

# Association of Government Accountants Phoenix Chapter

Annual Report for 2019-2020 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 through audio conferences and live speakers.
- 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 colleges and universities and become spokespersons for the advancement of government accountability through quality course offerings to students.
- Provide 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 2019-2020 Program Year were as follows:

## Officers:

Michelle Huckabay, CGFM	President
Cindy Smith, CGFM	President-Elect
Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM	Treasurer
Paola Matson	Secretary
Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM	Past President

## Committee Chairs and Members:

Kim Prendergast, CGFM	Accountability Chair
Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM	CGFM Committee Co-Chair
Jordan Dale, CGFM	CGFM Committee Co-Chair
Michelle Huckabay, CGFM	Programs Committee Co-Chair
Daniela Kunova	Programs Committee Co-Chair
Cindy Ensign	Community Service Chair
Kelly Alkhoury, CGFM	Scholarship Committee Chair
Mary Adelman, CGFM	Membership Committee Chair
Michelle Huckabay, CGFM	Newsletter Editor
Keith Orr, CGFM	Education Committee Chair
Jerry Snyder, CGFM	Education Committee Member
Robert Harwood	Education Committee Member
Getzmany Aragon	Young Professionals/Early Career Co-Chair
Marvin Mendieta	Young Professionals/Early Career Co-Chair
Jordan Dale, CGFM	Communications Committee Chair
Vacant	Sponsorship Committee Chair
Mary Adelman, CGFM	NCC Representative
Jordan Dale, CGFM	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, although this year meetings were held virtually from March 25th through June. The cost for attending the regular monthly luncheon meetings was \$25.00 for members and \$40.00 for nonmembers. We offered 30 hours of CPE over 14 meetings throughout the Program Year.

Date	Topic	Attendees
September 11, 2019	Achieve Results in Government Using Lean Six Sigma	25
October 23, 2019	How Automation Can Take the Robot Out of the Human	27
November 20, 2019	Trends in Budgeting and Forecasting in Government	51
December 11, 2019	Internal Controls	20
January 8, 2020	Uniform Guidance	23
January 22, 2020	Cybersecurity and Ransomware, It Could Happen to You	30
February 5, 2020	GASB Update	23
February 28, 2020	Tax and Retirement Seminar	51
March 4, 2020	Improper Payments	34
March 25, 2020	Cybersecurity – Mitigating Threats and Hacks	23
April 8, 2020	Ethics – A Spy is Among Us?	27
May 13, 2020	Fraud Data Analytics	29
May 27, 2020	Capital Asset Reporting	32
June 10, 2020	Taking Care of People – Leadership that Matters	26
Grand Total		421

#### 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 Training (PDT), 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 PDT was held virtually for the first time ever.

Date	Topic	Attendees
January 17, 2020	Ethics with ASCPA	29
April 24, 2020	AGA Phoenix Chapter Professional Development Training	114
Grand Total		143

The PDT agenda is listed below:

Time	Topic	Presenter
7:30-8:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast	N/A
8:00-8:10	Welcome Address	Michelle Huckabay, President
8:10-9:00	Preparing for the Future of Accountability - Getting Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable	AGA President - Ernie Almonte, CGFM, CPA, CFF, CFE
9:00-9:10	Break	N/A
9:10-10:00	Performance Audits	Grant Thornton, TaMiya Dickerson, CPA,
10:00-10:10	Break	N/A
10:10-11:00	New Financial Reporting Model for Governments	Henry + Horne, LLP - Brian Hemmerle, CPA, CFE
11:00-11:10	Break	N/A
11:10-12:00	Cyber Security	State of Arizona, Owen Zorge
12:00-12:30	Lunch	N/A
12:30-1:20	2020 State Treasurer's Updates	State of Arizona Treasurer's Office, Mark Swenson
1:20-1:30	Break	N/A
1:30-2:45	GASB & AICPA Updates	Arizona Auditor General's Office, Michael Stelpstra, CPA
2:45-3:00	Break	N/A
3:00-4:30	Panel Discussion on the Challenges and Opportunities in Government Finance	Panelists: Michelle Huckabay, CCGFM, CPA (facilitator) - Maricopa County PDS Administrator, Lauren Cochran - City of Scottsdale Treasurer, Jeff Nichols, CPA - Town of Gilbert Accounting Manager, Tanya Wright

### 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 Leadership Retreats in June, 2019, followed by Board meetings in August, September, October, November and December, 2019 and January, February, March, and May, 2020. Chapter officer elections were held in February, 2020. All four elected Chapter Board positions were filled by new Board members, and several new members were recruited as committee chairs.

## IV. Community Service Projects

The Community Service Events were coordinated by Cindy Ensign. 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:

- Gathered items December through February for Vista Del Camino (assists families and individuals in crisis) and Lost Our Home (assists pet owners in crisis and supports/fosters dogs & cats that need a new home)
- Participated in Feed My Starving Children event with IIA Phoenix Chapter
- Donated \$100 to Phoenix Rescue Mission (provide services to homeless of Phoenix)

## 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 academic excellence and community service achievements. The entire board served as members of the Scholarship Committee.

## VI. Young Professionals / Early Career

This committee promotes AGA membership and careers in government financial management to students, and to those early in their careers. The committee is co-chaired by Getzmany Aragon and Marvin Mendieta. During the year, the committee gave a presentation at Grand Canyon University to the student accounting club. Additionally, they provided a table with information about careers in government financial management at the Meet the Firms nights at Arizona State University and Grand Canyon University.

## VII. CGFM

This committee promotes and assists individuals in obtaining AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager certification. Gergana Kovatcheva 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

## VIII. Membership

For the 2019-2020 Program Year, the Phoenix Chapter of AGA had 146 members, down slightly from 161 in 2018-2019. 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 encourage them to join. We also held an open house/social event after our January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

## IX. Sponsorship

This committee chair was vacant throughout the year. Three organizations sponsored our PDT in 2019-2020.

## X. Newsletters

The Phoenix Chapter published twelve newsletters in the 2019-2020 Program Year, between July 2019 and June 2020. The newsletters were produced by Michelle Huckabay, Newsletter Editor. Michelle informed members of upcoming events, training, and job opportunities.

## XI. Website

The Phoenix Chapter of AGA maintains a web site at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Phoenix-Chapter/Home.aspx>. The Webmaster, Jordan Dale, 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.

## XII. Chapter Recognition Program

The Phoenix Chapter of AGA earned sufficient Chapter Recognition Points during the 2019-2020 Program Year to be the recipient of the Platinum Chapter Designation Award from AGA National.

## XIII. Accountability

The Accountability Committee is chaired by Kim Prendergast. On behalf of the Phoenix Chapter, Kim prepared the FY19 Citizen Centric Report, marking the fifth year that the Chapter has prepared this meaningful report. The report is made available to members of the Chapter, and the general public, on the AGA Phoenix Chapter website.