



# A Report To Our Members

## Member Centric Report 2016-2017



### About the Association of Government Accountants

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) was founded on September 14, 1950 as the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA). In 1975, the Association expanded to include state and local government finance professionals. At that time, the organization’s name was changed to the Association of Government Accountants. Today, the AGA has over 100 chapters across the United States and other countries, and has over 15,000 members worldwide.

### About the AGA – Chicago Chapter

The AGA – Chicago chapter was chartered in May 1953, making it one of AGA’s oldest chapters, and has a long and proud history. The 2016-2017 chapter year was the Chicago chapter’s 63<sup>rd</sup> chapter year. To find out more on the chapter’s rich history, please see the chapter website at [www.agachicago.org](http://www.agachicago.org).

### Selected Chapter Demographics

| AGA – Chicago Chapter            | 2015-2016<br>Members (% of Total) | 2016-2017<br>Members (% of Total) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Total Members</b>             | 121 (100.0%)                      | 105 (100.0%)                      |
| <b>Membership Type:</b>          |                                   |                                   |
| • Full Member                    | 80 (66.1%)                        | 63 (60.0%)                        |
| • Private                        | 14 (11.6%)                        | 14 (13.3%)                        |
| • Retired                        | 11 (9.1%)                         | 9 (8.6%)                          |
| • Lifetime                       | 7 (5.8%)                          | 7 (6.7%)                          |
| • Early Career                   | 6 (5.0%)                          | 8 (7.6%)                          |
| • Student                        | 3 (2.5%)                          | 4 (3.8%)                          |
| <b>Hold CGFM Certification</b>   | 49 (40.5%)                        | 44 (41.9%)                        |
| <b>Employer Type:</b>            |                                   |                                   |
| • Federal Government             | 63 (52.1%)                        | 43 (41.0%)                        |
| • Private Sector                 | 15 (12.4%)                        | 14 (13.3%)                        |
| • State/County/Municipal Gov.    | 9 (7.4%)                          | 20 (19.0%)                        |
| • Student and Academia           | 5 (4.1%)                          | 10 (9.5%)                         |
| • Other or Not Provided          | 29 (24.0%)                        | 18 (17.1%)                        |
| <b>Education Level Obtained:</b> |                                   |                                   |
| • Bachelor’s Degree              | 62 (51.2%)                        | 52 (49.5%)                        |
| • Master’s Degree or Higher      | 48 (39.7%)                        | 46 (43.8%)                        |
| • Other or Not Provided          | 11 (9.1%)                         | 7 (6.7%)                          |
| <b>Gender:</b>                   |                                   |                                   |
| • Male                           | 66 (54.5%)                        | 56 (53.3%)                        |
| • Female                         | 55 (45.5%)                        | 49 (46.7%)                        |

### Chapter Strategic Objectives:

- Provide low-cost, quality professional education to our members
- Give back to the community
- Advance government accountability

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### Mission

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

### Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.

### Core Values (SAIL)

AGA’s core values are Service, Accountability, Integrity and Leadership.



# How We Have Progressed

## Chapter Year 2016-2017



### Accomplishments

- Achieved platinum level for chapter recognition program.
- Earned AGA's 2017 Chapter Education and Chapter Service awards.
- Created a chapter Member-Centric Report and earned a Certificate of Excellence for its overall content, visual appeal, and chapter information.
- Gave back to community through a food drive, volunteering at a senior citizens center, and participating in the VITA and Center for Economic Progress tax assistance programs.
- Updated the chapter's social media accounts on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Maintained accreditation as a CPE sponsor from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.
- Awarded a scholarship to a local college student.
- Advertised chapter and AGA by obtaining and staffing an exhibition table at the Institute of Internal Auditors Northwest Metro Chicago chapter fraud conference.
- Obtained a new sponsor for the chapter's PDT.
- Sent two chapter members to the AGA Sectional Leadership Meeting in Baltimore, MD.
- Sponsored three chapter members who attended the 2017 AGA National PDT in Boston, MA.

**During 2016-2017**, the Chicago chapter provided 27 hours of continuing professional education to hundreds of participants throughout the Chicagoland area. The chapter held educational events throughout the year at various locations in downtown Chicago. The training consisted of different formats, such as live speakers and webinars, and covered a wide variety of topics from government accounting, auditing, and internal controls, to fraud and investigations, ethics, collaboration and other people skills. The chapter advertised its continuing education seminars, conferences, networking events, and other activities to both members and non-members in the government accountability community. Events were announced in the monthly chapter newsletter and posted to the chapter website. Additionally, events were also advertised through e-mail messages. The chapter newsletter was distributed to all chapter members, previous attendees from chapter conferences, and other selected AGA chapters.

Additionally, the chapter gave back to the community via community service events such as a food drive, volunteer work at a local senior citizens center, and participation in both the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Center for Economic Progress tax assistance programs. To promote the chapter and AGA, the chapter reserved an exhibition table at the Institute of Internal Auditors Northwest Metro Chicago Chapter's Fraud Conference. At this event, chapter members shared personal stories of their experience being members of AGA, as well as distributed AGA National and Chicago chapter brochures and CGFM information to attendees. To foster the chapter's relationships with future accounting professionals, the chapter held a scholarship competition for college students pursuing their Bachelors or Master's degree in accounting or related studies, and awarded a scholarship to an outstanding college student.

### Selected Accomplishments

| <i>Number of Registrants for our Annual Professional Development Training (PDT)</i> |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>2015-2016</b>  | <b>2016-2017</b> |
| 76  | 71               |

| <i>Number of Chapter Events Held</i> |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>2015-2016</b>                     | <b>2016-2017</b> |
| 8                                    | 7                |

| <i>Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Hours Offered</i> |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>2015-2016</b>   | <b>2016-2017</b> |
| 26   | 27               |

| <i>Number of Members who Checked out a CGFM Study Guide</i> |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>2015-2016</b>  | <b>2016-2017</b> |
| 5   | 5                |



# Our Finances

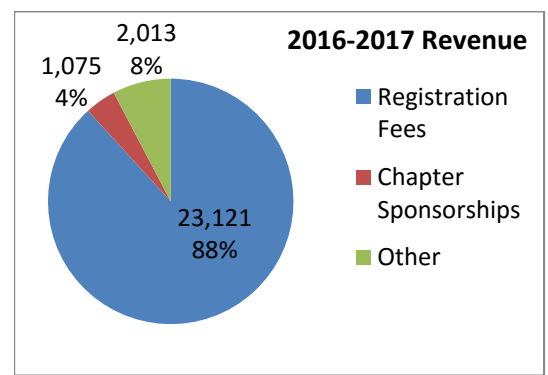
## Revenues & Expenses

### What are the costs for providing services to our members and how are those costs paid?

The financial data provided below is for chapter year 2016-2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017), during which time the chapter had a successful program year, and revenues exceeded expenses. Although the chapter may make money some years and lose money other years, the chapter's goal over the long term is to break even while providing members with low-cost, quality professional services. Complete, as well as updated, financial information can be found on the chapter's website at [www.agachicago.org](http://www.agachicago.org).

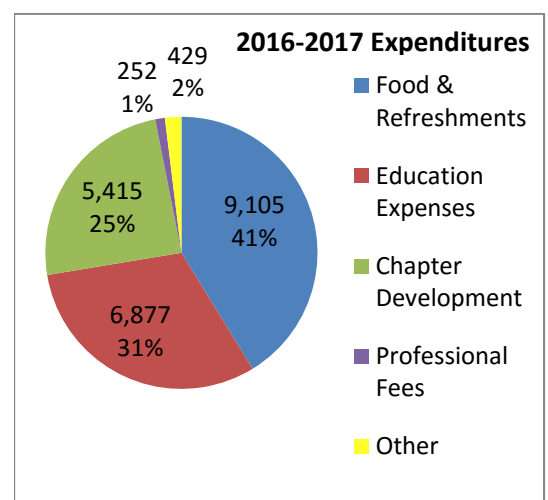
### Revenue by Source

|  | Chapter Year<br>2014-2015 | Chapter Year<br>2015-2016 | Chapter Year<br>2016-2017 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Registration Fees<br>(PDT, Monthly Luncheons, Etc.)          | \$23,229                  | \$26,786                  | \$23,121                  |
| Chapter Sponsorships   | 169                       | 0                         | 1,075                     |
| Other<br>(Chapter Membership Dues,<br>Interest Income, Etc.) | 717                       | 705                       | 2,013                     |
| <b>Total Chapter Revenue</b>                                 | <b>\$24,115</b>           | <b>\$27,490</b>           | <b>\$26,209</b>           |



### Expenditures by Source

|  | Chapter Year<br>2014-2015 | Chapter Year<br>2015-2016 | Chapter Year<br>2016-2017 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Food & Refreshments  | \$4,771                   | \$6,171                   | \$9,105                   |
| Education Expenses<br>(Speaker Fees, Gift & Expense<br>Reimbursements, Webinars)       | 6,689                     | 13,903                    | 6,877                     |
| Chapter Development Expenses<br>(National PDT & Student<br>Scholarships, SLM Expenses) | 4,527                     | 2,407                     | 5,415                     |
| Professional Fees<br>(License Fees, Accounting<br>Services, Etc.)                      | 319                       | 1,317                     | 252                       |
| Other<br>(Printing, Postage,<br>Telecommunications, Etc.)                              | 56                        | 2,193                     | 429                       |
| <b>Total Chapter Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$16,362</b>           | <b>\$25,991</b>           | <b>\$22,078</b>           |



### Independent Review

An independent review of the chapter's financial statements for chapter year 2016-2017 was performed, resulting in a clean opinion.

# What's Next

## Chapter Initiatives & Challenges



### We value your input and want to hear from you!

- Do you like this report?
- Would you like to see other information?
- Do you have any questions?

Please let us know by contacting Tom DiLisio at [Dilisio.Thomas@dol.gov](mailto:Dilisio.Thomas@dol.gov).

For more information on the Chicago chapter, visit our chapter website at [www.agachicago.org](http://www.agachicago.org).

### Key Initiatives

- **Increase use of technology.** This initiative will involve using technology to automate event registration and allow attendees to make registration fee payments via internet and smartphone.
- **Increase the number of chapter members holding the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification.** This initiative will involve creating a greater awareness of the benefits of the CGFM certification and the chapter resources available to members such as the chapter's CGFM study guides. It will also involve obtaining employer support for employees in the process of obtaining the CGFM certification and rewarding employees who obtain the CGFM certification.
- **Promote government accountability.** This initiative will involve encouraging and assisting local governmental entities in preparing Citizen Centric Reports (CCRs), and assisting in the distribution of completed CCRs. The initiative will also include improving next year's chapter Member Centric Report so that it can be used as a model for other governmental entities to use in preparing CCRs.
- **Give back to the community.** This initiative will involve both increasing the number of as well as diversifying the types of community service events sponsored by the chapter. By increasing the number of community service events and holding a wider variety of events, it will provide more opportunities to match with the members' time and talents. This in turn will increase the impact of the chapter's community service efforts.

### Key Challenges

- **Retain current members and recruit new members.** This is a difficult challenge due to the shrinking pool of potential membership candidates as a result of government hiring freezes, reduced interest by college students in pursuing careers in government due to lack of government internships and job opportunities, expected increase in government employee retirements, and tighter family budgets. The chapter foresees overcoming this challenge by creating a greater awareness of who we are and what we do, building management support for AGA, and increasing chapter membership benefits.
- **Increase attendance rates at chapter events.** This is a difficult challenge due to the already high rate of work-related travel, in addition to the increasing use of telework and alternative work sites by our chapter members. The chapter foresees overcoming this challenge by increasing its focus on providing timely and relevant speakers, providing more networking opportunities at chapter events, and pricing chapter events to provide an outstanding value.

