

Association of Government Accountants Phoenix Chapter

Annual Report for 2014-2015 AGA Program Year

I. Background

Our Vision

The Phoenix Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) actively creates an avenue for membership to share ideas with each other, to share knowledge and time with the community, and to promote the advancement of government standards and accountability within the profession.

Our Mission

The Phoenix Chapter serves Arizona professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality, low-cost continuing education, promoting professional development and interaction among members, and fostering a commitment to community involvement as well as a sense of responsibility for advancing government accountability.

Our Goals

- Provide high quality, low-cost continuing professional education to the membership and the government accounting community.
- Promote the value of AGA membership in order to retain and expand membership.
- Promote the value of the Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) program.
- Promote government financial management to schools and colleges and become spokespersons for the advancement of government accountability through quality course offerings to students.
- Seek National AGA support for a consistent local web site format and the technical support necessary to provide a web based venue that the membership can use to research current information relating to the Phoenix chapter.
- Promote networking among membership at chapter events.
- Promote Executive Board membership in order to diversify our ideas and strengthen our focus.
- Expand AGA membership throughout the state.

II. Executive Board

Our Chapter Officers and Committee Members, as part of the Executive Board, work together to create a professional organization for the government financial management community. Our Officers and Committee Members for the 2013-2014 Program Year were as follows:

Officers:

Joshua Consier	President
Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM	President-Elect
Leslie De'Reche, CGFM	Treasurer
Kim Prendergast, CGFM	Secretary
Kim Prendergast, CGFM	Past President

Committee Chairs and Members:

Kim Prendergast, CGFM	Accountability Chair
Elisa Gin	CGFM Committee Chair
Yvonne Clark	Programs Committee Chair
John Schutter	Community Service Chair
Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM	Scholarship Committee Chair
Mary Adelman, CGFM	Membership Committee Chair
Michelle Brooks, CGFM	Newsletter Editor
Keith Orr, CGFM	Education Committee Chair
Jerry Snyder, CGFM	Education Committee Member
Justin Poll, CGFM	Education Committee Member
Brittney Williams, CGFM	Education Committee Member
Karie Tepper	Webmaster

III. Meetings

1. Chapter Luncheon Meetings with Guest Speakers:

The Phoenix Chapter held monthly luncheon meetings, usually on the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings were usually held at SkySong meeting facilities. The cost for attending the regular monthly luncheon meetings was \$20.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers. We were able to offer 24 hours of CPE over 11 meetings throughout the Program Year.

Date	Topic	Attendees
September 24, 2014	Using a Stat System to Manage State or Local Government Programs	30
October 8, 2014	Wow! She Stole that Much?	56
October 22, 2014	Arizona & Higher Education – 2014 and Beyond	42
November 19, 2014	Fraud Risk Management	42
December 10, 2014	How Do You Spell Success? E-T-H-I-C-S!	44
January 14, 2015	Auditing/Internal Controls	40
January 28, 2015	Strengthening Grants Management	39
February 20, 2015	ASRS and Tax Updates	54
March 4, 2015	Internal Control Challenges over Grants and Benefits Programs	43
May 13, 2015	Beyond the Code: Ethical Decision Making in the Real World	34
June 3, 2015	Update and Implications of DATA Act Update and Implications of DATA Act	24
Grand Total		448

2. Special Meetings:

Two special meetings were held during the Program Year: a four hour ethics class to allow Arizona CPA's to obtain required ethics CPE for CPA certification and the AGA Professional Development Conference (PDC), which provided eight hours of CPE on a variety of governmental topics. The Ethics class was held at the Maricopa Community Colleges District Office in conjunction with the Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA), while the PDC was held at the Conference Center by Rio, at Rio Salado College, in Tempe, Arizona.

Date	Topic	Attendees
January 23, 2015	Ethics with ASCPA	44
April 17, 2015	AGA Phoenix Chapter Professional Development Conference	118
Grand Total		162

The PDC agenda is listed below:

Time	Topic	Presenter
7:30-8:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast	N/A
8:00-8:10	Welcome Address	Josh Consier, President
8:10-9:25	Audit Report Writing	William D. Miller, AGA National President
9:25-9:35	Break	N/A
9:35-10:50	GASB Updates	Donna Miller and Michael Stelpstra, Arizona Auditor General's Office
10:50-11:45	Grants Management	Tamara Deuser, Arizona State University
11:45-1:05	State Treasurer's Report and Updates for 2015	Honorable Jeff DeWit, Arizona State Treasurer
1:00-1:15	Break	N/A
1:15-2:30	IT Security Issues	Dr. Paul John Steinbart, Arizona State University
2:30-3:00	Break – Ice Cream Social	N/A
3:00-4:15	Fraud Detection with Data Mining	Karin Smith, Heinfeld, Meech & Co. P.C.

3. Chapter Board Meetings

Our Chapter also held Chapter Board Meetings throughout the Program Year. Chapter Board Meetings started the Program Year off strong with a Leadership Retreat in July, 2014, followed by Board meetings in December 2014 and February 2015. Chapter officer elections were held in May, 2015.

IV. Community Service Projects

The Community Service Events were coordinated by John Schutter. The Community Service Committee chair is responsible for promoting and finding volunteers for community service projects, which allow members to contribute skills, labor, or funds to community based activities. Events this year included the following:

- Sponsored the Christmas Angels program at the Salvation Army.
- Volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House in May 2015.

V. Scholarships

The Phoenix Chapter attempts to sponsor scholarships each year to deserving students at Arizona colleges and universities. Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate (sophomore or higher) or graduate students in an accounting or financial management discipline who are

interested in the pursuit of public financial management careers. This year our Chapter awarded one \$1,000 scholarship to a student identified for her academic excellence and community service achievements. The members of the Scholarship Committee included Gergana Kovatcheva, Chair, and committee members Michelle Huckabay, Leslie De'Reche, Josh Consier, and Keith Orr.

VI. CGFM

This committee promotes and assists individuals in obtaining AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager certification. Elisa Gin was the Chair of the CGFM Committee. During the Program Year, the CGFM Committee made available CGFM exam study guides for members to borrow for exam preparation. The CGFM committee also offered scholarships to individuals who pass portions of the CGFM certification examination, and awarded one scholarship during the year.

VII. Membership

For the 2014-2015 Program Year, the Phoenix Chapter of AGA had 177 members, down slightly from 187 in 2013-2014. To increase our membership, we are reaching out to non-renewing members to see how we can meet their needs and reaching out to non-members to see how we can get them to join.

VIII. Newsletters

The Phoenix Chapter published twelve newsletters in the 2014-2015 Program Year, between July 2014 and June 2015. The newsletters were produced by Michelle Brooks, Newsletter Editor. Michelle informed members of upcoming events, training, and job opportunities.

IX. Website

The Phoenix Chapter of AGA maintains a web site at <http://www.agaphoenix.org/>. The Webmaster, Karie Tepper, kept information on our website current. The website includes the Chapter Vision, Mission and Goals; How to become a member; Newsletters, Minutes, and Treasurer Reports; Community Service information; Scholarship information; Job Postings; and Contact information for Board Members, as well as AGA Nationals news.

X. Chapter Recognition Program

The Phoenix Chapter of AGA earned sufficient Chapter Recognition Points during the 2014-2015 Program Year to be the recipient of the Gold Chapter Designation Award from AGA National.