

THE AGA COMMUNIQUE

2024-2025 PROGRAM YEAR
WINTER



Montgomery/
Prince George's
County Chapter



A Message from the President

As we navigate a new year, 2025, and a new administration, my hope is that our chapter will reflect on the successes and lessons of the past while looking ahead with renewed purpose. The accounting and audit profession continues to evolve, and with every challenge comes an opportunity for growth, innovation, and collaboration.



Ms Toyin O Ojumu, President
AGA MPGC Chapter

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This year, the chapter has a chance to further strengthen our commitment to integrity, excellence, and service. Whether it's adopting new technologies, navigating regulatory changes, or guiding clients through financial complexities, our work remains essential to building trust and financial stability in government.

Let's continue to support one another, share knowledge, and embrace the opportunities that come our way. Together, we can make this year one of growth, resilience, and success.

Wishing you all a prosperous, fulfilling, and inspiring 2025!



Connect with us!



Member News

It's Renewal Time

All active CGFMs must renew their certification annually. At the beginning of each year, invoices will be sent to all active CGFMs. CGFMs must promptly notify AGA of any change in contact information. Annual CGFM renewal payments are due by **March 31**.



Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) is a professional certification awarded by AGA, demonstrating competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

For more information on becoming a CGFM, [click here](#).

For information on maintaining your CGFM, [click here](#).

Cheers to Our Incredible New Members! 🥂

Let's raise our glasses and celebrate the amazing new members joining us! Welcome aboard! 🎉

Cecelia A. Daniels-Harrod
Olayinka Afolabi
Aaliyah Jackson
Sharon Kirkley
John Ian Provan
Juliana Franck



Whether you've been part of the community for a decade or just a few years, we're grateful for your continued support. Your commitment makes us stronger. Here's to many more years together!

We're looking forward to the great things we'll accomplish together!



WE HELP MAKE GOVERNMENT BETTER

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Member Spotlight



Claire Fitch, Past President,
AGA MPGC Chapter

What have you been focusing on since your tenure as MPGC Chapter President?

Since concluding my tenure as MPGC Chapter President, I have concentrated on advancing my professional qualifications and certifications. Additionally, I have broadened my network and strengthened relationships with various firms and government agencies through my roles at KPMG and as the sponsorship chair and NCC representative.

What new projects or initiatives are you currently involved with?

While focusing on numerous personal projects, I have remained actively involved in the chapter as the NCC Representative and Sponsorship Chair.

How has the chapter evolved since your presidency?

Since the onset of COVID restrictions in 2020, our chapter shifted to virtual education and networking events. During my presidency, we actively worked to transition back to in-person events, ranging from educational workshops at the TFC office in Rockville, MD, to young professionals and membership networking at Top Golf in Oxon Hill, MD.

Do you have any advice for current or future leadership?

Advice for current and future leadership is to propose ideas, even if they seem too ambitious or extravagant. Sharing ideas stimulates others' thinking and fosters collaboration. Additionally, chapter members have extensive connections, so you never know what opportunities or collaborations might arise.

What challenges or opportunities do you foresee for our chapter?

I encourage members who are not currently on the chapter board to explore the various opportunities our chapter offers. If you have an idea for a great event or opportunity, please reach out to the relevant board member or sign up to assist on a committee. We are always seeking passionate individuals with innovative ideas to contribute.

Can you reflect on any achievements during your presidency that you are proud of?

One achievement I am particularly proud of is maintaining the chapter's platinum status. A significant part of the Presidency role involves motivating board members and providing resources to facilitate and execute events. I am grateful to have had a chapter board passionate about their committees and innovative in creating new community service events, expanding CGFM study groups, organizing in-person educational training sessions, and offering exciting networking opportunities. I look forward to seeing the future accomplishments of the MPGC chapter.

How do you stay connected with the AGA and chapter activities?

I stay informed about AGA and chapter activities through chapter emails and the calendar on the AGA National website. Our chapter consistently hosts a variety of events, and other chapters also offer virtual educational events on diverse topics. Additionally, AGA Nationals provides various training sessions and scholarship opportunities for members, including a scholarship to attend the AGA Professional Development Training (PDT).

What trends in government accountability should our members be aware of?

There is a significant emphasis on technology and AI in the field of government accountability. Taking training on these topics is highly beneficial for staying current.

Is there a particular event or program from your tenure that should be revisited?

I particularly enjoyed a networking event I attended during my first year in the chapter. The event, held at a brewery in Silver Spring, MD, allowed me to network with other new members and young professionals, as well as key chapter leaders. Initially, I was nervous about attending, but stepping out of my comfort zone and finding commonalities with others proved to be a great stepping stone for becoming more involved in the chapter.

What do you enjoy most about being an AGA member?

My favorite part of being an AGA member is not only accessing the vast array of resources and training but also the networking opportunities and the diverse individuals I have met. Our chapter includes a wide range of professionals, from staff accountants, auditors, and consultants to directors, partners, and CFOs. Many people overlook that AGA connects and empowers financial-related professionals supporting the government, encompassing fields like financial management, IT, human resources, cybersecurity, and more. It's incredible to witness the collective intelligence and dedication each member has towards advancing financial practices, accountability, transparency, and excellence in government.



Valuable insights. Top talent. Innovative technology. Clear vision.

KPMG proudly serves the government audit and accountability community.

visit.kpmg.us/FederalAudit

AGA Training & Events

We are excited to share some key upcoming events, networking opportunities, community service activities, and national events for the next few months. Mark your calendars and join us as we continue to build connections, enhance our professional skills, and give back to the community!



AGA MPGC Sponsored Training & Events

February 6, 2025, Leadership Insights: Navigating Changes in Government and Professional Practice
12:00 -1:30 PM ET. 1.5 CPES! Virtual webinar, [Register HERE](#)

March 5, 2025, GAO's Estimate of the Extent of Federal Fraud 12:00-1:30 PM AM ET. 4CPES!, Virtual webinar [Register HERE](#)

March 6, 2025 Beat the Bomb, Networking event, 5:00-7:00 PM ET. (Date subject to change so stay tuned!)

AGA MPGC Community Service Opportunities

February 17, 2025, TBD
Help us provide essential food supplies to those in need.

Junior achievement Finance Park- Volunteer event. [Register HERE](#). (5 slots available)

- **February 13, 2025**, 9:15-2:45 PM ET, 960 Nalley Rd, Landover, MD
- **March 17, 2025**, 8:30-1:45 PM ET, 12501 Dalewood Dr, Silverspring, MD

For questions regarding AGA MPGC events listed here, please contact us at : communityservice@marylandaga.com and dkissoon@kpmg.com

**** Please enter "AGA MPGC" in your user profile for tracking.**

Upcoming National AGA Events

NLT25

February 19-20, 2025
Washington, D.C., or virtual

Featured Speaker Announcement!



Damon Dunn
Former NFL Player
and Entrepreneur



Neelu Kaur
Organizational
Psychologist



Tom Turcich
Author

National Leadership Training (NLT), 14 CPES!

February 19-20, 2025, Learn from top government leaders and industry experts about successful leadership and management approaches in financial management, HR, IT, risk, security, audit and more.. [Register HERE](#),

[Agenda](#)

Questions? Please contact meetings@agacgfm.org.



National Webinar Training Schedule

- **January 29th, 2025, 8:00-9:00 AM ET-** Integrating Automation and AI Within Audit and Business Operations. Register [HERE](#) (1 CPE)
- **February 5th, 2025, 2:00-3:50 PM ET-** GASB Update. Register [HERE](#) (1.5 CPE)
- **March 5th, 2025, 2:00-3:50 PM ET-** ERM. Register [HERE](#) (2CPES)
- **March 26th, 2025, 2:00-3:50 PM ET-** RPA/Machine Learning. Register [HERE](#), (2CPES)

Past Event Highlights

This year has been full of impactful and memorable events. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us and made these events a success.

Stay tuned for more updates, and we can't wait to see you at our upcoming events!

Best regards,
AGA MPGC Team



Teeing Up Connections!

*MPGC AGA members hit the mark at a memorable **Topgolf night** in November 2024! The event combined two hours of golf, delicious food, and top-notch networking, creating an evening to remember.*

*A special shoutout to **Tanequa** for organizing such a fantastic gathering. Here's to more events that bring our community closer —one swing, one laugh, and one connection at a time! **Let's keep the momentum going!** 🏌️‍♂️*

Past Event Highlights

(Continued)



The International Monetary Fund hosted the remarkable "Navigating Risk Luncheon", in collaboration with the AGA MPGC Chapter, ACCA North America, and the IIA Washington DC Chapter. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the IMF, attendees, and contributors for making this event a resounding success.

*Special appreciation to **Tina Moore Gilbert of Management Leadership for Tomorrow** for her inspiring keynote presentation, and to **Toyin O., AGA MPGC President; Carol Ann Booth, President-elect AGA MPGC Chapter; Ann Ebberts, CEO of AGA; Jillian Couse, Head of ACCA North America; and Jessica Echenique, Governor and Chair of the IIA Washington DC Chapter Board**, for their engaging opening remarks.*



*The panel discussion, expertly moderated by Michael Vierheller, featured invaluable insights from panelists **Inspector General Jon T. Rymer, Inspector General Larry D. Turner, Packiaraj Murugan, and Elizabeth Sullivan**, covering risk management across diverse sectors. The event concluded with thoughtful closing remarks from **Farryn Jones, Yukari Komuro, and Julie Missimore**.*



*A huge thank you to our engaged attendees and our generous sponsors—**KPMG US, RMA & Associates LLP, TFC Consulting, Inc., Allmond & Company, LLC, Kearney & Company, and Sikich**—for their invaluable support.*



AGA MPGC January luncheon, IMF

Past Event Highlights

(Continued)



AGA MPGC January luncheon, IMF



Federal Employee Tax Compliance Responsibilities

Background

Since Congress and the public expect federal employees to demonstrate the highest degree of integrity in tax matters, all federal employees are expected to meet their tax compliance responsibilities. Tax compliance is comprised of three obligations: 1) Filing Compliance – Timely filing of all tax returns; 2) Reporting Compliance – Full and accurate reporting of all income, expenses and deductions; 3) Payment Compliance – Full payment of all taxes when due.

Things Employees Must Do

Employee tax compliance means you must meet all your tax obligations in full and on time by the April due date. You are responsible for ensuring your return is filed accurately and timely, even if someone else prepares it. To be compliant, you must do the following:

- File your tax return by the April due date. If you need additional time, you may request an extension of time to file. However, an extension of time to file does not grant additional time to pay.
- Pay any tax balance you owe in full by the April filing deadline. If you're unable to pay in full, pay what you can by the April due date to avoid or limit penalties and interest. Then consider your payment options.
- Make every effort to correctly report your tax liability. Include all required information and income sources for you and your spouse if filing a joint return.
- If after filing your return, you discover a problem that creates a tax liability, you must immediately take action to correct the issue, pay any tax you owe and respond to any correspondence from the IRS.



Federal Employee Tax Compliance Responsibilities *continued*

Avoid These Common Mistakes

- Not including income from all sources, for yourself and your spouse, if you file a joint return. This includes part-time or seasonal work, self-employment activities and sharing economy income, such as car ride services or spare bedroom rentals. Other commonly missed income types include state tax refunds, unemployment benefits, interest, dividends, gambling winnings, prizes and debt cancellations.
- Not verifying the accuracy of your tax return before filing.
- Not signing your tax return and attaching all required forms, schedules and documentation.
- Not having the proper amount of taxes withheld from your wages.

For more information, please visit, www.irs.gov

Recipe Corner

Cozy up this winter with a bowl of this delicious soup. Recipe by Marzia at www.littlespicejar.com

Moroccan SWEET POTATO LENTIL SOUP



Ingredients (for 6-8 servings):

- 1 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 cup carrots, chopped
- 1 cup onions, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 6 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
- 1 ½ cups green or brown lentils, rinsed
- 1 ½ teaspoon EACH coriander AND cumin powder
- 1 teaspoon curry powder (or more to taste)
- ½ teaspoon EACH smoked paprika, ground cinnamon, AND turmeric
- ⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 6-7 cups low sodium broth (vegetable or chicken)
- 2 ½ cups baby spinach, roughly chopped
- ¼ cup lemon juice or lemon wedges for serving

Directions:

1. Place the sweet potatoes, carrots, onions, celery, red bell pepper, garlic, lentils, spices, and 6 cups of broth into a slow cooker. Cover and cook on the low setting for 6-8 hours or on high for 4-6 hours.
2. Place half the soup into a blender along with a little additional broth (½ cup or so) and blend till smoothish. Add the puree back into the slow cooker. Stir in the baby spinach and lemon juice. Cover the slow cooker, unplug it, and allow the ingredients to just hang out for 30 minutes or so until the spinach wilts down.
3. Season with salt, pepper and curry powder to taste as desired. Thin with additional broth to desired consistency. Serve warm with whipped greek yogurt, fried pita bread, and tons of fresh herbs (parsley or cilantro) on top!

2024-25 AGA MPGC Chapter Leadership

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If interested in joining the MPGC AGA Board, contact the Chapter President for leadership opportunities.

Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability. AGA defines government accountability as a government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.

Mission Statement

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

Our Sponsors



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Think Ahead



If you are interested in becoming a 2024-2025 Sponsor, please reach out to our Sponsorship Committee.

Thanks for reading! We invite you to leave feedback about this newsletter [here](#).