



# Tallahassee Chapter

Report to Our Members  
Program Year 2013-2014

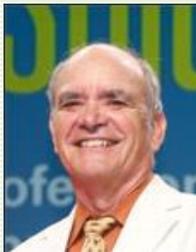


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### 2015 National President

William D. Miller, CGFM, CPA



### 2014 National President

Mary E. Peterman, CGFM, CPA



## About AGA

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) was founded in 1950. AGA's mission is **to foster learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing governmental accountability.** AGA is organized into 15 regions, has over 100 chapters, and more than 15,000 members. AGA's membership is made up of federal, state, local and tribal entities, with members representing private, non-profit and academic sectors.

## Who We Are

The Tallahassee Chapter (located in Tallahassee, Florida) received its charter in 2001. We are a part of the Gulf Region along with nine other chapters. Chapters within the Gulf Region are located in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. We attempt to leverage our collective efforts to effectively share educational events and chapter management initiatives. Our chapter's diverse membership, representing government and the private sector employees, provides a networking link that successfully serves the governmental financial and audit communities in their quest in *advancing government accountability.*

## What We Do

We support the Association's Core Values -- **Service, Accountability, Integrity and Leadership.** To help foster these values, we actively promote the Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) certification. The CGFM offers government financial professionals a recognized credential. Members having the CGFM offer a broad range of government financial management knowledge and skill sets to their respective governmental employers.

# What Are We Doing

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## Strategic Goals:

Provide members with quality programs, products and services

Provide continuing education to meet the changing needs of the government accountability profession

Provide opportunities for members to serve the chapter and gain leadership experience

To promote AGA's CGFM program

To promote community service

To increase membership

## Significant Accomplishments

Education

Community Service

Developing Future Leaders

Our chapter has nearly 240 members, primarily from the state and local government sector. Our monthly chapter luncheon meetings, web conferences, and annual governmental accounting conferences offer opportunities for members and nonmembers to network with other government accountability professionals. Whether at the local or national level, our members are able to leverage their networking opportunities to better learn from each other regarding ways to offer a best-in-class financial service to our ultimate stakeholders—the taxpayer. We promote government accountability at all levels of government. We are participating in a new initiative called **Citizen-Centric Reporting**—a simple four page document for the government entity to inform their citizens about the services provided and the challenges to be met.

## Education

We have eight monthly meetings and host eight web conferences through the AGA national office. We offer an annual two-day governmental accounting conference each year for members and nonmembers. The annual conference offers timely and relevant training and helps our attendees obtain Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to maintain their professional certifications. Our attention to quality allows us to attract significant participation for these events—providing value to our members and other attendees as well as to our members' employers.

## Community Service

Our chapter has been active in assisting the Ronald McDonald House, elders in the community, assisting veterans, WFSU public radio, as well as other deserving charities and causes.

Our efforts focus on 'giving back' so that others may have opportunities otherwise not available. Our community service efforts have made a difference in our community, giving hope to those who receive the service.



Elder Elf Project

## Developing Future Leaders

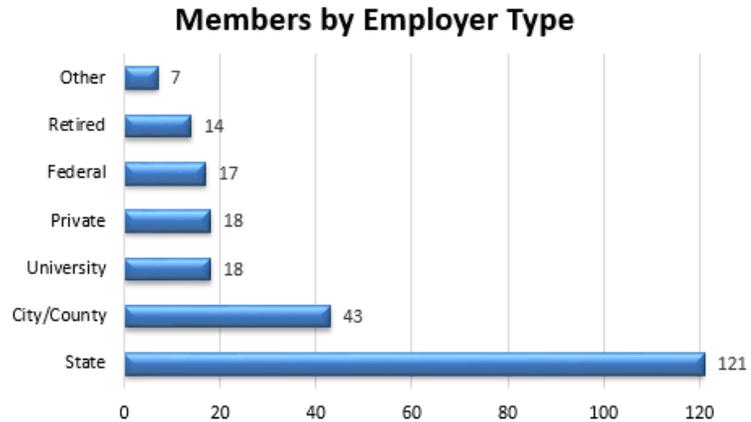
We take pride in the leadership opportunities our chapter provides. We focus on leadership opportunities in our annual conference in an effort to empower members to step up and be responsible for some portion of the conference. Their successes and experiences in these endeavors better prepare them to seek out leadership opportunities not only within our chapter, but also in their careers. The chapter offers cash scholarships to students on the basis of the candidate's potential for making a meaningful contribution to public financial management and the candidate's involvement in the community, offering two \$500 scholarships.



# Members, Accomplishments & Financial Strength

## Members

Our chapter's membership has grown significantly over recent years, with a membership of 230+. Located in Florida's capitol city, Tallahassee is also the center of Leon County government and home to two public universities plus a large community college. Because of this, there is a strong government sector representation in our membership. Currently, government related employers account for 84% of our members.



## Recent Chapter Accomplishments

Each year the chapter sponsors a **Professional Development Conference (PDC)**, the most recent conference was another major success. Over 200 registrants attended the two day training event, held in Tallahassee at the Florida State University Conference Center. Featured speakers presented relevant and interesting information which qualified attendees for up to 14 CPE hours. Evaluations from conference attendees were very positive and will assist the chapter in making still more improvements on future conferences. The next PDC is already being planned!

In total, the chapter sponsored training events that offered **48 CPE hours**. Based on membership, the Tallahassee Chapter is in the top 15 of all AGA affiliates.

## Financial Strength

The Tallahassee Chapter continues to have strong chapter administration/leadership and reliable individuals to perform core tasks. We have surplus funds from past operations, largely due to margins on recent PDCs and the past CGFM review courses. The chapter seeks ways to spend the funds to best benefit members and the local community.

Our financial statements and supporting records are reviewed annually by an independent professional whose report is then approved by our Chapter Executive Committee before being forwarded to the national offices of the AGA.

### Comparative Revenues & Expenses

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Conference	45,105	42,560
Luncheon Meetings	3,495	3,100
Web Conferences	960	1,120
National Dues	1,091	1,197
CGFM Training	-	13,206
Other	285	855
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,936</b>	<b>62,038</b>

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Conference	27,565	35,023
Luncheon Meetings	7,553	6,536
Web Conferences	2,149	1,965
CGFM Training	-	19,885
Other	9,454	8,109
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,721</b>	<b>71,518</b>



# Future Challenges

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**Challenges Moving Forward—What’s Next? Future Issues?** In today’s fast paced business environment, it’s difficult to keep up with the latest issues and changes within the government accountability profession. Additionally, the lagging economy continues to increase the emphasis placed on downsizing, staffing cuts and doing more with less. AGA provides some assistance by ensuring programs and educational events continue to provide the latest information on changes in government fiscal policy, procedures, and reporting requirements.

**Grow our Chapter—Recruiting and Retention.** As members face retirement, it becomes more critical for our chapter to enhance and develop programs and services to attract young professionals to our organization. We strive to communicate with current and prospective members to inform them of the benefits of chapter membership. To reach out to young professionals, we provide scholarships to senior students about to enter the work force, and provide networking opportunities with organizations with the local universities.

**Expand Educational Support—Members and CGFMs.** With increased budget concerns at all levels of government, it is more important for our chapter to identify and provide timely, relevant and economical training opportunities. This is the central reason for our chapter’s existence and extensive efforts are made to ensure quality programs and communications with members and nonmembers. We encourage and support individuals seeking or recently receiving the CGFM certification, communicating the value of the certification as well providing as review courses for CGFM examination preparation.

**Foster Citizen Understanding of Government Accountability and Performance.** The chapter must take a heightened role in promoting Citizen-Centric Reporting to local governmental entities. The chapter must establish subject matter experts to ensure the success of this important initiative.

**Other Challenges include:**

- Finding innovative ways to communicate with and recruit young professionals.
- Finding innovative ways to attract members to serve as an officer and complete the progression through all the positions.
- Helping members overcome reluctance about becoming more involved with the operations and governance of the chapter. The fewer the people who become involved in chapter administration, the greater number of tasks and responsibilities that fall on a smaller group of individuals.

**Hard work and dedication** have made the Tallahassee Chapter a success. AGA National has recognized this by bestowing numerous awards to our chapter during past PDCs at the national level. This includes the coveted *Platinum Award*, a mark of highest chapter achievement, which our chapter has earned in each year that it has been offered.

Our challenge continues to focus on maintaining and increasing membership and training opportunities despite financial cuts and encouraging members to become more involved in the chapter’s bright future.

<b>Chapter Officers Program Year 2014-2015</b>	
<b>Chapter Office</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Cheryl Ward, CGFM
President-Elect	Patrick Cowen
Secretary	Millicent Burns
Treasurer	Charlotte Jackson
Treasurer-Elect	Lu’Quanda Colston
Past-President	Carolyn McGriff, CGFM

A complete listing of all chapter officer and directors can be found at [www.tallahasseeaga.org/cec.html](http://www.tallahasseeaga.org/cec.html).

We value your input and would like to hear from you. Did you like this report? How could we improve it? Please provide your comments and suggestions to one of your chapter officers. Their contact information is on our website at [www.tallahasseeaga.org](http://www.tallahasseeaga.org).