

# A REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS 2017 - 2018

## Member-Centric Report

*The sign of a healthy democracy is transparency*



## About Us

### Table of Contents

2017 -2018

<b>About Us</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Accomplishments and Challenges</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter Finances</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Building for the Future</b>	<b>4</b>



Since its charter in 1973, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Baton Rouge Chapter has worked to serve professionals in the government financial management community and has been recognized as a Platinum Chapter, the highest level awarded by AGA. The Chapter strives to provide quality education, foster professional development and certification, and supports standards and research to advance government accountability. The Baton Rouge Chapter currently has over 100 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 works diligently to carry out the national strategic goals. The chapter brings together professionals by hosting two annual professional development training conferences that provides appropriate, relevant, and timely education. The chapter fosters professional development and certification and supports emerging standards and research to advance government accountability. The chapter gives back to the community by participating in local charity events and providing endowments and scholarship awards to universities in southern Louisiana for local students majoring in finance and accounting.

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 by hosting two professional development training conferences (Fall and Spring), which offered 33 CPE hours of continuing professional education to a combined 180 attendees, along with two business meetings and the promotion of the AGA National webinars, which offered the remaining 7.0 CPE hours needed by our members.

**Community Service** – We participated in several community service projects during the program year.



The Chapter collected 124 pounds of food to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, donated 12 Easter baskets, toiletries, and received \$50 cash contributions to the St. Vincent De Paul shelter, as well as donated over 25 toys to Toys for Tots during the holidays. In addition, we participated in the Capital Area Heart Walk at Louisiana State University (LSU) and raised \$1,000 in donations.



**Scholarships** - We raised funds to provide scholarships to candidates pursuing a degree in the finance and accounting profession and we

have existing endowments set up at five local universities: Louisiana State University (LSU), Southeastern University (SE), Nicholls State University, University of Louisiana Lafayette (ULL), and University of New Orleans (UNO).



This year six (6) students were awarded endowments from the following universities: (2) Louisiana State University (LSU), (3) Nicholls State University, and (1) Southeastern University. Unfortunately, we did not have any recipients of the Joseph H Burris scholarship (\$1,000) and the William M. Burch scholarship (\$750), which we award annually.

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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. The chapter currently promotes the CGFM certification by recognizing the achievements of current members who have successfully passed the exam by featuring their accomplishments in the newsletter. In recognition of CGFM month, we request

proclamations from State and local governments to recognize the CGFMs designation; and we reimburse any member \$100 who passes the CGFM examination.

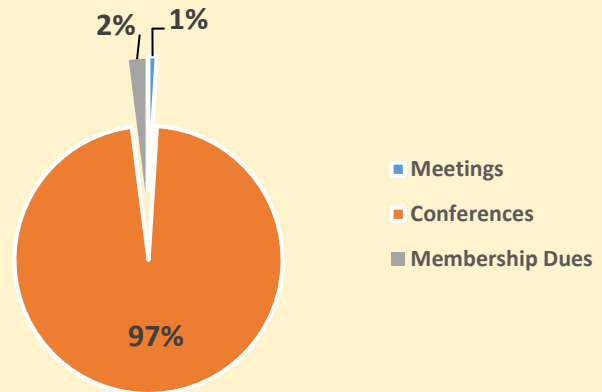
**Sponsorship** – The ability to foster and promote continuing education that is relevant to our participants has been a challenge due to lack of funds and state budget cuts. The training conferences is the chapter's largest education event of the year; therefore, our goal is to obtain at least three (3) new sponsors for the new program year. Our ability to recruit new sponsors will enable the chapter to afford engaging speakers and attract new membership, especially the young professionals.

# Chapter Finances

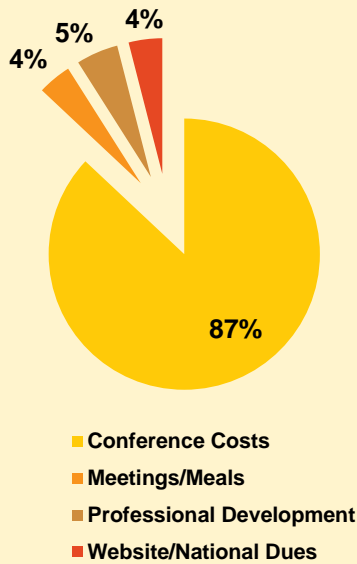
## Sources of Funds

The Chapter received a total of \$39,463 during the fiscal year, 97 percent consists of conference registration/sponsorships and meeting fees from attendees.

Top Revenue Sources	Amount
Conferences	\$38,120
Membership Dues	\$790



## Uses of Funds



Top Expenses	Amount
Conferences	\$39,435
Professional Development	\$2,339
Meetings/Meals	\$2,012

The Chapter used \$45,229 of its available resources during the fiscal year; 92 percent is made up of conference and professional development costs.

**Financial Summary** – Our cash spent exceeded our cash received this year by \$5,766. This is due to change in venue and low attendance at both the Fall and Spring Conferences. The Chapter's cash available and certificate of deposit total \$16,149 as of June 30, 2018.

## Building for the Future...



*Addressing the challenges on page 2 will be a priority.*

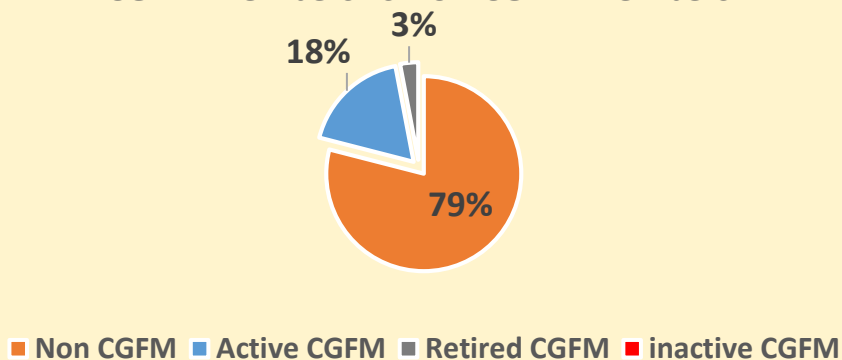


**Certification** – We are encouraging members to become candidates for the CGFM exam by promoting the value of certification and providing programs to help them prepare.

**Sponsorship** –The new position of Sponsorship Chair is currently filled and we have gained one (1) new sponsor for the upcoming program year. Our continued goal is to develop corporate sponsorship to increase our working capital and to benefit from the involvement of our corporate sponsors' professionals.

**Membership** - The ability to maintain and recruit new members is crucial to the success of the Chapter. Our goal is to create new incentives that would increase membership participation and promote new membership growth.

CGFM Members vs Non-CGFM Members



### 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 [carissa.wesley@la.gov](mailto:carissa.wesley@la.gov).**

