



MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY CHAPTER

**FY 2012-2013**

**YEARBOOK**

Compiled By

Flora Milans, Historian

Board of Directors

**President**

**Christine Tritsch, CGFM**

President-Elect

Eric Rasmussen, CPA, CGFM

Immediate Past President

Alex Dickey, CPA

Certification

Kevin Shapiro, CPA, CGFM  
Gabrielle Chapman, CPA, CGFM

Early Careers

Rick Amrhein  
Carla Mewborn

Education

Carol Boothe, CPA

Membership

Kathleen Sobieralski, CPA  
Andrew Lewis, CPA, CGFM

Accountability/Outreach

Dawn Beatty, CPA, CGFM  
Sherrienne Wilson

Community Service

Troy Hailey  
Joan Hebron

Programs

Ciara Hunter, CGFM  
Paul Ambrozewicz

Newsletter

Casey Kopcho

Secretary

Jeff Cole, CGFM

Webmaster

Corinne Dougherty, CPA, CGFM

Recognition

Kip Yego  
Dominique Reynolds

Historian

Flora Milans, CPA, CGFM

Treasurer

Eric Rasmussen, CPA, CGFM

Sponsorship

Danielle Rosemond  
Erhiuvie Abu

Awards

Sherrienne Wilson  
Doreen Shute, CPA, CGFM

Meetings

Tom Birchall, CPA, CGFM  
Dona Colonne  
Denise Reyes

Special Projects

Stuart Sklamm, CGFM  
Doreen Shute, CPA, CGFM

Sponsors

**Sponsors**

*Our chapter wishes to thank the following corporate sponsors:*

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



ALLMOND & COMPANY, LLC

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



# AGA Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter Yearbook, FY 2012-2013

---

## Events

Christine Tritsch began recruiting new members for the FY 2102-2013 Board of Directors in early spring, FY 2012. The FY 2011-2012 Board of Directors approved the slate as proposed. Then a planning conference date was established during the summer of 2012, where program committees proposed their plans and budgets for the new year. These plans were approved and submitted to the AGA National Office. A new budget was developed by Eric Rasmussen and approved by the Board. The chapter was now ready to begin its programs for the new fiscal year in September.

### September 2012

September 12	Audio Conference	Pension Accounting and Other Changes from GASB
	Early Careers Meet & Greet	Riff's Lounge at the Hilton Hotel
	Dinner Meeting	Hilton Hotel Rockville
September 15	Early Careers BBQ	Hains Point, East Potomac Park
September 19	Audio Conference	Pension Yellow Book: What You Need to Know
September 26	CEAR Event	Clyde's of Gallery Place

### *Dinner Meeting Recap*

The Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter was fortunate to welcome three speakers to the September Dinner Meeting: Molly Dawson, Department of Homeland Security, William McCabe, Health and Human Services, and Frank Petersen III, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. They discussed a different method of Risk Management. The turnout of 48 for the September meeting was notable due to an Early Careers Meet & Greet at Riff's prior to the meeting?

*From left to right: Chapter President Christine Tristch with speakers William McCabe, Molly Dawson, and Frank Petersen III*





*On both sides: Chapter members enjoying the Early Careers Meet & Greet at Riff's Lounge before the Dinner Meeting*



## *CEAR Event Recap*

On September 26, 2012, the Association of Government Accountants Accountability Outreach Committees of the DC, Northern Virginia, and Montgomery/Prince George's County hosted a kick-off event and reception to educate attendees about the **Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting** (CEAR) program. The agenda included remarks from CEAR Board Member Wendy M. Payne, CPA, CGFM, MPA, Executive Director, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board and Evie Barry, AGA National Office Director of Performance Reporting, who provided an informative overview of the program and answered questions. The chapter had 17 members sign up to be CEAR reviewers—a record for the chapter!

*Right: Local Capital Region chapter members at the CEAR event with speakers Evie Barry, National Office (second from right) and Wendy Payne, FASAB (far right).*



## *Newsletter Firsts*

Not only did Casey Kopcho, Newsletter Editor, capture all the upcoming and past events in easily readable format with plenty of pictures, but he also introduced Crossword puzzles, Soduko, and a Newsletter Trivia contest to add a little challenging fun to the newsletter. Casey moved to Austin, Texas toward the end of the chapter year, but finished out newsletter responsibilities in style. He plans to join another AGA chapter nearer his home. We will miss you, Casey, but know we have a friend in Austin!

## *Audio Conferences*

CliftonLarsonAllen and KPMG provided their offices for our members to attend monthly AGA audio conferences where each attendee may receive 2 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) units at no charge. AGA's National Office sets up the schedules and makes them available for a modest charge to the chapters or their sponsors. The conferences have been well received by our members. It is another service that AGA National, KPMG and CLA have provided to our chapter.

## October

October 3	Audio Conference	Strengthening Performance Management Systems: Management & Audit Perspectives
October 17	Audio Conference	Improving Internal Controls
October 17	Dinner Meeting with NOVA	Embassy Suites Hotel, Alexandria, VA
October 23	AGA Career Fair	Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, D.C.

## *Dinner Meeting Recap*



The Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter teamed up with the Northern Virginia Chapter in October to welcome William Stefan, Deputy Associate Director of National Intelligence for Financial Management to speak at the joint October Dinner Meeting. Mr. Stefan delivered a highly energetic presentation on Financial Management in the Intelligence Community. By integrating valuable insight with his unique sense of humor, Mr. Stefan shared his in-depth knowledge of the subject with us. The turnout for the joint chapter meeting was a record of over 60 individuals, many of whom arrived early to enjoy an excellent selection of hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

*MPG Chapter Members enjoying a joint dinner meeting alongside NOVA Chapter President Heather Keister, (second from right) and Mia Leswing, former NOVA President and AGA National Treasurer (far right).*



# AGA Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter Yearbook, FY 2012-2013

---

## November

November 3	Walk Now for Autism Speaks	Hains Point, East Potomac Park
November 7	Audio Conference	Applying Data Analytics to Uncover Fraud
November 14	Early Careers Meet & Greet	Riff's Lounge, Hilton Hotel, Rockville
	Dinner Meeting	Hilton Hotel, Rockville

### *Dinner Meeting Recap*

Judith Leonhardt from the United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, gave us a look into Contract Auditing and the differences for agencies that use the Federal Acquisition Regulation and those that do not. The attendance was a healthy turnout of about 30 individuals, which included a few new members and several who attended the Young Professionals Meet & Greet at Riff's prior to the meeting. In addition, a raffle was held by our Community Service Committee, with the half of the proceeds going to charity.

*Chapter President  
Christine Tritsch and  
Guest Speaker Ms.  
Leonhardt*



## December

December 5	Audio Conference	Structuring Performance Data to Effectively Drive Management Decisions
	In-Person Board Meeting	Ambrosia Grill, Rockville, MD
December 9	NFL Social	The Barking Dog, Bethesda, MD
December 11	Winter Workshop	KPMG Office, Washington, DC
December 12	Audio Conference	Just Ethics
December 17	NCCF Holiday Party	Georgia Avenue Baptist Church

# AGA Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter Yearbook, FY 2012-2013

---

## *Winter Workshop Recap*

Our Winter Workshop took the place of the monthly Dinner Meeting for December. We had a great turnout and were able to hear from multiple presenters that provided us with information on GTAS, CFO Challenges, Using Performance Information, and Ethics. In addition, all 8 CPEs earned by participants were NASBA-approved, thanks to the hard work of Carol Boothe, Education Director, who obtained certification from the Maryland National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). This provides assurance of the acceptance of our training to those required to obtain 80 hours of CPE each two years in order to maintain their CPA or CGFM licenses.

## *Early Careers NFL Social*



Around a dozen chapter members and guests showed up to enjoy food, drinks, laughs, and the Redskins/Ravens rivalry. Congrats to the Redskins Fans for their victory but further Congrats to the Ravens Fans for their playoff run!

## *MPG Chapter Board Meeting*



The Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter Board members met at the Ambrosia restaurant to discuss the future direction and events for the Chapter. The Chapter is one of the best in AGA thanks to the dedication and effort of the board.

## *National Center for Children and Families Holiday Party*

The MPG Chapter assisted the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) in hosting their annual Christmas Dinner at the Georgia Avenue Baptist Church. The holiday party, held on December 17, 2012, hosted families that are part of the Family Stabilization Program (FSP). The FSP provides homeless families with an opportunity to work on barriers that have made them homeless and connects them to community resources, resulting in permanent and safe housing. Thanks to the MPG Chapter and NCCF volunteers, the families that attended the holiday party enjoyed food, fellowship, and fun. Pictures from the event are shown on the following page.





NCCF children decorate their gingerbread men.



Several happy families pose at the party.

### January 2013

January 9	Joint Dinner Meeting with NOVA	Hilton Hotel, Rockville, MD
January 16	Tri-Chapter Mentoring Event	Elephant and Castle, Washington, DC
January 23	Audio Conference	What's Best for your Entity?

#### *January Dinner Meeting Recap*

The Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter was fortunate to welcome Maxene Bardwell, CIA, CPA, to deliver an excellent presentation to the January Dinner Meeting on the role of internal audit within her organization. Ms. Bardwell serves as the Chief Audit Executive for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). She provided an insightful, high-level overview of fraud hotlines, ethical behavior, and leveraging control frameworks to mitigate risk. The turnout for the January meeting was good--about 34 individuals, many of whom asked excellent questions during the Q&A portion of the presentation.



#### *Tri-Chapter Mentoring Event*

The Early Careers groups of DC, NOVA and MPG got together for a Mentoring Event at the Elephant and Castle in Washington, DC. They listened to advice from mentors from the Chapters as well as a presentation from Jason Campbell, a partner in Deloitte's Advisory Practice.

### February

February 6	Audio Conference	The Role of Internal Controls in Reducing Improper Payments
February 13	Dinner Meeting	Hilton Hotel, Rockville, MD
February 27	Early Careers Wizards Game	Washington, DC

# AGA Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter Yearbook, FY 2012-2013

## *February Dinner Meeting Recap*

The Montgomery/Prince George’s Chapter welcomed Elizabeth Folsom, Instructor/Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland, Smith School of Business to the February Dinner Meeting. She discussed the typical perspectives, opinions, questions, and misunderstandings that exist in organizations that receive government grants.



Above (left): MPG Chapter members ready to enjoy dinner. (center) Ms. Folsom, Chapter President and Community Service Committee members. (right) Ms. Folsom draws the winning raffle ticket

## *Early Careers Wizards Game*

Several members of the Montgomery/Prince George’s County Chapter gathered at the Verizon center on Wednesday, February 27th to watch the Washington Wizards take on the Detroit Pistons. The fast-paced game turned out in the Wizards favor as they won!



## March

March 13	Audio Conference	Internal Control Considerations in a Shared Services Environment
	Early Careers Meet & Greet	Riff’s Lounge at the Hilton Hotel
	Dinner Meeting	Hilton Hotel, Rockville, MD

# AGA Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter Yearbook, FY 2012-2013

---

## *March Dinner Meeting Recap*

The Chapter welcomed Paul Soos, Manager in the Anti-Fraud practice of CBIZ Risk & Advisory Services, to the March Dinner Meeting, where he delivered an excellent presentation on the different tools and approaches to consider for purchase card auditing. Paul specializes in the area of data mining within various business segments, including Accounts Payable, Purchase and Procurement Cards (P-Cards), Travel & Entertainment (T&E), Payroll, and Treasury. He is also experienced in Conflict of Interest/Ethics Policy engagements, which highlight potential areas of risk within an organization. Paul is the practice's data analytics expert, and is an experienced user of both Caseware IDEA and ACL software. Those who attended were actively engaged and asked a number of pointed questions during the Q&A portion of the presentation. In addition, many members attended the social hour, sponsored by the Early Careers Committee prior to the Dinner Meeting. Several took part in the Chapter's "Bring-A-Friend" contest as well.



## **April**

April 2	Spring Workshop	UMUC, Shady Grove Campus, MD
	CGFM Study Session	Ardennes Ave., Rockville, MD
April 10	Dinner Meeting	Hilton Hotel, Rockville, MD
April 17	Audio Conference	Internal Control Considerations in a Shared Services Environment
April 22	Crab Feast	Bethesda Crab House, Bethesda, MD
April 24	Early Careers Bowling Event	Gaithersburg, MD
April 30	Habitat for Humanity	New Orleans, LA

## *Spring Workshop*

The spring workshop offered 8 NASBA-approved CPE at such affordable prices that members of the Northern Virginia and DC Chapters crossed the river to join us. The workshop featured outstanding speakers from GAO, Treasury, OMB, FASAB, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Montgomery County, and the private sector. Topics included an update on internal control standards, working with an IG, shared service providers, and systems changes at Treasury. It was an event that was well-attended and received high marks from attendees.

# AGA Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter Yearbook, FY 2012-2013

---

## *April Dinner Meeting Recap*

Jeff Zalusky, Director of IT, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP delivered an excellent presentation on the opportunities and challenges of implementing cloud-based services within the federal space. In addition, Mr. Zalusky discussed the FedRAMP Primer, where things stand today, and the next steps involved.



Also at the dinner meeting, an award was presented to University of Maryland University College students Alireza Motameni and Lorena Goodfellow by J. Michael Dougherty, Jr., Director of Accounting for the State of Maryland for their Citizen Centric Report on the State of Maryland. Pictured with the award winners are Sherianne Wilson (outside left) and Dawn Beatty (outside right), Accountability Co-Directors and Christine Tritsch (center), Chapter President.



## *Crab Feast*

A great time was had by all at the Bethesda Crab House at the annual Crab Feast honoring our chapter's sponsors. In addition to the great food, it was a great networking event as can be seen in the pictures below. Many thanks to our Sponsorship Co-Directors Danielle Rosemond and Erhivie Abu for organizing the event.



## May

May 8	Audio Conference	<a href="#">Fraud Prevention</a>
	Awards Dinner Meeting	Hilton Hotel, Rockville, MD
May 11	National Capital Area Kidney Walk	Washington, DC
May 22	Audio Conference	Ethical Challenges
	CEAR Awards Banquet	National Press Club, DC

## *Awards Dinner Meeting Recap*

The May 8 awards dinner meeting was a great celebration of all of the accomplishments during the past year. Attendees feasted on a filet mignon dinner with red and white wine at each table. Christine Tritsch, Chapter President, welcomed Doreen Shute, Partner with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, a Platinum level sponsor, who congratulated the chapter and its awardees for their contributions during the year. Christine also recognized guests and introduced AGA's National President, Evelyn Brown, who gave the keynote address to the chapter. Then came the achievement awards. The Distinguished Leadership Award was presented to Larry Bedker, Deputy CFO for the Department of Homeland Security, for his efforts to bring DHS from a disclaimer to a qualified audit opinion. Other awardees are listed on the program below. After the awards were presented, the gavel was passed from Christine to Eric Rasmussen, President-Elect. Eric then encouraged everyone to support the chapter's efforts in the upcoming fiscal year.



*Evelyn Brown, National President.*

*Larry Bedker receiving award.*

*Eric Rasmussen with gavel.*

A copy of the awards program is shown on the following page.

## 2013 Awards Banquet

### *In Recognition of Excellence*

Welcome and Guest Introductions

Christine Tritsch, CGFM

Chapter President

### *Corporate Sponsor Remarks*

Clifton Larson Allen, LLP, Platinum Sponsor

Cotton & Company, LLP,

Gold Sponsor

Allmond & Company, LLC, Gold Sponsor

### *Keynote Speaker*

Evelyn Brown, CGFM

AGA National President

### *Awards for Outstanding Achievement*

Distinguished Leadership Award

Larry J. Bedker, CGFM, CPA

Achievement of the Year Award

Carla Mewborn

Education and Training Award

Carol-Ann Boothe, CPA

Ralph Flaherty Award – President

Christine Tritsch, CGFM

### *Outstanding Contributions to the Chapter*

Chapter Special Achievement

Ciara Hunter, CGFM

Director of the Year

Troy Hailey

Director of the Year

Joan Hebron

### *Recognition for Board of Directors*

Eric Rasmussen, CGFM, CPA

Treasurer

Corinne Dougherty, CGFM, CPA

Webmaster

Casey Kopcho, CIA

Kevin Shapiro, CFGM, CPA

Gabrielle Chapman, CGFM, CPA

Rick Amrhein, CGFM

Dawn Beatty, CGFM, CPA

Sherrienne Wilson

Paul Ambrozewicz

Tom Birchall, CGFM, CPA

Denise Reyes, CGFM, CPA

Dona Colonne

Kathleen Sobieralski, CPA

Andrew Lewis, CGFM, CPA

Kip Yego

Dominique Reynolds

Flora Milans, CGFM, CPA

Danielle Rosemond

Erhivie Abu

Jeff Cole, CGFM

Katherine Denning

Stu Sklamm, CGFM

Doreen Shute, CGFM, CPA

Newsletter Director

Certification Co-Director

Certification Co-Director

Early Careers Co-Director

Accountability Co-Director

Accountability Co-Director

Programs Co-Director

Meetings Co-Director

Meetings Co-Director

Meetings Co-Director

Membership Co-Director

Membership Co-Director

Recognition Co-Director

Recognition Co-Director

Historian Director

Sponsorship Co-Director

Sponsorship Co-Director

Secretary Co-Director

Secretary Co-Director

Special Projects Co-Director

Special Projects Co-Director

### *Transition of Chapter Leadership*

Appreciation for Chapter Service special award

Christine Tritsch, CGFM

Passing of the Gavel

Christine Tritsch, CGFM

### *Closing Remarks*

Eric Rasmussen, CGFM, CPA

Chapter President - Elect

## *CEAR Awards Banquet*

Seventeen chapter members participated in the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting as reviewers of federal agencies' annual financial reports or performance and accountability reports. The AGA National Office held a black tie dinner at the National Press Club to honor the agencies that received the certificate and other awards as well as the 90 volunteer reviewers from among its members. The Chapter was pleased to have so many of its members volunteer to support the program as a reviewer this year.



*CEAR Reviewers Sherrienne Wilson, Carla Mewborn, Alex Dickey, Christine Tritsch, and Doreen Shute*

***FY 2012-2013 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!***