



Tallahassee Chapter

Citizen Centric Report
Program Year 2012-2013



Table of Contents

General Information.....	1
How We Are Doing.....	2
Members, Accomplishments and Financial Strength.....	3
Future Challenges.....	4

National President

Mary E. Peterman, CGFM, CPA



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 and local government employees, as well as members representing tribal governments, academia and private sector businesses and organizations.

Who We Are

The Tallahassee Chapter (located in Tallahassee, Florida) received its charter in 2001. We are a part of the Gulf Region along with eight other chapters. Chapters within the Gulf Region are geographically dispersed, but 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 in *advancing 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

To promote AGA's CGFM program

To promote community service

To increase membership

Significant Accomplishments

Education

Community Service

Developing Future Leaders

Our chapter has nearly 230 members, primarily from the state government sector and local university participation. Our monthly chapter meetings, educational audio conferences/ webinars and annual governmental accounting conferences offer 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 their networking opportunities to better learn from each other regarding ways to offer a best-in-class financial service to our ultimate stakeholders—the taxpayer. We promote government accountability at all levels of government. We are participating in a new initiative of **Citizen Centric Reporting**—a simple four page document for the government entity to inform their citizens about the services provided and the challenges to be met.

Education

We have eight monthly meetings at a central location to accommodate diverse locations of staff. We sponsor eight audio conferences/ webinars through the AGA national offices and allow members to attend at no fee. We offer an annual two-day Professional Development Conference each year for members and nonmembers. The annual conference offers timely and relevant training and helps our attendees obtain Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to maintain their professional certifications, as necessary. Our attention to quality allows us to attract significant participation for these events—providing value to our members and other attendees as well as to our members' employers.

Community Service

Our chapter has been active in assisting local food banks, elders in the community, providing school supplies for needy children, as well as providing volunteers to assist in fund raising drives for other causes.

Our efforts focus on 'giving back' so that others may 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 conferences in an effort to empower members to step up and be responsible for some portion of the seminar. Their successes and experiences in these endeavors better prepare them to seek out leadership opportunities not only within our chapter, but also back at their home agencies. 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

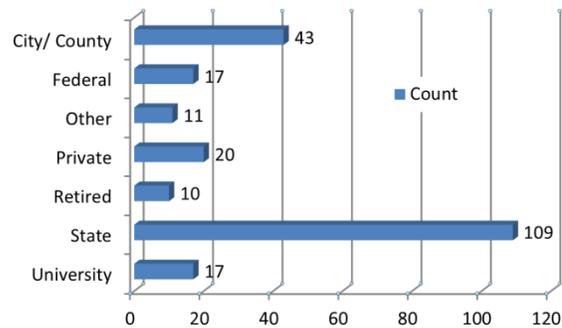


Members, Accomplishments, Financial Strength

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 82% of our members.

Members by Employer Type



Recent Chapter Accomplishments

As in each year the chapter has sponsored a **Professional Development Conference (PDC)**, the most recent conference was another major success. Over 200 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 14 CPE hours. Evaluations from conference attendees were very positive and will assist the chapter in making still more improvements on future conferences. The next PDC is already being planned!

In a bold step, the chapter sponsored two three day training events that prepared members and other attendees to take the AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) examination. Both sessions of the preparation courses were filled 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 **86 CPE hours**. Based on membership, the Tallahassee Chapter is in the top 15 of all AGA affiliates.

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 accounting conferences (PDCs). The chapter seeks ways to spend the funds to best benefit members and the local community.

The CGFM training events held in the 2012-13 program year significantly impacted revenues and expenses. Thus, 2012 is most representative of chapter activity. Meetings, audio conferences and the CGFM training are subsidized by profits earned from the annual accounting conferences. Expenses listed in the "Other" category are comprised mostly of amounts related to registration and travel costs for officer training.

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 offices of the AGA.

Comparative Revenues and Expenses
Program Years 2012 and 2013

Revenues	2011-12	2012-13
Conference	41,975	42,560
Meetings	4,325	3,100
Audio Conferences	1,355	1,120
Dues from National	1,393	1,197
CGFM Training	0	13,206
Other	84	855
Total	49,132	62,038
Expenses		
Conference	33,105	35,023
Meetings	5,992	6,536
Audio Conferences	2,325	1,965
CGFM Training	0	19,885
Other	5,330	8,109
Total	46,753	71,518

Future Challenges

Challenges Moving Forward—What’s Next? Future Issues? In today’s fast paced business environment, it’s 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. The 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.

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.

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:

- Making responsible use of the surplus funds owned by the chapter to the greater benefit of those we serve.
- Finding innovative ways to communicate with chapter members and the communities in which they live.
- Overcoming reluctance members can have about becoming more involved with the operations and governance of the chapter. The fewer the people who become involved in chapter administration, the greater tasks and responsibilities fall 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 PDCs at the national level. This includes the coveted *Platinum Award*, a mark of highest chapter achievement, which the chapter has earned in each year that 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 2013 - 2014		
Chapter Office	Name	Work Telephone
President	Carolyn McGriff, CGFM	850.245.7136
President-Elect	Cheryl Jones, CGFM	850.414.4866
Secretary	Millicent Burns	850.922.2261
Treasurer	Judy Goodman	850.414.3456
Treasurer-Elect	Patrick Cowen	850.891.8065
Past-President	James Maxwell, CGFM	850.245.7147

A complete listing of all chapter officer positions can be found at www.tallahasseeaga.org/cec.html.

We value your input and would like to hear from you. Did you like this report? How could 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.

