



Volume 16-04 December 2016



President's Message

AGA President's Message - December 2016

Season's greetings to all of our members!

I am delighted to report the results of our chapter's contributions to the AGA National's Community Service Challenge. Thanks to your contributions to local community service organizations across Puget Sound, we collected 127 pounds of food and 75 transit tickets. We have submitted our results to national and are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the winning chapter, so stay tuned.

Our next philanthropic activity, a holiday toy drive benefitting Toys for Tots, will take place on December 13, 2016 at our monthly luncheon meeting. Please consider donating an unwrapped toy to benefit a



local child in need this year. On behalf of our chapter board, I want to thank all of our members for your generosity this year. I am proud to serve as President of this chapter, with its long history of community service engagement, and I look forward to continuing this tradition in 2017.

Mary Ann Hardy,
Chapter President

Welcome New Member
We are pleased to welcome to the Seattle Chapter:

Tony Eayrs
Business & Finance
Officer, King County
International Airport

Upcoming Events

December 13th
From Documents to Data with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act)

See Page 4 for Details.

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AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2016-2017

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2016-2017! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 - Michael Jacobson, and Natasha Jones, King County. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation. See page 4 for details.

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 - Dean Ritz, Director of IP strategy for Workiva, Inc. on DATA Act. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 - Tina Polf, CPA - Annual Tax Update. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 - Jeff Brown, Contract Specialist with King County. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 - AGA webinar on Uniform Guidance. 11:00-12:50 Pacific time (2 CPEs)

Monday/Tuesday, April 24-25, 2017 (Tentative) - Government Accounting and Auditing Conference

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 (Tentative) - Emerald Award Luncheon. 11:30-12:00 Lunch and networking; 12:00-12:50 presentation

November 2016 Luncheon Topic Communicating the Value of Government to Citizens

The Seattle Field Office of the Government Accountability Office hosted the monthly meeting of the Seattle Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) on November 16, 2016. The meeting featured a presentation by Michael Jacobson and Natasha Jones of the Office of King County Executive on the subject of "Communicating the Value of Government to Residents." Mr. Jacobson, a past winner of the Seattle AGA's Emerald Award, which annually recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions in the field of government

accountability, spoke about his current work as the Deputy Director of the Office of King County Executive's Performance, Strategy, and Budget division. Ms. Jones serves as the Director of Customer Service for King County. Mr. Jacobson and Ms. Jones noted the challenges and successes of conveying the value of day-to-day government services to residents of a county that features a wide diversity in ethnicity, language, income level, and rural/urban composition. They noted that, given the diversity of King County residents, they are employing new strategies to engage citizens using improved community outreach techniques, translation services, and technology, and these strategies have resulted in performance results that show higher resident satisfaction scores for King County government than comparable scores for local governments nationwide.



Michael Jacobson, Deputy Director of the Office of King County's Performance, Strategy, and Budget Division, and Natasha Jones, Director of Customer Service, Office of King County Executive, spoke at the November 16, 2016 meeting of the Association of Government Accountants in Seattle.



THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

December 13, 2016 **Monthly Luncheon Meeting**

Speaker

Dean Ritz – Workiva

Topic/Time

“From Documents to Data with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act)”

12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and networking prior to the presentation.

Place

Government Accountability Office
Columbia Center - 37th Floor - Elliott Bay Room
701 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Cost

AGA MEMBERS - Free NON-MEMBERS - \$5

Menu Choices

Bring your own lunch, or purchase a meal from Ingallina's Box Lunch for \$15.00. Choose from the following meal options:

- Ham and Swiss Sandwich
- Classic Cobb Salad
- Pear and Bleu Cheese Salad (vegetarian)

RSVP Required

Please **RSVP** to attend by **Monday, December 12, 2016** to Mary Ann Hardy, hardym@gao.gov.

CPE

1 CPE awarded

Special Event

Seattle AGA is sponsoring a toy drive benefitting Toys for Tots. Please consider donating an unwrapped gift for a child in need this holiday season.

2016-2017 Webinars

AGA has scheduled the following webinars for the 2016-2017 Program Year.

See <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Learn-Online/Webinars/2016-2017-Offerings.aspx> for more information about participating in these events.

Financial Systems Summit	Jan. 13, 2017
Getting Your Dollars to Work Harder: Blended and Braided Funding	Jan. 18, 2017
GASB	Feb. 8, 2017
Fraud/Risk	Feb. 22, 2017
Uniform Guidance <u>1/</u>	Mar. 8, 2017
CFO/CIO Collaboration	Mar. 29, 2017
Ethics	Apr. 12, 2017
DATA Act	May 7, 2017
Fraud/Data Analytics	Jun. 14, 2017

2017 Member-Only Webinar Free Learning Event

[The Fraud Tools: Case Studies](#) Feb. 23, 2017 2-3 p.m. | 1 CPE |

Field Of Study: Auditing

1/ To be presented at our March Meeting

CGFM Intensive Review Course & Exams

Sign up for AGA's Intensive Review Course with CGFM examinations *included* - it's a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course (IRC), offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Alexandria, Va., April 3-4, 2017. The class will run 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is as follows:

- \$375 for AGA members
- \$425 for non-members.

SPECIAL BONUS: The CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees — a \$375 savings!

The CGFM examinations for the April 3-4 course can be taken by appointment only at [Pearson Professional Testing Centers](#) from April 5, 2017 - July 31, 2017, using vouchers provided by AGA.

Before You Register, Please Read

- **What is the Intensive Review Course?** It is a special, limited enrollment opportunity for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM examinations and want extra reinforcement of the material. It is a review of the main topics covered on the CGFM examinations, led by a knowledgeable instructor.
- **What it's NOT:** It is not a shortcut. It is not an exam prep course with strategies on how to pass the exams. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the three AGA instructor-led training courses. It is usually not enough, by itself, to prepare for the CGFM examinations - advance preparation is strongly recommended.

Registration

To participate in this event, individuals must:

1. Be accepted into the CGFM program (see Eligibility section below).
2. Pre-register for this event. **Note:** Only current CGFM candidates will be able to register for this event. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Location

The IRC will be held in Alexandria, Va. Detailed information will be provided to all registered attendees.

Eligibility

To attend the Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM examinations, participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM program.

Potential candidates need to submit the [CGFM program application form](#) and a copy of an official transcript from an accredited college or university.

2017 National Leadership Training

Feb. 15-16, 2017

This is *the* event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find solutions to shared challenges, network with your peers, and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. This training offers up to 14 hours of CPE.

Can't travel to Washington? NLT offers virtual attendance — from your home or office — so you don't have to miss out on this important leadership training event. Virtual attendance also offers up to 14 hours of CPE.

For further information, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/NLT2017.aspx>

2017 Professional Development Training

July 9-12 | Boston or virtual

Registration now open!

To attend the AGA's premier event, or learn more about the agenda, in person or virtual attendance, or other information, go to

<https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT-2016.aspx>



AGA National 2015-2016 Report to our Members

Each Year, AGA produces a report to its members. This year, the report is in Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) format, which highlights Information members are most interested in and minimizes schedules and jargon. The first page of the report is below. To get your copy go to the AGA website agacgfm.org or to:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/FCAA7CF569B/aga-2015-2016-report-to-our-members.html>



LAST CHANCE, Training begins soon!

Learn to Prepare Taxes by Becoming a Tax Volunteer

The IRS is looking for people to provide free tax help in 2017. Become a [tax volunteer](#) and make a difference in your community.

The IRS sponsors the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. These two programs offer free tax help across the country for people with low-to-moderate incomes. This year, [VITA and TCE](#) volunteers prepared more than 3.7 million federal tax returns at no cost to families across the country.

Here are five good reasons why you should consider becoming a VITA or TCE volunteer.

1. **Flexible hours.** Volunteers generally serve an average of three to five hours per week. The programs are usually open from mid-January through the tax filing deadline in April. A few sites are open all year.
2. **VITA and TCE sites are often nearby and need your help.** Nearly 12,000 sites were set up in neighborhoods all over the country for this past filing season. They are often set up in community centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and similar places. Chances are good that you can volunteer at a site near you.
3. **No prior experience needed.** You'll receive specialized training and can serve in a variety of roles. If you are fluent in another language, you may be able to help those who speak that language.
4. **Free tax law training and materials.** Learn how to prepare basic tax returns and learn about all the tax deductions and credits that benefit eligible taxpayers.
5. **Continuing education credits for tax pros.** Enrolled Agents and non-credentialed tax return preparers can earn credits when volunteering as a VITA/TCE instructor, quality reviewer or tax return preparer. See the [IRS fact sheet](#) for more information on Continuing Education Credits.

As a volunteer, you'll join a program that's helped millions of people file tax returns at no charge for more than 40 years. Your help will make a difference. It's people helping people. It's that simple.

To find out more, visit IRS.gov and type "tax volunteer" in the search box. If you'd like to become a volunteer, you will need to submit your volunteer interest information on IRS.gov at [IRS Tax Volunteers](#).

AGA Board Members Sandra Starnes and Tim Dobler participated as tax volunteers during last year's tax season. This is a great opportunity to give something back to the community and demonstrate our chapter's commitment to volunteerism. Please feel free to give Sandra or Tim a call if you would like further details. Contact information is on Page 13.

Please remember to bring a toy contribution to our next meeting or make a direct donation.

Shown here is AGA Board member Tim Dobler helping St. Vincent DePaul at St. Matthew Parish, Seattle, distribute food packages for Thanksgiving to 57 families in North Seattle.

Let us know what you have done so we can highlight your generosity.



Movie Review: THE ACCOUNTANT, starring Ben Affleck

By Tim Dobler

When watching movies and television programs about the adventures of police, attorneys, and doctors, I often wondered why the exciting lives of auditors and accountants are ignored. No more.

While Affleck's character, Christian Wolff, varied from a typical accountant in significant ways (he subtly encouraged a client to overstate a tax deduction, and had an arsenal of firearms ranging up to a 50 caliber machine gun), he did retain certain signature accountant traits (in an attempt to impress, he showed off his high-end pocket protector).

The movie included a scene clearly designed to educate the public on the workings of forensic auditing, where Christian Wolff and romantic interest Dana Cummings (played by Anna Kendrick) discussed accounting entries where the number arrangements indicated fraud. Personally, I think that scene could have been spiced up by at least mentioning Benford's Law by name. This will be something to look forward to in a sequel. Perhaps a shot of the Fraud Triangle could also be displayed next time.

Overall, the movie was quite entertaining. While there was a bit of violence, mostly Christian Wolff mowing down bad guys, the gore was kept to a minimum, and in the end the good guy prevailed.

So, while I don't think the auditing lesson included in the movie will qualify watching the film for 2 hours of CPE, I will recommend seeing THE ACCOUNTANT for its entertainment value and to show support for movies highlighting bad boy accountants.

ARTICLES and PHOTOS WANTED

It has been said that nothing looks better than a published article with your name on it.

In order to give our members a chance to experience that thrill, we are looking for articles to include in the SOUNDER. Please submit items for inclusion and attribution.

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

Financial Condition as of November 30, 2016

Checking	\$ 2,759.09
Savings	\$ 4,062.93
12 Month Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$ 4,653.24</u>
Total Assets	\$11,475.26
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 11,475.26</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	\$11,475.26

Cash Flow Report, as of November 30, 2016

Beginning Cash Balance		<u>\$11,664.48</u>
Lunch meals, speaker costs	\$ 71.16	
Other Events & Early Career Membership Scholarship	\$ 150.00	
Subtotal Cash Expended		<u>\$ 221.16</u>
Cash Deposits		
AGA Dues Received		
Lunch Revenue	\$ 30.00	
Interest Income	\$ 1.94	
Board Dinner Reimbursements		
Subtotal Cash Deposits		<u>\$ 31.94</u>
Net Cash Change		<u>\$ 189.22</u>
Ending Cash Balance		<u>\$11,475.26</u>

AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

Chapter Recognition Program categories	Points to Date
Section I - Chapter Leadership, Planning, & Participation	1,725
Section II - Education & Professional Development	650
Section III - Certification	0
Section IV - Communications	1,624
Section V - Membership with a Focus on Early Career and Student Members	1,825
Section VI - Accountability	0
Section VII - Community Service	0
Section VIII - Awards	100
Total as of September 2016	5,924

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.



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
2016-2017 Board Members**

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Open

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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 by Diane MaKaeli.