

## A REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS

# Member-Centric Report

*The sign of a healthy democracy is transparency*



## About Us

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2018 -2019

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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 provide 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.

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## Accomplishments

**Quality Education** – We provided 40 hours of continuing professional education credits by hosting two professional development training conferences (Fall and Spring), which offered 32 CPE hours of continuing professional education to a combined 213 attendees, along with the promotion of the AGA National webinars, which offered the remaining 8 CPE hours needed by our members.



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

We volunteered with the Capital Area CASA Association, donated 187 pounds of non-perishable food to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, donated school supplies at mid-year to Park Elementary, and donated over 36 new toys to Toys for Tots during the holidays.



The Chapter also visited Sterling Place Nursing Home and distributed 100 holiday gift bags,

In addition, we participated in the Capital Area Heart Walk, and raised \$1000 in donations, and feed over 100 homeless people in the downtown Baton Rouge area.

**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 we had six recipients, (5) students were awarded endowments from the following universities: (2) Louisiana State University (LSU), (3) Nicholls State University. We had (1) recipient from Southeastern University receive the William M. Burch scholarship (\$750), which we award annually.



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## Challenges



**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 CGFM's designation; and we reimburse any member \$100 who passes the CGFM examination. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification is becoming more recognized and members obtaining the certification are increasing. Our challenge is to develop programs to show the value of the CGFM and further encourage certification.

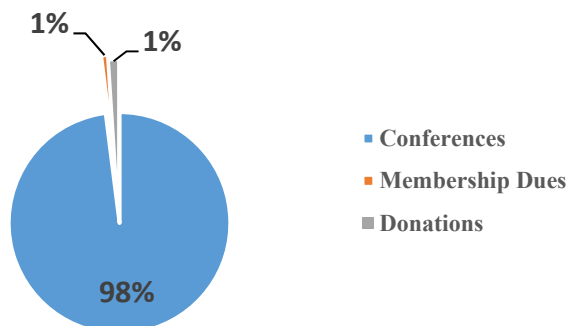
Our goal is to promote the CGFM by igniting the young professionals and college students to study and take the examination.

**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. Because the training conferences are the chapter's largest education event of the year, our goal is to obtain 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 young professionals.

## Chapter Finances

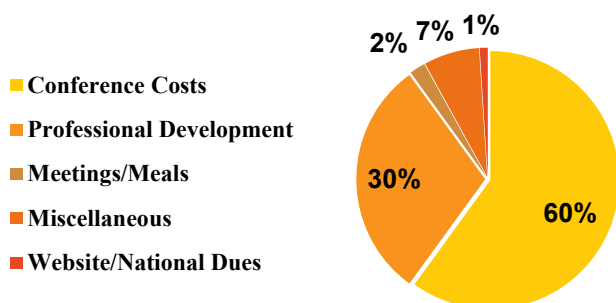
### Sources of Funds

The Chapter received a total of \$51,717 during the fiscal year, 98 percent consists of conference registration/sponsorships and meeting fees from attendees.



Top Revenue Sources	Amount
Conferences	\$50,782
Membership Dues	\$630

### Uses of Funds



Top Expenses	Amount
Conferences	\$30,122
Professional Development	\$15,276
Meetings/Meals	\$940

The Chapter used \$50,302 of its available resources during the fiscal year, 90 percent is made up of conference and professional development costs.

**Financial Summary** – Our cash received exceeded our cash spent this year by \$1,415. This is due to an increase in attendance at both the Fall and Spring Conferences. The Chapter's available cash and certificate of deposit total \$17,563.

An Internal Inspection of the chapter's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2019 was made by an Auditor who is not a member of the Chapter Executive Committee on September 27, 2019. This inspection did not reveal any material matters that should be made to the financial statements. These financial statements can be found on our website listed below.



The Baton Rouge Chapter has 105 members, which includes state, local, federal, retired, private sector, students, and educators.

Employer Types	2019	2018	2017
State Government	68	60	57
City Government	13	13	22
Private	12	11	11
Retired-Not Working	4	7	7
County Government	3	2	4
Federal Government	3	2	3
Academic-Educator	1	3	6
Non Profit	1	1	0
Student	0	1	3
Other	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>117</b>

## Building for the Future....

WHAT'S NEXT?

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

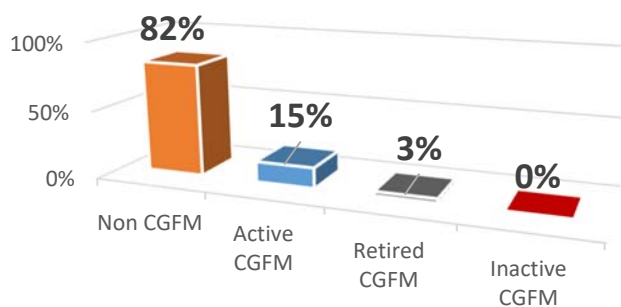


**Certification** – We are encouraging members to become candidates for the CGFM exam by promoting the value of certification and providing programs to help them prepare.

**Sponsorship** – Our continued goal is to develop corporate sponsorship to increase our working capital and to benefit from the involvement of our corporate sponsors' professionals. We have set an objective to obtain (3) new sponsors for the new program year.

**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



■ Non CGFM ■ Active CGFM ■ Retired CGFM ■ Inactive CGFM

### Contact Us:

<https://www.facebook.com/AGABatonRouge/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-of-government-accountants-baton-rouge-chapter/>

### —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).**



*Feed the Homeless Campaign  
Downtown Baton Rouge*



*President Lesha Woods, accepts  
AGA Platinum Level - Chapter  
Recognition Award*