



# A REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS

## Member-Centric Report

*The sign of a healthy democracy is transparency*



## About Us

### 2016 - 2017

**About Us - The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a non-profit organization, which supports the professional development of financial professionals at all government levels.**

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Since its charter in 1973, the Baton Rouge Chapter of the AGA has worked 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. The Baton Rouge Chapter currently has over 115 active members representing federal, state, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, academicians, and financial directors in Louisiana and serves as part of the national AGA network of 14,000 members from 100 chapters across the United States and worldwide.

The Baton Rouge Chapter strives to carry out the national strategic goals. The chapter brings together professionals to exchange information at monthly educational luncheons or dinners, provides quality education by hosting two annual conferences, and fosters professional development and certification by offering scholarships and leadership opportunities. The chapter gives back to the community by participating in several charity events and providing endowments and scholarship awards to universities in southern Louisiana for local accounting students.

Through education, research, publications, certification and conferences, AGA reaches thousands of professionals and offers more than 100,000 continuing professional education hours annually. AGA has been instrumental in developing accounting and auditing standards and in generating new concepts for the effective organization and administration of financial management functions, including the passage of the Inspector General Act of 1978 and the Chief Financial Officer's Act of 1990.

## Accomplishments

**Quality Education** – We provided 40 hours of continuing professional education credits through monthly luncheons or dinners on the third Thursday of the month at various locations, along with a two-day fall conference and spring conference. These two conferences provided continuing professional education to a combined 225 attendees.



**Community Service** – We participated in several community service projects during the program year. In August 2016, we raised \$401

during the Great Flood of 2016 in which the proceeds were donated to an elderly couple to help with the cleanup of their home after the flood. We participated in the Capital Area Heart Walk at LSU and raised \$310 in donations, collected 124 pounds of food to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and toiletries to the St. Vincent De Paul shelter, donated over 30 Toys for Tots Christmas project, and participated in the Court Appointed Special Advocates playhouse raffle (CASA).



We raised funds to provide scholarships to candidates pursuing a degree in the accounting profession. We awarded (2) scholarships to local accounting students who received the Joseph H Burris scholarship (\$1,000) and the William M. Burch scholarship (\$750). We have existing endowments set up at five local universities: Louisiana State University (LSU), Southeastern Louisiana University (SE), University of Louisiana Lafayette (ULL), Nicholls State University, and University of New Orleans (UNO).

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## Challenges



**Certification** -The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification is becoming more recognized and numbers obtaining the certification are increasing. Our challenge is to develop programs to show the value of the CGFM and further encourage certification. One of our incentives to promote the CGFM certification is to recognize the achievements of current members who have successfully passed the exam by featuring their

accomplishments in the newsletter. At our October Student Night Business Meeting, we had the opportunity to honor Julien Renthrope, CPA, CGMA, CFE, CGFM, CGFO, (guest speaker) with a cake for his accomplishments and contribution to the CGFM certification.

**Sponsorship** – The ability to foster and promote continuing education that is relevant to our participants have been a challenge due to lack of funds and state budget cuts. The training conferences is the chapter's largest education event of the year; therefore, our goal is to create a Sponsorship Chair. Our ability to recruit new sponsors will enable the chapter to afford engaging speakers and attract new membership, especially the young professionals.

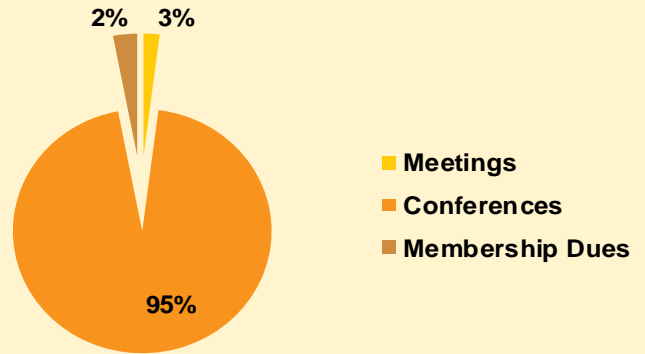
## Chapter Finances



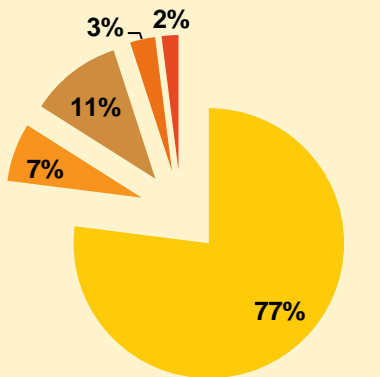
### Sources of Funds

Of the \$41,800 received (revenue), 98 percent consists of conference registration/sponsorships and meeting fees from attendees.

Top Revenue Sources	Amount
Conferences	\$39,806
Meetings	\$1,680



### Uses of Funds



Top Expenses	Amount
Conferences	\$35,942
Meetings	\$3,167
Scholarships/Endowments	\$1,805

Of the \$46,826 spent (expenses), 87 percent is made up of conference and meeting costs and scholarships.

**Financial Summary** – Our cash spent exceeded our cash received this year by \$5,026. This is due to an increase in conference costs as well as professional development cost of \$5,017. The chapter's cash available and certificate of deposit total \$21,915.

An Internal Inspection of the chapter's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2017 was made by a Certified Public Accountant who is not a member of the Chapter Executive Committee on December 17, 2017. This inspection did not reveal any substantial changes that should be made to the financial statements. These financial statements can be found on our website listed at the top.

## Building for the Future...



Addressing the challenges on page 2 will be a priority.



**Certification** – We are encouraging members to become candidates for the CGFM exam by promoting the value of certification, providing programs to help them prepare, and providing membership incentive of \$100 to help pay for their exam costs after passing the exam.

**Sponsorship** – Currently, the position of Sponsorship Chair is vacant, but we have created a plan that will be implemented in the upcoming year. We are recruiting volunteers to take an active role as a CEC member to help make a positive impact on our local community.



### YOUR THOUGHTS?



We value your input  
and want to hear from  
you.

Do you like this report?

How can we improve it?

Please share your  
comments by contacting  
our Chapter Accountability  
Outreach Coordinator at  
[accountability@aga-br.org](mailto:accountability@aga-br.org).