



Message from the President



This month I would like to talk about Membership! Not just in AGA but in our Phoenix Chapter! But first I would like to tell you what AGA Membership has meant to me. I graduated from California State University in Hayward, California in the early 1970's. I applied for and was selected as by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) – Internal Audit Agency in San Francisco.

Shortly before I started work, I was asked if I would consider relocating to the Las Angeles Office and was told by Regional Director (Herb Witt) that if I did not like LA he would relocate me back to SF, no questions asked. When I got to LA my Branch Manager, and still to this day my Best Friend (Sefton Boyars), introduced me to the AGA and I became active in the Chapter. I had the privilege of meeting and getting to know many people in the AGA Chapter that became my friends and who I admired for their professionalism.

A couple of years later the Federal Government decided to breakup HEW into various separate agencies and close the LA Branch and we were all looking for a job. I received a call one day from an individual (Al Clavelli) that had just been selected as the Regional Audit Manager for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation's (DOT) Internal Audit Office in San Francisco and asked if I would consider relocating back to San Francisco. Al told me that the reason he called me was because of the people he knew and respected in the AGA recommended me! So, I moved back to SF and joined the AGA San Francisco Chapter. Again, I had the privilege of meeting and getting to know many people in the AGA Chapter that became my friends and who I admired for their professionalism. A few years later, all the internal audit offices (FHWA, FAA, UMTA, USCG, etc.) within DOT became the DOT Office of Inspector General and I was promoted to be one of the three Deputy Regional Directors.

One day our Administrative Assistant came into my office and said that there was someone on the phone that wanted to talk with me, but they did not want to give her their name. At that time in my career, I was primarily responsible for all audits of the Coast Guard, which was part of DOT. I was also responsible for overseeing all the Whistle Blower Complaints and directing them to the other Deputies who were responsible for the various component agencies of DOT. I took the call and a gentleman asked if I would be willing to come over to the Holiday Inn and talk to him and another individual about a private matter.

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Thinking it was a Complaint, I agreed and walked over and knocked on the room door. It turned out to be the brand-new Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and they recruited me to be their Western District Inspector General for Audits and Investigations. They advised me that I was highly recommended by a member of the AGA. I spent the rest of my career in that job until I retired in 1995!

The point of my story is, as I like to say, I only applied for one job in my life. All the other opportunities that I had came from my Membership in AGA and my participation in the various Chapters to which I have belonged. So, now for the commercial – I would like to encourage each of you to not just be a Member of the Phoenix Chapter but to get involved in any way you can in our future. We are always looking for new talent. In fact, we are in the process of updating our Bylaws and reevaluating our Committees. We need to have a Membership Committee and we can always use your help. I know we are all busy with our family, job, and life but I can tell you from experience my journey with AGA and its Chapter has been the most rewarding of all the efforts I have made. And who knows one day you can write a message for the Chapter stating what AGA has meant to you and your career!

Sincerely,

Charles W. Hester, President

AGA Phoenix Chapter



Photo credit: issafly on VisualHunt

AGA Phoenix Chapter Executive Board Program Year 2022-2023

PURPOSE: Consists of chapter officers, past president, committee chairs, and other members appointed by the chapter president. Responsible for all chapter business and planning.

OFFICERS:

President	Charles W. Hester Sr., CGFM, CPA, CFE
Past President	Jordan Dale, CGFM
Vice President	Amber Loyce Hill, CGFM
Secretary	Joshua Jumper, CGFM
Treasurer	Michal-Anne Miller, CGFM, CPA

ADDRESS: AGA Phoenix Chapter, PO Box 64911
Phoenix, AZ 85082-4911

EMAIL: contact@agaphoenix.org

Our Purpose

Mission Statement

AGA Phoenix Chapter serves Arizona professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality, low-cost continuing education, promoting professional development and interaction among members, and fostering a commitment to community involvement as well as a sense of responsibility for advancing government accountability.

Vision

AGA Phoenix Chapter actively creates an avenue for membership to share ideas with each other, to share knowledge and time with the community, and to promote the advancement of government standards and accountability within the profession.

We'd Love Your Input!

Please remember to send in any articles of interest, including any that you may have written on the subjects of management, accounting, or auditing. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

In addition, please send us any special announcements in relation to promotions, marriages, births, anniversaries, certifications achieved, or any other significant event for any of our chapter members. Any article submitted by the second week of the month will be included in the next month's newsletter.

Please email your news for forthcoming newsletters to:

contact@agaphoenix.org



Goals for 2022-2023 and Beyond

• Membership & Education:

- Provide 40 education credits throughout the program year. Audio conferences and live speakers.
- Reach out to new members within first month of membership.
- Reach out to all non-renewing members in May/June.
- Provide social/recruiting event in spring.
- Send out survey to members annually.
- Provide student members the option to attend three meetings for free.

• Accountability:

- Prepare chapter's Citizen Centric Report (CCR) by September 30, 2021 and post to website.
- Submit chapter's CCR to AGA's Certificate of Excellence Review Program.

• CGFM Goals:

- Continue reimbursements for chapter members who pass all three sessions of the CGFM tests. Reimbursement includes the cost of the three exams and application fee.
- Communicate and promote CGFM designation to Chapter members.
- Provide CGFM study guides to members on a first come first serve basis. Purchase two new sets this year.
- Seek State proclamation for March as CGFM month and provide recognition to CGFM members.

• Young Professionals:

- Reach out to college accounting clubs to present about jobs in governmental accounting and discuss what AGA is and how it can impact students' careers.
- Annually award up to two scholarships for students enrolled in an Accounting, Finance or Public Administration curriculum.

2021 & 2022 Budget and Spend through 6/30			
Budget Category	'21 Spent	'22 Budget	'22 Spent
Education	\$10,157.41	\$15,109	\$8,780.32
Membership	\$1,225	\$1,250	\$1,185
Travel	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,075
Board Expenses	\$0	\$100	\$0
Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
CGFM	\$0	\$1,000	\$445
Com. Service	\$250	\$500	\$0
Early Career	\$0	\$250	\$0
Audit	\$150	\$150	\$150
Misc.	\$223	\$200	\$257.20
Total	\$13,505.41	\$21,059.00	\$11,892.52

PY 2022-2023 Committee Members:

Accountability

- Kimberly Prendergast, CGFM

CGFM/Professional Certification

- Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM, CPA
- Jordan Dale, CGFM

Communications Committee

- Jordan Dale, CGFM (Webmaster)
- Myrna Lopez, CGFM, CPA (Newsletter)

Community Service

- Paola A. Julio De Matson

Education

- Keith Orr, GFM
- Michael Baumert, CPA
- Robert Hardwood, CPA

Membership

- Vacant

NCC Representative

- Kelly Alkhoury, CGFM

Programs

- Daniela Kunova
- Michelle Huckabay, CGFM, CPA

Scholarships

- Kelly Alkhoury, CGFM

Young Professionals

- Getzamany Aragon
- Joshua Jumper, CGFM

Events & Reminders

Upcoming Events:

- AGA National will be offering the following events/webinars:
 - **27th Annual AGA Commonwealth of Virginia Professional Development Training on December 8 & 9, 2022 (8am – 5pm EST)**, up to 16 CPEs
 - Enjoy the comradery, networking, and fellowship as we are back in person at the Great Wolf Lodge, or you can attend virtually. Earn up to 16 CPEs, including an opportunity to fulfill the annual ethics required of CPAs in VA. Registration opening soon!
 - **National Leadership Training on February 22-23, 2023**, 14 CPEs
 - For a full description and to find out more, click [here](#).

Reminders:

- **Mentoring Program**
 - We all have a responsibility to leave this world better than we found it and to have a positive impact on the next generation of government leaders. Mentoring is important, not only because of the knowledge and skills young professionals can learn from mentors, but also because mentoring provides professional socialization and personal support. For a full description and to find out more, click [here](#).
- **Why hire a CGFM?**
 - The Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) credential exemplifies experience and proficiency, distinguishing individuals who have made a significant commitment to their professional development. For more information on how to become a CGFM click [here](#).



CGFM Study Resources Available:

For AGA members interested in taking the CGFM please contact our CGFM chair at cgfm@agaphoenix.org for more information. Currently there is 3 complete set of materials available for check out.

Also, successful CGFM candidates, who are members, can apply for reimbursement of the application and examination costs.

Contact our CGFM chair for step by step instructions on the CGFM process: contact@agaphoenix.org.

Education & Meeting Plan - 2022-2023 Program Year

Date	Event Type/Times	Topic	CPE Credit	Registration Deadline	Location
9/28/2022	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 11:00am-12:50pm	Communications	2	9/23/2022	Virtual
10/19/2022	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 11:00am-12:50pm	Internal Controls	2	10/14/2022	Virtual
11/2/2022	Chapter Meeting (Live) Meeting: 11:00am-12:50pm	TBD	2	10/28/2022	Virtual
12/14/2022	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 12:00pm-1:50pm	Risk Management	2	12/19/2022	Virtual
1/11/2023	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 12:00pm-1:50pm	Uniform Guidance and Grant Accounting	2	1/6/2023	Virtual
1/27/2023	Special Event* Class: 8:30am-12:00 pm	Professional Ethics for AZ CPAs	4	1/22/2023	Virtual
2/1/2023	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 12:00pm-1:50pm	GASB Update	2	1/27/2023	Virtual
2/24/2023	Chapter Meeting (Live) Lunch: 11:30am-12:00pm Meeting: 12:00pm-3:50pm	Tax & Retirement Updates: ASRS, Nationwide Deferred Comp, IRS, AZDOR	4	2/20/2023	ASU SkySong 3 130 Synergy 1 1365 N. Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Education & Meeting Plan - 2022-2023 Program Year					
Date	Event Type/Times	Topic	CPE Credit	Registration Deadline	Location
3/1/2023	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 12:00pm-1:50pm	RPI/AI	2	2/24/2023	Virtual
3/22/2023	Chapter Meeting (Live) Lunch: 10:30am-11:00am Meeting: 11:00am-12:50pm	Live Speaker TBD	2	3/17/2023	Virtual
4/12/2023	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 11:00am-12:50pm	Ethics	2	4/7/2023	Virtual
4/26/2023	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 11:00am-12:50pm	CARES Act/ARPA	2	4/21/2023	Virtual
4/28/2023	Special Event*/ Professional Development Training 8:00am - 4:30pm	Professional Development Training	8	4/24/2023	ASU SkySong 3 130 Synergy I 1365 N. Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
5/10/2023	Chapter Meeting (Audio) Meeting: 11:00am-12:50pm	Fraud/Data Analytics	2	5/5/2023	Virtual
5/24/2023	Chapter Meeting (Live) Lunch: 10:30am-11:00am Meeting 11:00am-12:50pm	TBD	2	5/19/2023	Virtual
		Total Program Year CPEs	40		

* These events are not monthly chapter meetings and will be at an additional cost. Details will be provided in future newsletters and/or on the Calendar of Events page on our website

(<http://www.agaphoenix.org/events/>).



Check out AGA's Free Toolkits & Guides:

- Sub-recipient vs. Contractor Checklist
- Blended and Braided Funding
- Leveraging Government Resources in Challenging Financial Times
- Risk Assessment Monitoring Toolkit
- Cooperative Audit Resolution and Oversight Initiative
- Fraud Prevention Toolkit
- Candidate Assessment Toolkit for Grant Managers
- How Federal, State and Non-Profit Collaboration Improved Efficiencies in Delinquent Debt Collection
- Citizen Centric Report: How To

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Tools-Resources/Intergov/Home.aspx>

Membership Referral Program

Did you know that you can gain \$50 if you get two individuals who are not currently members to join our chapter? All you have to do is have them put your name down on the sponsor section of the membership form.

It is always nice to have new faces become members to our growing organization!

Board Members Wanted

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee and to be on the Board, please contact AGA at the following e-mail: contact@agaphoenix.org



Photo credit: cleber on Visualhunt.com

We Are Always Looking for People Interested in Joining Our Organization

NOTE: Excerpts and links below are from AGA's national website at www.agacgfm.org.

What is AGA?

Briefly, AGA has been serving the government financial management profession for over 50 years. As a not-for-profit educational organization, AGA serves the professional interests of financial managers from the local, state and the federal governments, as well as public accounting firms, responsible for effectively using billions of dollars and other monetary resources everyday. Members are accountants, auditors, contract, financial and performance, budget analysts, chief financial officers, information systems managers, finance directors, inspectors

general, professors, students. Membership in AGA is like tapping into a reservoir of actual real-world knowledge and experience of government financial management experts.

Benefits of Joining

If you asked a member which of the benefits they value the most, they probably would say education and networking, which often occur at the same time and place. Here are some of our members' favorites: Continuing Professional Education and Networking Opportunities Keep Up-to-Date on Current Issues Keep Abreast of the Latest Technologies and Financial Systems Professional Guidance and Certification

How Can You Join?

Click the links below to access the Membership Application and to find out membership types and dues.



Click

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Learn-About-AGA/Join-or-Renew.aspx>

to complete the online AGA Membership Application.

****Did an AGA member inspire you to join? Don't forget to enter your AGA Sponsor's Name and Member ID on the application****