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President's Message

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Hello all,

It's a true honor and privilege for me to take on the role as your incoming President of the Indianapolis Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants! I'm excited about the opportunity and look forward to working with each of you over this next year. Together as a team, we'll do great things to promote AGA and the professional development within our Chapter and community.

First, I wanted to personally thank everyone for another outstanding achievement of Platinum status for the Indianapolis Chapter! Thank you to our outgoing President, Ms. Cindy Garcia, the AGA board of directors, committee members, sponsors, and the entire AGA team for the tremendous job this past year! I can't thank everyone enough for their great work in making this past year a success.

I wanted to take a few moments to give you some background on me and share some of my goals and reasons why I'm delighted to take on this role for our Chapter. As a native Hoosier, I graduated just up the road from Pendleton Heights High School and later Ball State University. I worked for a bank and various other jobs throughout college and ended up interviewing for a position with DFAS-Cleveland back in 1994. I accepted the position as a GS-7 financial analyst and moved to Cleveland. In 1995, I married my wife, Pam, and today we have 3 beautiful girls, Rachel (15), Alli (12), and Hope (7). In October 1997, I moved back to DFAS-Indianapolis working in accounting operations. I've lived in various areas around Indianapolis over the years, ultimately settling in Westfield, Indiana, where our family lives today.

Professionally, I've been blessed to have had many wonderful experiences in a variety of financial management areas while at DFAS. I'm currently serving as the Director for the Office of Audit Readiness where my team and I provide enterprise-wide oversight and guidance for DFAS' support to the Department of Defense audit readiness efforts. I've held several other leadership positions for DFAS over the years, including the DFAS Chief Financial Officer, Director and Deputy Director for Accounting Operations, and Client Executive Liaison to name a few.

When I was approached about this leadership role within the AGA Indianapolis Chapter, like many of you, I wasn't sure I'd have the time. Then it occurred to me that I'll probably never have all the time I really want and if I wanted to make a positive difference the best time to start is now! Like you, I have always enjoyed the benefits AGA offers for its members, including the networking and personal and professional development. So, I humbly accepted this honor of becoming your President and welcome this opportunity to help make a difference and expand our outreach of AGA into our community! As such, I wanted to take a few moments to share 3 goals I have for the coming year:

- ◆ Increase our community involvement, particularly with our local military community
- ◆ Increase membership of new members and involvement of our current members
- ◆ Maintain our Platinum status

As I look at the wonderful success the AGA Indianapolis Chapter has had over the years, I can't help but be excited and look forward to new and exciting ways we can continue that success in the future. I'm confident that together we can and will accomplish great things. With your help, I look forward to making 2016-2017 the best year yet for AGA!



Tony Hullinger
President
AGA, Indianapolis Chapter

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

On December 2nd, 2015 AGA sponsored a Lunch & Learn for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program is a national program providing free tax assistance to low income, elderly, limited English proficient, and disabled individuals who require assistance in preparing their tax returns and cannot afford services of a paid professional taxpayer. Kate McKnight (from the IRS) presented the information about the VITA program and then attendees at the meeting were able to sign up for a one day tax training class to be held in January or were given materials to complete the training online by themselves.

The tax training class was held at DFAS on January 13, 2016. The AGA Indianapolis Chapter promotes participation in VITA by linking volunteers to the program and facilitating on-site training. AGA is able to coordinate with DFAS and the IRS to be able to provide an instructor and materials free of charge to the volunteers. Kate McKnight (IRS) instructed the class on advanced returns, the Health Care Savings Account, tax laws, and how the Affordable Care Act is impacting returns.

It's not too late to become a VITA volunteer! If you missed the tax class you can still take the online training and test by yourself. There are also other volunteer choices available: greeter, screener, reviewer, or interpreter. Contact VITA Chairs: Melanie Blunk (317-212-7201) or Monique Johnson (317-212-1954) with any questions.

Questions about Sponsorship?

AGA Corporate Sponsors support the Chapter for an entire year.

We currently have four sponsorship echelons ranging from Bronze to Platinum, each with increasing support levels and engagement opportunities. All Sponsors receive advertising space on our website and in our Chapter Newsletter which publishes four editions per year, with distribution to over 200 members.

Several other benefits are offered depending on your giving level, including complimentary access to our Holiday Party, Awards Banquet, & monthly luncheons for employees from your company. Speak with an AGA Corporate Sponsorship representative for more details.

Contact Andrew Tyler at
andrew.p.tyler2.civ@mail.mil
www.againdy.com

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AGA Intergovernmental Partnership

AGA provides a unique opportunity for members to share information, tools and opportunities for growth. The AGA Intergovernmental Partnership provides members with information and a series of free financial management tools to “help you do your job better.”

Goals of the Intergovernmental Partnership

- Improve communication among higher education, the federal government, and state and local governments.
- Establish relationships that will facilitate the adoption of a solution-oriented agenda, developed through a consensus of leaders representing all levels of government.
- Develop generally-accepted approaches and best practices for improving the performance and accountability of intergovernmental programs. The following objectives are instrumental in achieving this goal:
 - Strengthening internal controls;
 - Streamlining grants management;
 - Reducing administrative costs; and
 - Developing common terminology.
- Help promote the development and dissemination of valid, reliable and useful financial information that decision-makers need to make smart, informed decisions.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities for programmatic and financial improvement activities.
- Develop training programs for officials at the federal, state and local levels of government.
- Agree on a common approach to determining and measuring program outcomes.

Online Products for Governmental Finance Professionals

AGA offers a series of online toolkits and guides to help members working at all levels of government do their jobs better. These products are simple, useful resources that promote accountability, integrity and transparency within government organizations.

Some offerings available include:

- Successfully Implementing Cooperative Audit Resolution
- Making Better Decisions: Leveraging Government Resources in Challenging Financial Times
- Risk Assessment Monitoring Toolkit
- Fraud Prevention Toolkit
- Blended and Braided: A Guide for Policy Makers and Practitioners

These tools and guides can be found at:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Intergovernmental/Free-Online-Products-for-Financial-Managers.aspx>

DATA Act Information Hub

The Intergovernmental Partnership has a website devoted to the latest information on the Data Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014.

The site includes:

- A link to the DATA Act document
- Breakdown of need-to-know information
- Information on how AGA is reacting to the DATA Act
- Webinars, Hearings, Panel Discussions relating to the DATA Act
- Articles, Reports and Discussion Papers on the DATA Act





2016 Sponsor Spotlight

You're Eligible for Membership!

Did you know you're eligible for membership at Financial Center First Credit Union because you work at DFAS? Our branch is located in the northwest corner on the first floor of the building, and we'd love the opportunity to talk with you about membership.

Why Bank at Financial Center?

Bottom line. We're focused on helping you improve your financial life. That could mean helping you find ways to lower monthly expenses, providing easy access to your money, or helping you make a plan to achieve life's next big step.

Financial Center Offers Prize-Linked Savings

For each \$25 deposit, members enrolled in Save to Win are entered into monthly and quarterly drawings for cash prizes — all while building their savings balance. *Learn more at www.fcfcu.com/save-to-win.*

Financial Center Wins National Award for Financial Education Program

Financial Center has been awarded a National Desjardins Adult Financial Education Award from the Credit Union National Administration (CUNA) for the second year in a row. The Award recognizes outstanding credit union leadership in the area of personal finance education through face-to-face teaching, publicity and collaboration with business partners. *Check the Daily News for upcoming financial education classes here at DFAS!*

Financial Center Named 'Top Workplace' for 5th Consecutive Year

Financial Center was recently ranked 18th among midsize companies as a Top Workplace in Central Indiana by the Indianapolis Star. Financial Center was the only credit union to receive the designation in 2016. *We believe employee satisfaction translates to exceptional member service.*



fcfcu.com

Pictures from the 2016 PDI



Did You Know?

Our chapter has its own website full of information about AGA, upcoming events, CGFM certification and more.

Visit www.AGAINdy.com to see what AGA and the Indianapolis chapter has to offer its members!

While you are there, please verify your personal information is up to date using the "My AGA" tab. This information is used to send newsletters, flyers and invitations to AGA events.

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Announcements

Small Business Experience

The AGA Small Business Experience was held on April 26, 2016 at Jockamo Upper Crust Pizza on the Fort Harrison campus.

Four small business owners and representatives from the Small Business Administration and the Financial Center First Credit Union served as panelists for a question-and-answer session with event attendees. They shared stories, gave advice and discussed a wide range of topics related to owning and running a small business. Attendees included six veterans and fifteen AGA members.

Feedback on the event was overwhelmingly positive! The attendees and panelists all enjoyed the opportunity to network with one another and speak candidly with about the risks and rewards of operating a small business.

Because of the success of this event and format, future experiences may be hosted by AGA to continue community outreach and member growth. Stay tuned for information as it becomes available!

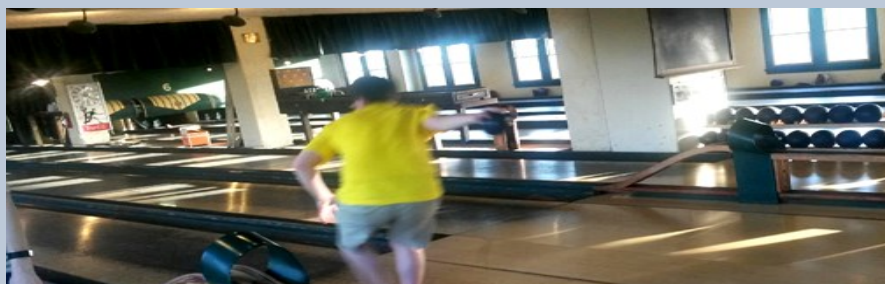


AGA Program Year-End Celebration

The AGA Program Year-End Celebration was held on Friday, June 10th at the Fountain Square Theater.

Attendees were invited to enjoy food, drinks and Duck Pin Bowling. A short ceremony, that included notes from the leadership as well as awards and door prizes, preceded the official “Passing of the Gavel” from Ms. Garcia to incoming President, Mr. Hullinger.’

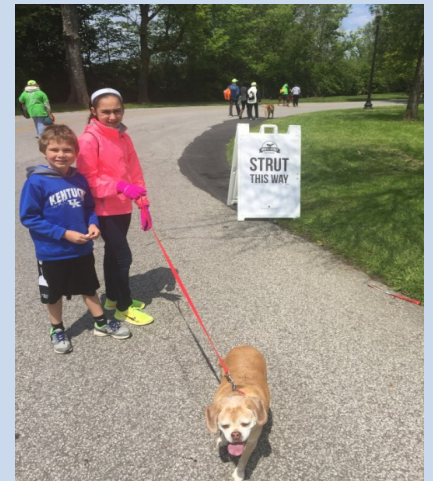
Many thanks to the committee that planned the event and all those who attended!



Mutt Strut

The Indianapolis AGA Chapter participated in the annual Mutt Strut held in beautiful Garfield Park! The team, called “The Cent Sniffers”, included 4 members, 2 sponsors, and they raised \$195!

Paws up for a great job by all the participants!





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Discussion Topic—Millennials

From the Sectional Leadership Meeting

Young Professionals—AKA: Millennials

What is a Millennial?

A Millennial is someone born between 1980-2000. Commonly referred to as “Generation Y”, this group has drastically different values and traits than the Baby Boomers that currently comprise the workforce. There are over 80 MILLION Millennials, and this generation is poised to dominate the workplace by 2020.

Millennials are well-educated, technologically savvy, self-confident and high energy. They multi-task well and prefer team work to individual projects. Millennials are extremely “connected” and thrive on immediate feedback/results. Managing and engaging Millennials requires a deeper understanding of their generational values in order to adapt current procedures to fit their needs and unlock their potential.

In the office, the Millennial generation values:

- Flexibility—Work is not a place, it is a thing and it does not define their lives.
- In-Person Connection/Networking—Millennials focus on community and personal connections.
- Collaboration—Inclusion and participation, especially from the beginning of a project, is very important to this generation.
- Meaningful Engagement—Millennials are most engaged when they are supporting a cause that helps people, not an institution or business.
- Team-Oriented Culture—This generation has been raised to work together and include everyone.

Did you know?

There is a micro-generation between Generation X and Millennials!

Individuals born at the end of the 70's and in the early 80's are a hybrid. Referred to as the Oregon Train Generation, Generation Catalano or Xennials, this group is defined by their restrained optimism and credited with being the first group to fully embrace technology within their value system.

They have been using computers since grade school but remember life before cell phones and the internet. They relate well to their older counterparts in the workplace but still display the need for flexibility, connectivity and immediate gratification.



AGA Opportunities for Millennials

Almost 1/3 of AGA members are under age 35! There are multiple opportunities for Young Professionals to engage with the AGA.

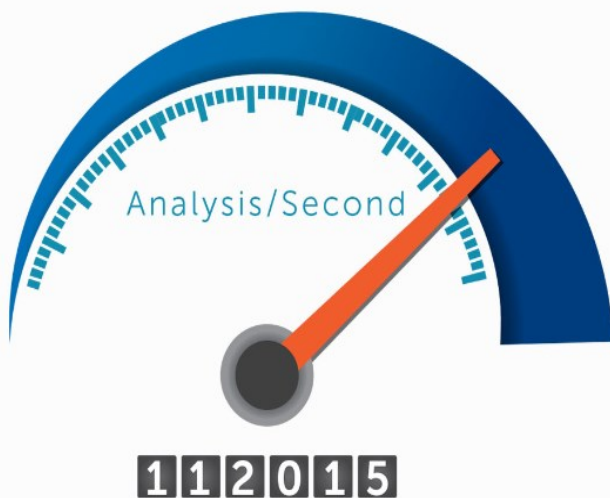
- Young Professionals Focus Group - Advises NEC and staff on the Young Professional segment of membership (www.agacgfm.org/ypfg)
- PDT Scholarship Program - Provides opportunities for Young Professionals to attend the PDT with hotel and complimentary registration
- 50 Under 30 - Gives 50% off registration to the PDT for first-time PDT member-attendees under the age of 30.
- Engage on social media

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1049477>

Twitter: @agacgfm



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Newsletter Articles

The deadline for submitting articles and updates for the next newsletter is the end of each quarter. Submissions for the September newsletter are due by August 14. Please email submissions to:

Desiree.R.Garcia6.civ@mail.mil

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