

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE!

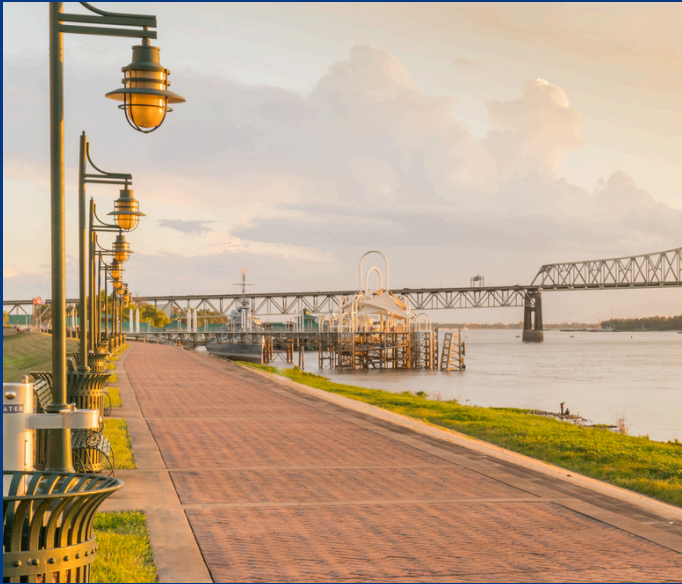
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Baton Rouge
Chapter

MAY 2024



Welcome to the AGA Baton Rouge Newsletter, your premier source for staying connected and informed in the dynamic realm of government financial management!

AGA is the association that connects and empowers professionals who support government, from financial management to IT, human resources, cybersecurity and more, to advance good government initiatives, grow their expertise and accelerate their careers!



Student Membership Opportunities: Join AGA for *FREE* as a Full-Time Student! (PG. 11)



UPCOMING WEBINARS & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES! (PG. 13)



A Message from The Chapter President

Dear AGA Baton Rouge Chapter Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As we continue on our path of revitalizing our chapter in 2024, I am excited to share some updates and highlights from the past month.

April Recap:

Revive Event: We kicked off our chapter revival with an enjoyable Crawfish Boil event. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, engaging in lively conversations, playing games, and fostering connections. The event truly embodied the spirit of camaraderie and community that we aim to nurture within our chapter.

Student Networking: Engaging with students has been a priority for us, and we're pleased to have initiated meaningful interactions with the future leaders in our field. These networking opportunities are crucial for supporting and preparing the next generation of professionals in government financial management.

Upcoming Activities:

As we move forward, we have an exciting lineup of events and initiatives planned for the coming months:

- **Webinars** – Stay tuned for announcements about our upcoming sessions.
- **Social events** – Look forward to a variety of social networking events designed to foster connections and build relationships within our community, including collaborative events with the New Orleans Chapter.
- **PDT24!** – We hope to see you in Denver, Colorado July 14 – 17.
 - **Earn up to 24 of NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits.** Increase your overall body of knowledge and improve your job effectiveness through new skills and techniques.
 - **Stay on the cutting edge.** Top-notch speakers from federal, state, and local government, academia, and the private sector will keep you on top of your game with key information and educational experiences.
 - **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.

Engage and Participate:

We encourage all members to actively participate in our chapter activities. Your involvement and feedback are vital as we shape a vibrant and thriving community that supports the professional growth and success of all its members. Share your ideas, join our events, and let's continue to build on the momentum we've created.

Wishing each of you a prosperous and fulfilling month ahead, filled with opportunities for growth, connection, and achievement.

Warm regards,

Miranda Maten

President, AGA Baton Rouge Chapter

02/18

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AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



Tiffani Dorsa, CPA

Immediate Past Chapter President

Tiffani Dorsa, CPA, is the Immediate Past Chapter President for AGA Baton Rouge, bringing over 18 years of experience to her role. She specializes in working with not-for-profit and governmental industries, particularly entities receiving federal and state assistance. Tiffani is highly familiar with governmental auditing standards, OMB Circular A-133 (Single Audit requirements), and state regulations pertaining to quasi-public entities.



Jordan Sandwisch

Treasurer

Jordan Sandwisch is a seasoned professional in the world of finance and auditing, currently serving as the Manager of Audit Assurance at EisnerAmper. With a strong background in accounting and a sharp eye for detail, Jordan brings extensive expertise to his role. Holding a CPA credential, he demonstrates a commitment to excellence in his field. Jordan is known for his meticulous approach to financial analysis and his ability to provide valuable insights to clients. His dedication to ensuring accuracy and compliance makes him a trusted advisor in the realm of audit assurance. Outside of his professional endeavors, Jordan enjoys staying active in his community and pursuing personal interests.

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AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



Barbara Aguilar **Secretary**

Serving as the Budget Director for the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) for the past eight years, Barbara has garnered extensive experience in navigating the intricate landscape of governmental budgets. At the heart of Barbara's professional philosophy is a commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. She is driven by a desire to create easier, more effective ways of accomplishing tasks and overcoming challenges. By fostering a culture of innovation and embracing technology, she strives to empower her team and enhance organizational effectiveness. Currently serving as the Interim Deputy Undersecretary, Barbara remains steadfast in her dedication to driving positive change and optimizing performance within the department.



Ramona Harris **Director of Education**

State Employee for 22 years where she has worked in finance the majority of the time for various State Agencies. She is currently employed at the Louisiana Department of Health-Office of Public Health Laboratory serving as the Manager over Business Operations. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management from *Upper Iowa University* and a MBA from *Louisiana State University-Shreveport*. In addition to her degrees, she also is a Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Graduate of the *Leadership Development Institute*, Graduate of the *Visionary Leadership Academy*, and served the past 2 years as a Mentor for the *OPH Mentorship Academy*. Outside of work she serves on the Financial Council for Junior League of Baton Rouge, for which she has been a member since 2018.

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AGA Baton Rouge Chapter: 2024 Board Members



Sarah Wade

Awards & Scholarship Chair

Sarah Wade is a dynamic and driven budget analyst with 5 years of state government experience in accounting and budgeting. Her expertise is in budget analysis from departments such as education and transportation. Sarah received her accounting degree from *Southern University* in 2018 and her MBA from *Grand Canyon University* in 2021. Outside of her professional endeavors, Sarah enjoys volunteering. She volunteers with Advance. Grow. Accelerate (AGA) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). She started volunteering with AGA in 2016 and Vita in 2020. Helping people achieve their goals and grow is what she loves to do.



Danette Delome

Director of Community Service

Danette Delome, Director of Community Service, has over 20 years of experience in accounting (13 years in the private sector and 7 years in the public sector). Has a Bachelor of Science Accounting degree and is currently working on obtaining her Master's of Science Accounting.



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Celebrating Excellence at the **LSU** Department of Accounting Awards Banquet!

**We honored the achievements of our outstanding students,
faculty, and supporters in the accounting community!**

- *Awarded Over \$55,000 in Scholarships*
- *Recognized Academic Excellence in Bachelor's,
Master's, and Doctoral Programs*
- *Honored Faculty for Research Advancements*

CONGRATULATIONS
HAILEY HAIRFORD


06/18

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AGA BATON ROUGE CRAWFISH BOIL



Chapter President,
Miranda Maten,
keeping the guests
entertained!

Recap:



Playing a game of
Accounting Bingo!


The AGA Baton Rouge crawfish boil was an absolute blast! We gathered together with a shared goal of reviving AGA and spent the day immersed in meaningful conversations about our plans for the future. Amidst the lively atmosphere, there was ample opportunity for socializing and networking, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie.

Of course, the highlight of the event was the delicious crawfish served with authentic Louisiana trimmings like turkey necks, neckbones, corn, and potatoes. The flavors transported us to the heart of Louisiana cuisine, adding to the overall enjoyment of the day. Plus, we had a blast with accounting Bingo!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who joined us, making the event truly unforgettable.



Congratulations to
our game winners!



What's a Crawfish Boil
without the Louisiana
staple trimmings?



Crawfish

07/18

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**We extend our heartfelt thanks
to our sponsors for their
generous support of this event!**



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Jason Jones: (225)–573–9816

What's a crawfish boil without the master behind the pot? **Jason Jones, who turned our event into a flavorful feast!** From his spot at **12197 Greenwell Springs Road in Baton Rouge, LA**, Jason orchestrated a boil that had everyone's taste buds dancing.

Not only did Jason serve up plump, juicy crawfish, but he also whipped up a symphony of trimmings—corn and potatoes—that left mouths watering and stomachs satisfied. **And here's the kicker: he managed to convert crawfish skeptics into die-hard fans, as even those who had never dared to indulge before couldn't resist his delicious concoctions.**

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JOIN THE BATON ROUGE AGA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP BOARD!

Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community? Here's your chance! The Baton Rouge Chapter is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Leadership Board. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student seeking valuable internship experience, we welcome you to be part of our dynamic team.

Several positions available (with more not listed):

- **ACE Reporting:** Ensure accurate financial reporting and transparency.
- **Membership Committee:** Engage with our members, build connections, and enhance our community.
- **President-Elect:** Take a leading role in shaping the future of our chapter.
- **Event Coordinator:** Plan and execute exciting events that bring our community together.

Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Internship Opportunities:** College students, gain practical experience and boost your resume.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.



www.agacgfm.org



JOIN US



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, EMAIL US AT BATONROUGEAGA@GMAIL.COM

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CGFM®

Certification



What is a CGFM?

The CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) credential, awarded by AGA, showcases expertise in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across different government levels.

It's a respected certification that highlights specialized knowledge and experience essential for effective government financial management. CGFM opens doors to new career prospects and sets you apart as a distinguished professional in the field.

CGFM Certification Benefits:

1. Enhanced marketability across government sectors.
2. Networking opportunities with fellow government financial managers.
3. Boosted confidence in your role.
4. Potential for employer incentives like raises, promotions, and bonuses.
5. Increased value as an employee, both in reality and perception.
6. Support for ongoing education to stay updated with the latest developments and technologies.

Use this link to learn more about CGFM memberships!

www.agacgfm.org

How Do I Become a CGFM?

1. Fill out an online application and agree to AGA's Code of Ethics.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
3. Pass three CGFM examinations.
4. Gain at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.



For any additional questions, please contact the Office of Professional Certification:

800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931) or cgfm@agacgfm.org

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Baton Rouge
Chapter

Student Membership Opportunities



Why AGA?

Considering a career in government financial management? Want to meet government professionals in the federal, state, or local government levels?

Join AGA for FREE! Student membership in AGA provides you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections and discover your future career while positively impacting your community and country.

**APPLY
NOW**



Scholarships

Academic
scholarships, National
Collegiate Leadership
Scholarship,
Government Finance
Case Challenge,
Datathon



Career Coaching & Professional Community

Mentoring Programs
& Local Chapters



Tools & Resources

'Accountability Talks'
Podcast & Guest
Speakers



Visit Our Website to Learn More!

www.agacgfm.org



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ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS



Discover '**Accountability Talks**,' a podcast delving into the government accountability community. Hear from thought leaders, gain career insights, and join our vibrant community!

[Click here to listen!](#)

About the Host



Meet **Paul Marshall, CPA, CGFM, CIA, CICA, PMP, VP at MIL Corporation and dedicated AGA member with 20+ years in government accountability.** He champions best practices in audits, financial reporting, and more, serving on AGA boards at local and national levels.

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Upcoming Webinars & Events

You Do Not Want to Miss Out!

SAVE THE DATE



Discover a pathway to professional excellence with AGA's exclusive professional development sessions, designed to elevate your skills and knowledge from March through June 2024. Delve into one-hour virtual presentations crafted around AGA's acclaimed "Professional Polish in the Public Sector" course, curated to empower CGFMs like you. Led by the renowned expert Kimberly Jones, these webinars promise insightful strategies and practical insights to enhance your capabilities and succeed in the dynamic realm of government financial management. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and propel your career forward – join us for these enriching sessions!

Discovering Possibilities: Denver Professional Development Training (PDT) 2024



Denver Professional Development Training (PDT)

Sunday through Wednesday, July 14-17, 2024

Join AGA's 2024 Professional Development Training on July 14-17 in Denver for three and a half days of insights from top government financial management professionals and industry experts. With over 3,000 attendees, this event offers educational sessions to enhance leadership, improve performance in cost-constrained environments, and address shared challenges. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and network with peers!

Three Reasons You Should Attend:

- **Earn up to 24 NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits.** Increase your overall body of knowledge and improve your job effectiveness through new skills and techniques.
- **Stay on the cutting edge.** Top-notch speakers from federal, state, and local government, academia, and the private sector will keep you on top of your game with key information and educational experiences.
- **Network and connect.** Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues who face similar issues. Exchange ideas to bring back to your organization and build the profession.

REGISTRATION

**AGA's Premier
Training & Networking Event**
July 14-17, 2024 | Denver
24 CPEs

Registration & Fees:
**Early Bird Deadline -
June 14, 2024**

	Online	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

Click Here to Register Now!
Join AGA Now to Save
\$200!

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In-Person 2024 ERM Workshop

Thursday, June 6, 2024

8:30 AM. – 3:45 PM ET

5.5 CPEs | \$160 per Person

This in-person ERM workshop offers practical insights from ERM leaders through presentations and facilitated table discussions. Participants move from academic discussions to practical "how-to" explanations and examples, benefiting from small groups for hands-on work and Q&A opportunities.

[Click Here to Review the Agenda!](#)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



Webinar: FY2024 CEAR Preparer Training

Thursday, June 20, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM ET
2 CPEs | Free for AGA Members

Join us on June 20 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM ET for an informative session on preparing an award-winning Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) or Agency Financial Report (AFR). Earn 2 CPEs in Governmental Accounting while learning from experts **Diane Dudley**, CGFM, CPA, AGA CEAR Lead Reviewer; **Ann Ebberts**, CEO, AGA; and **Andrew Lewis**, CGFM, CPA, PMP, AGA CEAR Chair. This overview-level training will cover updated FY2024 guidance and best practices for clear, comprehensive program and financial reporting. No prerequisites or preparation are required. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your reporting skills and stay current with the latest guidelines.

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

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Hooray!

How to Find "Happy"

Monday, June 24, 2024

2:00 PM-3:00 PM ET

\$30 per Person

A captivating webinar led by Kimberly Jones, designed to guide you through moments when happiness feels elusive. Join us for an entertaining journey filled with humor, personal stories, and practical step-by-step instructions that will help you gain a fresh perspective on both your personal and professional lives. Discover valuable insights and strategies to make finding your 'happy' easier and more achievable. This session promises to uplift and inspire, offering tools to navigate challenges with positivity and embrace joy in all aspects of life. Don't miss this opportunity to embark on a journey towards a happier and more fulfilling existence!

[Register Here!](#)

Important Details:

- **Registration and payment:** Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 2 days before the class start date. Space is limited. Payment is required by credit card at the time of registration. POs are not accepted.
- **Cancellation deadline:** The cancellation deadline for each session is 2 days before the start date. If the registrant does not attend the presentation, AGA will not issue credit toward any future training.
- **Login instructions and connectivity:** All sessions will be taught via Zoom. Upon registration, participants will receive a separate email with Zoom link information.
- **CPE credit:** During the opening remarks of each presentation, AGA will explain how you can receive your CPE certificate. In compliance with NASBA, AGA employs an attendance monitoring system. You **MUST** be able to view the PowerPoint slides on a device to verify your attendance.

CPE Information

Program level: Basic

Delivery method: Group internet-based (virtual)

Course prerequisite: None

Advance prep: None

CPE credit: 1 (per session)

Field of study: Personal Development

Learning Objectives:

- Increase your personal and professional confidence.
- Learn to let go of the past, center yourself and find happiness from within
- Recognize the importance of making and implementing a success plan to achieve your goals.
- Learn that criticism is often a form of love that can help you grow personally and professionally.

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Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

Save the Date for AGA's future Professional Development Training (PDT) events!



Denver, Colorado

July 14-17, 2024

**Sheraton Denver
Downtown Hotel**



Nashville, Tennessee

July 27-30, 2025

Gaylord Opryland Hotel



Dallas, Texas

July 26-29, 2026

Gaylord Texan Hotel



Chicago, Illinois

July 18-21, 2027

Hyatt Regency Chicago

AGA's Premier Training & Networking Event

July 14-17, 2024 | Denver
24 CPEs

Registration & Fees:

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Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

Register Now!

Join AGA Now to Save \$200!



Happy Father's Day to all our wonderful AGA Baton Rouge members who are celebrating this special day! Your love, strength, and dedication as fathers are truly inspiring, and we hope your day is filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with your loved ones.

To those among us who may be grieving the loss of a father, or who find Father's Day difficult for any reason, please know that you are not alone. We understand that this day can bring a mix of emotions, and we want you to know that we are here to offer our support and understanding. May you find comfort in the memories you hold dear and in the love that surrounds you from friends and family. ***You are valued and cherished members of our community, and we are here for you, today and always.***