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# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021



Dear AGA Members:

I am humbled to represent this storied chapter this year as we mitigate the lasting challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether in the form of adapting to revised processes and increased use of telework or addressing the prolonged insulation from others, the members of this chapter are truly an inspiration. I have had the privilege of watching our members support each other personally through sickness and professionally by absorbing additional work to

their already bulging workload.

As conditions begin to improve, I'm proud to say NOVAGA is back. We are working diligently to schedule CPE sessions across a range of subjects with the most immediate, scheduled February 18th on professional resiliency by former AGA National President, John Lynskey. Our next sessions will focus on technical guidance and insights from oversight organizations to help our members with their day-to-day responsibilities. Our Education Chair, Kevin Love, is also working diligently to coordinate the Spring Workshop. Please look for an invitation in the next few weeks to participate in the half-day session scheduled the first week in May. In addition, given the success of the recent CGFM certification training in late January, Kevin Love, Education Chair, and Kevin Shears, CGFM Chair, will coordinate and facilitate additional sessions soon.

Finally, given the personal and professional stresses we have all endured, several of our Chairs, Jacob MacDonald and Katie Labadie, are working together to offer fun-filled activities. We are looking to sponsor a ski trip this winter and then a wine tasting in the spring. Cognizant of safety concerns, we are assessing the feasibility and appropriate venues.

I look forward to these upcoming events and the opportunity to meet new friends and colleagues. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. I wish you and your loved ones a stress-free new year.

Marc Hebert  
President, 2020-2021, Northern Virginia Chapter

## CONNECT WITH US



## NOVAGA Upcoming Meetings & Events

February 2021

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

February 18, 2021

NOVAGA Chapter Meeting | Virtual | 1 CPE

Topic for this monthly meeting is Professional Resiliency; our speaker for this meeting is Former AGA National President, John Lynskey. Click [here](#) for more information; register [here](#).

### UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS AND TRAININGS

February 24-25, 2021

National Leadership Training (NLT) | Virtual | 14 CPEs

National Leadership Training (NLT) is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Keynote speakers for NLT '21 are Heather McGowan, Future-of-Work Strategist, and Chris Field, Author of *Disrupting for Good: using Passion and Persistence to Create lasting Change*. Click [here](#) to learn more/register.

March 3, 2021

Using Data and Disruptive Technology to Reduce Improper Payments | Virtual | 2 CPEs

In this webinar, participants will learn how data, machine learning, blockchain, and AI are being used to combat fraud, waste and abuse, and reduce improper payments; receive insights from government and industry leaders on technology solutions and best practices to identify/prevent improper payments; and understand the impact of the pandemic on fraud, payment migration, exception handling, and how the industry has responded. Click [here](#) to learn more/register.

March 17, 2021

Annual AGA Women's Council webinar | Virtual | 1.5 CPEs | 1.5 PDUs

In this webinar, *Resiliency: Your Mindset, Your Mission and Your Triumph*, participants will hear from an outstanding group of accomplished women to discuss resiliency in times of challenge and adversity. Speakers include Margaret person, Deputy CFO, OPM, Kim Farington, CPA, CFO, First Responder Network Authority, and Carla B. Flores, CGFM, CFO Data Analytics Lead, IRS. Click [here](#) to learn more/register.

April 8, 2021

2021 Performance Improvement Officer/Chief Financial Officer (PIO/CFO) Summit | Virtual | 4 CPEs

Join the hundreds of PIOs, CFOs and other government officials, managers and analysts who attend the PIO/CFO Summit each year to discuss the policies that impact and call for greater collaboration between the federal financial management, evidence and performance communities. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

April 21, 2021

CARES Act: Implementing, Monitoring, and Reporting | Virtual | 2 CPEs

In this webinar, participants will receive a bird's eye view and insights from government leaders, subject matter experts, and advisory experts working with the CARES Act on a daily basis. Click [here](#) to learn more/register.

See AGA's website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events.aspx> for additional trainings and events.

## NOVAGA Past Meetings & Events

### CGFM® Study Group Session

The NOVAGA Chapter held its first virtual CGFM® Study Group January 28, 2021. Twelve members earned 2.5 CPEs by attending the webinar and received instruction from current CGFM®s Robert Reigle and Kevin Shers, CGFM® Chair, on material from Examination One, *Governmental Environment*.

Examination One covers the following topics:

- ◆ Government Organization, Structure and Authority
- ◆ Legally-Based Implications of the Government Financial Environment
- ◆ Understanding of the Government Management System (Cycle)
- ◆ Governmental Financing Process
- ◆ Public Accountability Concepts, Definitions and Notions
- ◆ Understanding of Ethics as Applied to the Government Environment
- ◆ Understanding of Providing Government Services and Information Electronically

*Look for more CGFM® study groups in the coming months!*



Our Chapter Website is Getting a Make-Over! Check back often to see the new format and updates.

## New NOVAGA Members

We are excited to welcome new members to the Northern Virginia Chapter; these new members joined our chapter since the last newsletter (Winter 2020).

<b>February 2020</b>			
Jane Nesca Christine Daoud John Shiffer Frederick Dzekashu Mark Ireland John Charters Brian Shingler Michael Josephson	Grace Burberry-Martin Immanuel Sarfo Amy Nguyen Theresa Tran Ha Quan Carmine Gatto Clyde Delos Santos He Zhaohui	Emily Morken Kate Browning Nelson Alvarado Hunter Evans Krista Rosenblatt Carrington Brox Jermicka Evans Kara Dileo	John Keller Esther Kim Sadaf Huque Olu Adebo Brian Klisshis Nancy Failsa Gary Summers Dana Stanley
<b>March 2020</b>			
Ruth Everiss Ruth George Dawn Coulter Chen Fang	Colby Dawson Clyde Willis Noah Mazur Leigh Searight	Patrice Netus Tatyana Nosenko Peter Peters Emma Thompson	Milka Julmice Robert Durand Keidy Ramos Ngoc-Dieu Nguyen
<b>September 2020</b>			
Jennifer Adamson Mehmet Akarsu Felicity Akenten Greg Archambault Paola Barrera Bola Boasmanboon Maxwell Boland Brendan Bowers Karim Camara Bruce Corfield Donna Culbertson Leonard Cutajar Bailey Fallon Branco Garcia	Jason Guintu Jeff Harrison Rashad Hassan Jeremiah Hathorn Jackie Henderson Donald Holzinger Aniqa Iqbal Allen Jones Michael Kabia Niki Lizarraga Laura McGill Kristene McMinn Takiylia Middleton	Andrea Minter Hojatullah Mojadidi Carol Nguyen Alexander Novelliere Ume Onwuka Thomas Palafox Thomas Parrotta Yvette Solange Petrescu Jacob Phillips Nicole Pounds David Primmer Alexander Ries Mary Rzepka	April Sherman Ryan Slamka Cladie Spears D Christine Tompkins Kira Traudt Brandon Tubby Angelina Vogel Sharain Ward Kimberly Warren Maryclare Warren Joshua Williams Kristy Williams Nicholas Zappola
<b>October 2020</b>			
Nicohle Williams Khadijah Bellamy Jermaine Wilcox Carrie Jones	Elisabeth Pabst Jeffrey Rashap Marcel Migliore	Ahmad Fahad Khawaja Nicole Vorst Ronald Mckillip	Linda Quade Miranda Pannell Robert Shea
<b>December 2020</b>			
Mitzi Mead Michael Crain Andrea Lolagne Kevin Clark Samantha Taitt Thomas Mahalek	James Davila James Baker Andrew Hong Lydia Gizdavic Matthew Chung	Matthew Reeder Wei Min Liu Daniel Black Jeffrey Lovelace Bridget Tolan	Aaron Allgeyer Zack Mayo Miracle Hempel Tyler Parker Thomas Harker
<b>January 2021</b>			
Lauren Sipple Anna Elias Erika McCormick Pamela Crockett Lisa Mitchell Brian Rozental Raymond Franco	Danielle Norris-Calderon Carl Biggs Hannah Major Brooke Angel Markley Francine Vonakis Adelaide Feukam-Reid Steven Gorski	Laura Glass Nancy Israel Jennifer Lee Alejandro Lloreda Laura Long Laura Murphy Priya Mhatre	Dakota Morris Anitra Morrison Farqan Sahi Mai Shintani Patricia Thomas Janet Tran Teresa Rios-Pyon



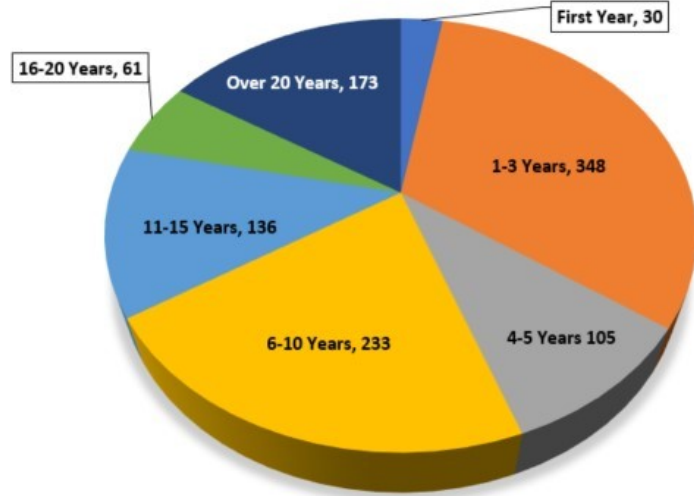
## NOVAGA Membership Anniversaries

### ***DID YOU KNOW ...***

Of AGA’s 96 chapters across the U.S. and Mexico, the Northern Virginia Chapter membership is one of the largest chapters with a membership that spans many years.

Below we recognize and congratulate our chapter members on their milestone anniversaries as of January 2021.

**Thank you for your continued support!**



#### **Lifetime Members** **(40+ Years)**

David Bieritz	Jack Fawsett
Dennis Black	Edward Gillen
Charles Cipolla	Laura Koschny

#### **30 Years**

Gene Dodaro

#### **25 Years**

Mary Braun  
Milton Hatcher  
Vickie McCray

#### **15 Years**

Jacqueline Lynch  
Catherine Nocera

#### **10 Years**

Richard Armstrong	Troy Dewitt	Steven March
Helen Bae	Viny Frontin	Kristina Morden
Kathleen Bienick	Bora Kim	Christie Pugnetti

#### **5 Years**

Zachary Coho	Kimberly Hancy	Jose Saavedra
Cindy Fleming	James Richards	Ali Yousefi
Samantha Hafner		

#### **1 Year**

Nelson Alvarado	Hunter Evans	Emily Morken	John Shiffer
Kate Browning	Priscila Funes	Dana Omo	Brian Shingler
Carrington Brox	Marshall Henry	Wynston Reed	Kirat Singh
William Buchanan	Mark Ireland	Shirelle Ripetta	Steven Sullivan
Frederick Dzekashu	Aqsa Janjuah	Alexis Sather	Gary Summers
Erik Eckerson	Harrisa Korkoya		

## New CGFM® Certifications

### Certified Government Financial Manager®

The CGFM® demonstrates competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. The CGFM® is unique because it not only encompasses a specialized focus on government financial management, but it also has broad coverage of various aspects of financial management at all levels of government.



We recognize and applaud our chapter members who have obtained their CGFM® certification since the last publication of the chapter's newsletter.

Sara K. Specht, December 2019  
 John Ord Bargerstock, Jr., December 2019  
 Jennifer Kotey, January 2020  
 Muhammad A. Ahmed, January 2020  
 William S. Willer, January 2020  
 Donald Holzinger, February 2020  
 Bashar A. Chowdhury, February 2020  
 Daniel M. Milos, April 2020  
 Jonathan T. Dunn, June 2020  
 Davisson Han, July 2020  
 Shannethia A. Jackson, July 2020  
 John M. Keller, August 2020  
 Robert E. Garcia, August 2020  
 Mark B. Stehmer, August 2020  
 Younes Zahr, September 2020  
 Lukas L. O'Donnell, September 2020  
 Nicholas G. Skenderis, October 2020  
 Heather L. Dixey, December 2020



Practice questions are a good study tool but may not totally predict your exam performance. Do your best to learn everything you can about the CGFM® [subject areas](#) (click for more information).



## Practical Solutions for Complex Challenges

Focused on the Federal Government, Kearney & Company partners with clients to build innovative, integrated, and compliant solutions that endure. Whether audit, enterprise risk management, Green Book, financial statements, workforce development, or ERP, we use a full suite of data analytics and emerging technologies to deliver success.



[www.kearneyco.com](http://www.kearneyco.com)

## Other NOVAGA Chapter News

### It's Award Season!

The NOVAGA chapter sponsors three awards to recognize public and private individuals for their exemplary work in the field of federal financial management. If you work with or know someone who should be recognized for their outstanding leadership in government financial management, consider nominating them for a NOVAGA chapter award (self nominations are welcome). Forward your nominations to our Award Chair, Raymond Urias at [ruriasrivera@kpmg.com](mailto:ruriasrivera@kpmg.com). The award categories are detailed below.

#### Jeffery Steinhoff Award for Excellence in Federal Financial Management

In 2003 the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA instituted the Jeffery Steinhoff Award to formally recognize federal professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards and innovative management procedures. The award recognizes the cumulative achievements of federal professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards. Nominees must be employed by the federal government, however, do not have to be members of AGA.

First Recipient: Jeffery Steinhoff, GAO

2019 Recipient: Thomas Harker, U.S. Navy

#### Federal Financial Partnership Award

In 2003 the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA instituted the Federal Financial partnership Award to formally recognize private sector individuals who exemplify and promote excellent through outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, innovative management procedures and partnering with the Federal Government. The award recognizes the cumulative achievement of private sector professionals who throughout their career have served as a role model for others and who have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards. Nominees must be employed by the private sector, however do not have to be members of AGA.

First Recipient: John. H. Hummel, KPMG

2019 Recipient: Mike Frederickson, RMA Associates

#### The Pentagon Memorial Service Award

The award was established in 2002 in memory of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon. The award formally recognizes public service to our nation in the field of financial management. The award recognizes dedication and commitment to improved government operations, financial stewardship and accountability through public service to our nation. Nominees must be a civil servant (federal employee) or a member of the Armed Forces, however, nominees do not have to be members of AGA.

First Recipient: LTC Christopher Keefer, U.S. Air Force

2019 Recipient: Shawn Sparks

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### Attention Chapter Members!

If you have any pictures taken at any NOVAGA events (virtual or in-person) or have information that should be included in the next edition of the newsletter, please email them to the Newsletter Editors (Naomi Martinez, Editor, at [naomimartinez@kpmg.com](mailto:naomimartinez@kpmg.com), or Sonia Kessler at [skessler@cottoncpa.com](mailto:skessler@cottoncpa.com)).





## Other NOVAGA Chapter News

### Additional CPE Opportunities!



#### ABOUT NOVAGA

The Northern Virginia AGA Chapter is a not-for-profit organization consisting of and serving our Government accountants and auditors. One of NOVAGA's objectives is to promote and grow our industry through professional development, continuing education, and networking opportunities.

#### BECOME A MEMBER

Click [here](#) to sign up and be a member of the Northern Virginia AGA Chapter.

The Northern Virginia Association of Government Accountants (NOVAGA) is teaming with Becker Professional Education to provide our members with **unlimited Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for \$50.00!**

#### WHAT NOVAGA'S OFFERING

- Unlimited access to Becker's OnDemand CPE course catalog
- Earn all your required CPE on your own time, without the hassle of commuting and changing your daily schedules
- Nearly 1,000 hours of CPE through hundreds of courses and webcasts
- Twice the amount of Federal Government-related courses than other online CPE providers  
A \$399 value for only \$50 (flat fee) for one year!

#### BENEFITS OF BECKER



##### Relevant Topics

Addressing issues critical to today's accounting professionals



##### Integrated tools to maximize learning

Concise, interactive and accessible anywhere, anytime



##### Expert Instructors

Translating concepts into real-world examples



##### Learning formats that fit busy lifestyles

On demand and webcast formats compatible with demanding schedules

#### REGISTRATION

For registration\* and more information, please email: Katie Labadie at [k.labadie@rmafed.com](mailto:k.labadie@rmafed.com) or Katrina Samiley at [k.samiley2@rmafed.com](mailto:k.samiley2@rmafed.com)

*\*Registration starts now. Subscription begins January 2020*

## NOVAGA Corporate Sponsors

Thank you to our corporate sponsors for supporting our chapter and members during the 2020-2021 program year. Through your continued support, we can continue to offer the Becker CPE program at a discounted rate, chapter meetings, and CGFM® study groups.

For information in becoming a corporate sponsor for the 2020-2021 program year, please contact our Corporate Sponsor Chair (Neda Haghighat at [n.haghighat@ma.com](mailto:n.haghighat@ma.com)).

### PLATINUM

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### SILVER

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### BRONZE

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## NOVAGA Chapter Board Members

### OFFICERS

President	Marc Hebert	m.hebert@rmafed.com
President-Elect	Justin Lang	j.lang@rmafed.com
Immediate Past President	Mike Fredrickson	m.fredrickson@rmafed.com
Regional Vice President	Christine Turner	Christine.turner@pcs.hhs.gov
Secretary/Historian	Sonia Kessler	skessler@cottoncpa.com
Treasurer	Tariq Mojadidi	t.mojadidi@rmafed.com
Assistant Treasurer	Reza Mahbod	r.mahbod@rmafed.com

### COMMITTEES

Accountability/Outreach	Brian Grega, Chair	bgrega@kpmg.com
Awards	Raymond Urias, Chair	ruriasrivera@kpmg.com
CGFM®	Kevin Shers, Chair	kshers@bdo.com
Chapter Recognition	Vacant Chair Robin McCoy	Robin.McCoy@dodig.mil
Community Services	Fatima Zoury, Co-Chair April Leonard, Co-Chair	Fatima.zoury@morganfranklin.com aleonard@bdo.com
Corporate Sponsorship	Neda Haghighat, Chair Samrawit Yohannes	n.haghighat@rma.com s.yohannees@rma.com
Education	James Gould, Chair Kevin Love	jgould@kpmg.com klove@kpmg.com
Programs	Matt Menchi, Chair	mmenchi@cottoncpa.com
Membership	Jacob MacDonald, Chair Christopher Choi Xiaolei Wang April Leonard Irfan Satriadhi	Jacob.Macdonald@ey.com christopherchoi@kpmg.com xwang1@kpmg.com Aleonard@bdo.com isatriadhi@kpmg.com
Early Careers	Jacob MacDonald, Chair Kris Samiley Gonzales Xiaolei Wang	Jacob.Macdonald@ey.com k.samiley@rmafed.com xwang1@kpmg.com
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*If you are interested in serving on the NOVAGA Chapter Board, contact one of our officers above.*

## Contact Us

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (NOVAGA) is an association with almost 1,100 members from the federal, state, local, public and private practices, with a mission statement to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

We would love to hear from you! Feel free to email one of our board members directly, connect with us on social media, or check out our home page at <http://www.novaga.org>.

