



Tallahassee Chapter

Report to Our Members
Program Year 2014-2015



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National President

John E. Homan, CGFM, MBA,
CPA, CGMA



About AGA

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) was founded in 1950. AGA's mission is **to foster learning, certification, leadership, and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing governmental accountability.** AGA is organized into 15 regions, has over 100 chapters, and more than 15,000 members. AGA's membership is made up of federal, state, local, and tribal government employees, with members representing private, non-profit, and academic sectors.

Who We Are

Located in Tallahassee, Florida, the Tallahassee Chapter received its charter in 2001. We are a part of the Gulf Region along with ten other chapters. Chapters within the Gulf Region are located in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. We attempt to leverage our collective efforts to effectively share educational events and chapter management initiatives. Our chapter's diverse membership, representing government and the private sector employees, provides a networking link that successfully serves the governmental, financial, and audit communities in their quest to *advance governmental accountability.*

What We Do

We support the Association's Core Values -- **Service, Accountability, Integrity and Leadership.** To help foster these values, we actively promote the Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) certification. The CGFM offers government financial professionals a recognized credential. Members having the CGFM offer a broad range of government financial management knowledge and skill sets to their respective governmental employers.

How We Are Doing

Strategic Goals:

Provide members with quality programs, products and services

Provide continuing education to meet the changing needs of the government accountability profession

Provide opportunities for members to serve the chapter and gain leadership experience

Promote AGA's CGFM program

Promote community service

Increase membership

Significant Accomplishments

Education

Community Service

Developing Future Leaders

Our chapter has almost 300 members, primarily from the state government sector and local university participation. Our monthly chapter meetings, educational webinars and annual governmental training event offers opportunities for members and nonmembers to network with other government accountability professionals. Whether at the local or national level our members are able to leverage networking opportunities to better learn from each other regarding ways to offer a best-in-class financial service to our ultimate stakeholder—the taxpayers. We promote government accountability at all levels of government. We participate in **Citizen Centric Reporting**—a simple four page document for the government entity to inform their citizens about the services provided and challenges to be met.

Education

We have eight monthly meetings at a central place to accommodate diverse locations of staff, and host eight webinars through the AGA national office, which we offer free to members. We offer an annual two-day government training event each spring for members and nonmembers. The annual two-day training event offers timely and relevant education, and helps our attendees obtain continuing professional education to maintain their various professional certifications. Our attention to quality allows us to attract significant participation for these events—providing value to our members and other attendees as well as their employers.

Community Service

Our chapter has been active in assisting the Ronald McDonald House, elders in the community, and WFSU Public Radio, as well as providing volunteers to assist in fund raising drives for other causes.

Our efforts focus on giving back so others have the opportunity to grow. Our Community Service efforts have made a difference in our community. Community Service events provide satisfaction for members and hope for those who receive the service.

Developing Future Leaders

We take pride in the leadership opportunities our chapter provides. We focus on leadership opportunities in our annual government training event in an effort to empower members to step up and be responsible for some portion of the training. Their successes and experiences in these endeavors better prepare them to seek out leadership opportunities not only within our chapter, but also in their careers. The chapter offers cash scholarships to individuals on the basis of the candidate's potential for making a meaningful contribution to public financial management and the candidate's involvement in the community. Recently, the chapter has offered two \$500 awards and this trend is expected to continue.



AGA members in a recent 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Sickle Cell Foundation

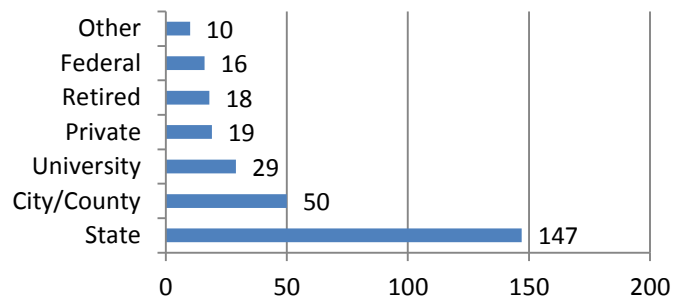


Members, Accomplishments, Financial Strength

Members

Our chapter's membership has grown significantly over recent years. Located in Florida's capitol city, Tallahassee is also the center of Leon County government, and home to two public universities plus a large state college. Because of this, there is a strong government sector representation in our membership. Currently, government related employers account for approximately 84% of our members. Based on membership, the Tallahassee Chapter is in the top 10 of all AGA affiliates.

Members by Employer Type



Recent Chapter Accomplishments

Each spring the chapter sponsors a Government Training Event. The most recent training was another major success. Nearly 300 registrants attended the two-day training event, held in Tallahassee at the Florida State University Conference Center. Featured speakers presented relevant and interesting information which qualified attendees for up to 15 CPE hours. Evaluations from conference attendees were very positive, and will assist the chapter in making even more improvements with future training events. Planning for the next government training event is already well underway!

Our chapter also sponsored a three-day training event to prepare members and other attendees to take two of the three parts to AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) examination. The training session was full and training was deemed excellent based on attendee evaluations. Several attendees have since sat for and passed parts of the CGFM exam.

In total, the chapter sponsored training events that offered **63 CPE hours**.

Financial Strength

The Tallahassee Chapter continues to have strong chapter administration/leadership and reliable individuals to perform core tasks. We have surplus funds from past operations, largely due to margins on recent annual government training events. The chapter seeks ways to spend the funds to best benefit members and the local community.

Our financial statements and supporting records are reviewed annually by an independent professional whose report is then approved by our Chapter Executive Committee before being forwarded to the national office of the AGA.



Comparative Revenues & Expenses

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>
Government Training Event	57,265	45,105
Luncheon Meetings	4,150	3,495
Webinars	1,050	960
National Dues	1,292	1,091
CGFM Training	7,700	-
Other	518	285
Total	71,975	50,936

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>
Government Training Event	40,295	27,565
Luncheon Meetings	9,058	7,553
Webinars	2,239	2,149
CGFM Training	10,460	-
Other	11,487	9,454
Total	73,539	46,721

Future Challenges

Challenges Moving Forward—What’s Next? Future Issues? In today’s fast paced business environment, it is difficult to keep up with the latest issues and changes within the government accountability profession. Additionally, the lagging economy continues to increase the emphasis placed on downsizing, staffing cuts and doing more with less. AGA provides some assistance by ensuring programs and educational events continue to provide the latest information on changes in government fiscal policy, procedures, and reporting requirements.

Grow our Chapter—Recruiting and Retention. As members face retirement, it becomes more critical for our chapter to enhance and develop programs and services to attract young professionals to our organization. We strive to communicate with current and prospective members to inform them of the benefits of chapter membership. To reach young professionals, we provide scholarships to two college students in an accounting-related field of study, and provide networking opportunities with organizations and the local universities.

Expand Educational Support—Members and CGFMs. With increased budget concerns at all levels of government, it is more important for our chapter to identify and provide timely, relevant, and economical training opportunities. This is the central reason for our chapter’s existence and extensive efforts are made to ensure quality programs and communications with members and nonmembers. We encourage and support individuals seeking or recently receiving the CGFM certification, communicating the value of the certification as well as providing review courses for CGFM exam preparation.

Foster Citizen Understanding of Government Accountability and Performance. The chapter must take a heightened role in promoting Citizen Centric Reporting to local governmental entities. The chapter must establish subject matter experts to ensure the success of this important initiative.

Other Challenges include:

- Finding ways to reach out to and recruit young professionals.
- Finding innovative ways to attract members to serve as a chapter officer and complete the progression through all positions.
- Helping members overcoming reluctance about becoming more involved with the operations and governance of the chapter. The fewer people who become involved in chapter administration, the greater number of tasks and responsibilities that falls on a smaller group of individuals.

Hard work and dedication have made the Tallahassee Chapter a success. AGA National has recognized this by bestowing numerous awards to our chapter during past Professional Development Trainings at the national level. This includes the coveted *Platinum Award*, a mark of highest chapter achievement, which the chapter has earned each year it has been offered.

Our challenge continues to focus on maintaining and increasing membership and training opportunities despite financial cuts, and encouraging members to become more involved in the chapter’s bright future.

Chapter Officer Directory Program Year 2015 - 2016	
Chapter Office	Name
President	Patrick Cowen
President-Elect	Steve Burch
Secretary	Alexandra Weimorts
Treasurer	Lu’Quanda Colston
Treasurer-Elect	Jim Lewandowski
Past-President	Cheryl Ward

A complete listing of all chapter directors can be found at <http://agatallahassee.org/blog/about-us-2/>.

We value your input and would like to hear from you. Did you like this report? How can we improve it? Please provide your comments and suggestions to one of your chapter officers. Their contact information is on our website at www.tallahasseeaga.org.