

A REPORT TO OUR MEMBERS

2019-2020

Member-Centric Report

The sign of a healthy democracy is transparency



About Us

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Since its charter in 1973, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Baton Rouge Chapter has worked to serve professionals in the government financial management community and has been recognized as a Platinum Chapter, the highest level awarded by AGA. The Chapter strives to provide quality education, foster professional development and certification, and supports standards and research to advance government accountability. The Baton Rouge Chapter currently has 100 active members representing federal, state, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, academicians, and financial directors in Louisiana and serves as part of the national AGA network of 14,000 members from 100 chapters across the United States and worldwide.

The Baton Rouge Chapter works diligently to carry out the national strategic goals. The chapter brings together professionals by hosting professional development training conferences that provide appropriate, relevant, and timely education. The chapter fosters professional development and certification and supports emerging standards and research to advance government accountability. The chapter gives back to the community by participating in local charity events and providing endowments and scholarship awards to universities in southern Louisiana for local students majoring in finance and accounting.

Through education, research, publications, certification and conferences, AGA reaches thousands of professionals and offers more than 100,000 continuing professional education hours annually. AGA has been instrumental in developing accounting and auditing standards and in generating new concepts for the effective organization and administration of financial management functions, including the passage of the Inspector General Act of 1978 and the Chief Financial Officer's Act of 1990.

Accomplishments

Quality Education – We provided 24 hours of continuing professional education credits by hosting our Fall Professional Development Training conference, which offered 16 CPE hours to 133 attendees, along with the promotion of the AGA National webinars, which offered the remaining 8 CPE hours needed by our members. With the COVID-19 Pandemic and very little time left to redesign the Spring PDT to a virtual experience, we canceled the conference out of concern for the safety and well-being of our members and participants.



Fall PDT - December 2019

Community Service – The Chapter participated in several community service projects during the program year including the Capital Area Court Appointed Special Advocates Association’s 25th annual CASA playhouse fundraiser by volunteering our time to help promote the event. We partnered with Kendra Scott for an in-store charitable event, participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, collected 22 new toys for “Toys for Tots” that were distributed by St. Vincent de Paul, collected 100 pounds of can/dry goods, which were donated to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, and we distributed 100 holiday gift bags to residents of Sterling Place Nursing Home.



Donations to “Toys for Tots” and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank

Scholarships - The Chapter has established and contributed to endowments to provide scholarships to candidates pursuing a degree in the finance and accounting profession. We have existing endowments set up at five local universities: Louisiana State University (LSU), Southeastern University (SE), Nicholls State University, University of Louisiana Lafayette (ULL), and the University of New Orleans (UNO).



This year five recipients were awarded the endowments at the following universities: (3) Nicholls State University and (2) Louisiana State University. In addition, we contributed additional principal to the Southeastern Louisiana University endowment.

Challenges



Certification - The chapter currently promotes the CGFM certification by recognizing the achievements of current members who have successfully passed the exam by featuring their accomplishments in the newsletter. In recognition of CGFM month, we request proclamations from State and local governments to recognize the CGFM’s designation; and we reimburse any member \$100 who passes the CGFM examination. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification is becoming more recognized and members obtaining the certification are increasing. Our challenge is to develop programs to show the value of the CGFM and further encourage certification.

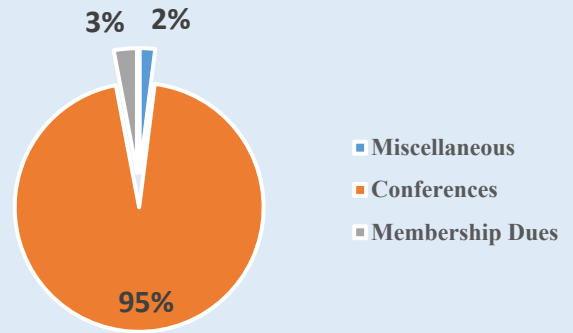
Our goal is to promote the CGFM by igniting the young professionals and college students to study and take the examination.

Sponsorship – The ability to foster and promote continuing education that is relevant to our participants has been a challenge due to lack of funds and state budget cuts. Because the training conferences are the chapter’s largest education event of the year, our goal is to obtain new sponsors for the new program year. Our ability to recruit new sponsors will enable the chapter to afford engaging speakers and attract new membership, especially young professionals.

Chapter Finances

Sources of Funds

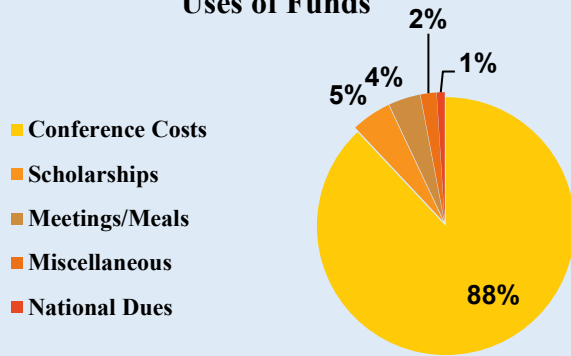
The Chapter received a total of \$35,284 during the fiscal year, 95 percent consists of conference registration/sponsorships and meeting fees from attendees.



Revenue Sources	Amount
Conferences	\$33,369
Membership Dues	\$1,078
Miscellaneous	\$837

Expenses	Amount
Conferences	\$28,891
Scholarships	\$1,500
Meetings/Meals	\$1,425
Miscellaneous	\$631
National Dues	\$525

Uses of Funds



The Chapter used \$32,972 of its available resources during the fiscal year, 88 percent is made up of conference and professional development costs.

Financial Summary – Our cash received exceeded our cash spent this year by \$2,312. This is due to an increase in attendance at the Fall Conference. The Chapter’s available cash and certificate of deposit total \$19,875 as of June 30, 2020.



The Baton Rouge Chapter has 100 members, which includes state, local, federal, retired, private sector, students, and educators.

Employer Types	2020	2019	2018
State Government	69	68	60
City Government	11	13	13
Private	9	12	11
Retired-Not Working	5	4	7
County Government	2	3	2
Federal Government	1	3	2
Academic-Educator	2	1	3
Non Profit	0	1	1
Student	0	0	1
Other	1	0	0
Total	100	105	100

Building for the Future....

WHAT'S NEXT?

Addressing the challenges on page 2 will be a priority.



Certification – We are encouraging members to become candidates for the CGFM exam by promoting the value of certification and providing programs to help them prepare.

Sponsorship – Our continued goal is to develop corporate sponsorship to increase our working capital and to benefit from the involvement of our corporate sponsors' professionals. We have set an objective to obtain (3) new sponsors for the new program year.

Membership - The ability to maintain and recruit new members is crucial to the success of the Chapter. Our goal is to create new incentives that would increase membership participation and promote new membership growth.

Your thoughts?

We value your input and want to hear from you.

Do you like this report?

How can we improve it?

Please share your comments by contacting our Chapter Accountability Outreach Coordinator at carissa.wesley@la.gov.

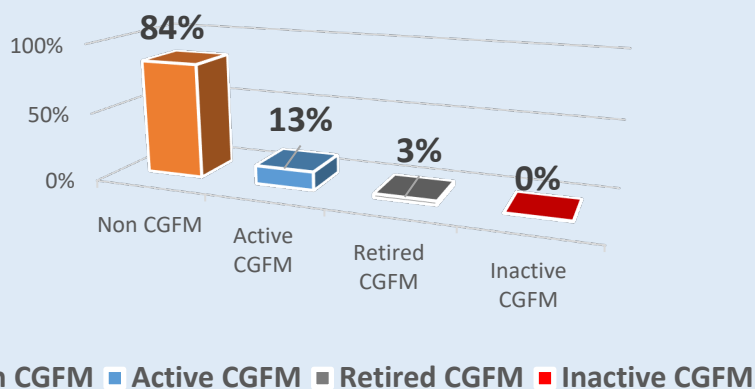


Ernie Almonte, AGA National President and Marella Houghton, AGA Baton Rouge Chapter President - Fall PDT



Marella Houghton, AGA Baton Rouge Chapter President accepted the AGA Platinum Level - Chapter Recognition Award

CGFM Members vs Non-CGFM Members



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