

Association of Government Accountants Phoenix Chapter

Annual Report for 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 Program Year were as follows:

Officers:

Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM	President
Michelle Huckabay, CGFM	President-Elect
Anthony St. George	Treasurer
Kim Prendergast, CGFM	Secretary
Joshua Consier	Past President

Committee Chairs and Members:

Kim Prendergast, CGFM	Accountability Chair
Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM	CGFM Committee Chair
Michelle Huckabay, CGFM, Mary Adelman, CGFM	Programs Committee Co-Chairs
John Schutter	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
Anthony St. George	Education Committee Member
Joshua Consier and Michelle Huckabay, 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. The cost for attending the regular monthly luncheon meetings was \$25.00 for members and \$40.00 for nonmembers. We were able to offer 28 hours of CPE over 13 meetings throughout the Program Year.

Date	Topic	Attendees
September 13, 2017	Advancing Excel Functionality	53
October 11, 2017	Auditing Relevance and Reliability of Performance Information	11
November 15, 2017	Who's on Your Bench? – Tips for Succession Planning	28
December 16, 2017	Cost Allocation	35
January 10, 2018	Grants Management: Breaking Down the Complexities	31
February 7, 2018	Fraud Awareness – A Hands on Interactive Session – How Much Do We Really Know?	31
February 16, 2018	ASRS and Tax Updates	55
March 7, 2018	Infrastructure Financing	26
March 28, 2018	Cybersecurity	31
April 11, 2018	Audit Risk Analysis and Other Considerations	32
April 16, 2018	Fraud/Data Analytics	30
June 8, 2018	Reporting to Our Citizens	39
June 13, 2018	Leadership	26
Grand Total		428

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 at the Conference Center by Rio, at Rio Salado College, in Tempe, Arizona.

Date	Topic	Attendees
January 19, 2018	Ethics with ASCPA	32
April 27, 2018	AGA Phoenix Chapter Professional Development Training	114
Grand Total		146

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	Gergana Kovatcheva, President
8:10-9:00	Professional Resiliency	John Lynskey, AGA National President-Elect
9:00-9:10	Break	N/A
9:10-10:00	Government Revenue GASB 33	Brian Hemmerle, Henry+Horne
10:00-10:10	Break	N/A
10:10-11:00	Arizona Management System (Lean Principles)	Ryan Allison, Arizona Department of Corrections
11:00-11:10	Break	N/A
11:10-12:00	IT Risks and Best Practices	Michael Hiett and Ricardo Carrillo, Arizona Auditor General's Office
12:00-12:30	Lunch	N/A
12:30-1:20	2018 State Treasurer's Updates	Mark Swenson, Deputy Treasurer, Arizona State Treasurer's Office
1:20-1:30	Break	N/A
1:30-2:45	2018 GASB Updates	Michael Stelpstra, Arizona Auditor General's Office
2:45-3:15	Break – Ice Cream Social	N/A
3:15-4:30	Issues in Implementing Accounting Systems, Panel Discussion	Robert Harwood and Angie Flick, Maricopa County Michael Smarik, State of Arizona Tanya Wright, Town of Gilbert

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 August, 2017, followed by Board meetings in November, 2017, and February and April, 2018. Chapter officer elections were held in February, 2018.

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:

- Made a cash contribution to Phoenix Children's Hospital.
- Participated in Salvation Army Toy Donation.
- Participated in Food bank collection.

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 and one \$500 scholarship to a second student. The entire board served as members of the Scholarship Committee.

VI. 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. In October, 13 people attended an instructor-led CGFM review course, organized by the Phoenix Chapter, which provided 40 hours of instruction to prepare for the CGFM exam.

VII. Membership

For the 2017-2018 Program Year, the Phoenix Chapter of AGA had 195 members, up slightly from 189 in 2016-2017. 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.

VIII. Newsletters

The Phoenix Chapter published twelve newsletters in the 2017-2018 Program Year, between July 2017 and June 2018. The newsletters were produced by Michelle Huckabay, 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, Michelle Huckabay, 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. In April 2017, we transitioned the Chapter web site to the format sponsored by AGA National.

X. Chapter Recognition Program

The Phoenix Chapter of AGA earned sufficient Chapter Recognition Points during the 2017-2018 Program Year to be the recipient of the Platinum Chapter Designation Award from AGA National.

XI. Accountability

The Accountability Committee is chaired by Kim Prendergast. On behalf of the Phoenix Chapter, Kim prepared the FY17 Citizen Centric Report, marking the third 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.