **Ethics**



Closing Remarks

from the Editor as the now a Past President and former Newsletter Editor, I hope you enjoy the updates and insights shared in this final edition.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with non-members—it's a great way to showcase our chapter's activities and encourage new connections.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this journey.

1. Upholding _____ ensures that all actions align with moral and professional standards.
2. Always speaking the truth and being straightforward demonstrates _____.
3. Treating colleagues and clients with courtesy and dignity shows _____.
4. Owning up to one's actions and decisions is a sign of _____.
5. Keeping processes open and clear builds _____ in an organization.
6. Decisions made without bias or favoritism reflect _____.
7. A strong foundation of _____ helps foster positive relationships with stakeholders.
8. Conducting oneself in a manner that reflects expertise and decorum exemplifies _____.
9. Accepting obligations and fulfilling duties demonstrates _____.
10. Ethical principles guide individuals in making morally sound decisions, which is known as _____.

Closing Note: With this final edition, we conclude the “Ethical Adventures” segment — a creative exploration of integrity, accountability, and ethical awareness that has added a meaningful and interactive touch to our quarterly newsletters. Thank you to all who participated and shared feedback along the way. As we close this chapter, may the spirit of ethical curiosity continue to guide your professional path.

Celebrating Champions of Value

Recognizing these champions of value has been one of the most rewarding aspects of our program year. From tireless volunteers to visionary leaders, each honoree represents what makes our organization exceptional: purpose-driven action, collaboration, and a deep-rooted passion for accountability in government.

As we reflect on this remarkable year, we celebrate not just accomplishments but the character behind them. These outstanding members elevate our chapter and inspire all who serve alongside them. Their dedication affirms that excellence isn't just a goal, **it's a daily practice.**

To every individual who has given their time, talents, and heart to this mission:

Thank-you! You are the reason AGA Central Arkansas remains a powerful force in promoting value, transparency, and public trust.