



**ASSOCIATION OF  
GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTANTS**

# **SEATTLE CHAPTER BYLAWS**

Approved by the Chapter Membership on October 27, 2021

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# Association of Government Accountants – Seattle Chapter

The Seattle Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants received its charter from National AGA on May 1, 1957.

## BYLAWS

### Article I

#### NAME

The name of the organization is the Association of Government Accountants – Seattle Chapter (hereinafter referred to as the “Chapter”).

### Article II

#### AUTHORITY, MISSION, AND OBJECTIVES

##### SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

This Chapter derives its name and authority from and is chartered by the Association of Government Accountants, and it is subject to the official “National Bylaws” and “Policies and Procedures” of the Association of Government Accountants (hereinafter referred to as the “Association” or “AGA”).

##### SECTION 2. VISION, MISSION, VALUES

VISION: To represent the premier association for advancing government accountability in our community.

MISSION: AGA is a professional association advancing accountability, transparency, and leadership by promoting education, certification, innovation, and collaboration across all levels of government and to stakeholders.

VALUES: Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership

##### SECTION 3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Association’s goals and objectives are detailed in its strategic plan which is published via the AGA website ([agacgfm.org](http://agacgfm.org)).

The Seattle Chapter’s goal is to provide an atmosphere in which its members can improve their skills, participate in discussions to improve government accountability, and participate in events that bring community awareness to the Association.

## Article III

### CODE OF ETHICS

In order to foster the highest professional standards and behavior and exemplary service to all levels of government, Chapter members are expected to abide by the Association's Code of Ethics, which has been developed by the national organization and is published via the AGA website to the membership and Certified Government Financial Managers (CGFMs).

## Article IV

### MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION 1. MEMBERS

As defined in the Association's National Bylaws, the members of the Chapter shall consist of Government Members, Private Sector Members, Young Professional Members, Student Members, Retired Members, Lifetime Members, Honorary Members, Corporate Members, and Group Members. Each member is a voting member of the Chapter, having one vote.

#### SECTION 2. DUTIES OF MEMBERS

It is the duty and responsibility of members to:

- (a) Endorse the vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives of the Association.
- (b) Uphold and be guided in their professional conduct by the Association's Code of Ethics.
- (c) Cooperate with the Association's Professional Ethics Board in any investigations of alleged violations of the Code of Ethics.
- (d) Maintain current membership in accordance with Association and Chapter requirements.
- (e) Vote on matters submitted to the Chapter membership for a vote.

#### SECTION 3. DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

Discipline and suspension of members will be as set forth in the Association's National Bylaws.

# Article V

## MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

### SECTION 1. CALLS TO MEETINGS

General membership meetings to advance the objectives of the Chapter may be called on such dates and at such times and places as designated by the Chapter President. Special membership meetings may be called by members having at least twenty (20) percent of the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting.

### SECTION 2. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of each general membership meeting of the Chapter must be communicated to each member of the Chapter not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. Notice of no less than twenty days is a goal for general membership meetings. Notice of a special membership meeting must be communicated to each member of the Chapter at least three (3) days before the date of the meeting.

### SECTION 3. CONDUCTING MEETINGS

Annual and special membership meetings can be held at a geographic location or by means of the Internet or other electronic communications technology in a fashion pursuant to which the members have the opportunity to substantially read or hear the proceedings concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments.

### SECTION 4. QUORUM

Twenty (20) percent of the voting members or 12 members, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business presented at any Chapter meeting of the membership.

### SECTION 5. VOTING ACTION

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or by law, membership matters requiring a vote must be approved by a majority vote of the voting members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum. The exception to the majority rule, which requires approval of 2/3 of the voting members present at a meeting for which a quorum is present, is Changes to these Bylaws (see Article XV).
- (b) In lieu of a meeting, the Chapter President may call for a poll vote (via mail, email, or phone) on matters requiring a membership vote.

# Article VI

## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

### SECTION 1. CHAPTER OFFICERS

The Officers of the Chapter shall be the Chapter President, the Chapter President-Elect, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

- (a) The President shall be the prior year's President-Elect and shall serve for a one-year term in addition to any period in which he/she filled a vacancy in the office of President.

The Treasurer shall serve for a one-year term in addition to any period in which he/she filled a vacancy in the office of Treasurer.

- (b) The President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected annually for a one-year term as provided in Article VIII.

### SECTION 2. CHAPTER CHAIRS

- (a) The Chapter Chairs may include the following positions:

- Membership Chair
- Education/Professional Development Chair
- Accountability (CCR) Chair
- Community Service Chair
- Young Professionals and Students Chair
- Communications Chair (newsletter, website, etc.)
- Certified Government Financial Management Chair
- Bylaws and Procedures Committee Chair
- Nominating Committee Chair
- National Council of Chapters Representative

- (b) Chapter Chairs will be elected annually for one-year terms as provided for in Article VIII.

### SECTION 3. VOLUNTEER SERVICES

All Chapter Officers and Chairs shall serve in these positions on a voluntary basis without compensation by the Chapter. This shall not, however, prevent the Chapter from reducing or waiving fees or charges for Officers and Chairs participating in Chapter activities or offerings, or from compensating any Officer or Chair for services to the Chapter independent of the functions of an Officer or Chair, provided that any such adjustment in fees or charges, or any such arrangement for compensated services, shall be adequately disclosed to the Chapter membership prior to its occurrence.

## **SECTION 4. REMOVAL OF CHAPTER OFFICERS AND CHAIRS**

The responsibilities of Chapter Officers and Chairs are set forth in the Chapter's policies and procedures manual. Chapter Officers and Chairs are expected to perform those duties.

A member of the Chapter Executive Committee may be removed with cause, by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting CEC members. "Cause" under this Section 4 shall be defined to include not meeting the position's stated responsibilities, violations of AGA's Code of Ethics as determined by the Ethics Committee, and as provided by law and in the Association's Policies and Procedures.

# **Article VII**

## **CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **SECTION 1. CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CEC)**

- (a) The governing body of the Chapter shall be the CEC, which will consist of the officers and chairs, each member having one vote.
- (b) If the Chapter President is absent from the CEC meeting, the officer to preside shall be determined in the following succession: Chapter President-Elect, Immediate Past Chapter President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

### **SECTION 2. CEC MEETINGS**

Meetings of the CEC are strongly recommended to be held at least monthly on such date and time and manner as may be designated by the Chapter President.

### **SECTION 3. CEC QUORUM AND VOTING ACTION**

- (a) A quorum for a CEC meeting is at least one-third of the voting members of the CEC.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, matters requiring a vote by the CEC shall be approved by a majority of voting CEC members present for which a quorum is present. The exceptions to the majority rule, which require approval of 2/3 of the voting members, are removal of Chapter officers and directors (see Article VI, Section 3) and setting the annual Chapter dues rate (see Article XII).
- (c) In lieu of a meeting, the Chapter President may call for a poll vote (via mail, email, or phone) on matters requiring a CEC vote. Any vote taken in this manner that is not unanimous must be resubmitted to the CEC at its next meeting for ratification.
- (d) Unless precluded by other sections of these Bylaws and without limitations regarding other matters, the CEC shall have responsibility for the following matters, based on voting as prescribed in this Article.



- (1) Promulgate the policies and programs of the Association and the Chapter.
- (2) Adopt an Annual Budget and approve revisions thereof in excess of ten percent of budgeted expenditures.
- (3) Establish a Chapter dues schedule for all classes of Chapter members.
- (4) Develop a Policy and Procedures Manual for the Chapter and see that it is implemented. Also approve all changes in the manual.
- (5) Review all actions and programs of the Chapter's Committees and Task Forces. The CEC may require Committees or Task Forces to appear before it at appropriate times.
- (6) Appoint the Chapter's Representative to the National Council of Chapters.  
*[OPTIONAL – do not insert if NCC Rep is elected as a chapter director/VP/Chair]*

## Article VIII

### NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

#### SECTION 1. NOMINATIONS

Candidates for Officers and Chairs will be put forward by the Nominating Committee as set forth in the Chapter Policies and Procedures.

#### SECTION 2. CAMPAIGNING

Campaigning by candidates for elective office is not permitted.

#### SECTION 3. BALLOTING

When there is a contest for an Officer or Chair position:

- (a) Ballots will be communicated in such form as the Chapter Bylaws and Procedures Committee may designate.
- (b) The Chapter membership shall cast votes in a time frame outlined in the Chapter Policies and Procedures or determined by the Chapter Bylaws and Procedures Committee.

#### SECTION 4. ELECTION RESULTS

Results of elections shall be tabulated as designated by the Chapter Bylaws and Procedures Committee, which shall certify the results to the Chapter President. When there is no contest for an elective office, the Chair of the Chapter Bylaws and Procedures Committee may certify the election to the Chapter President without ballot.

## SEC

### SECTION 5. FILLING OF VACANCIES

In the event of a vacancy occurring in an Officer or Chair position, the position will be filled as set forth

## Article IX

### COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

There shall be at least 10 standing committees: Membership, Education/Professional Development, Accountability (Citizen Centric Report), Community Service, Young Professionals and Students, Communications, Certified Government Financial Management, Bylaws and Procedures, Nominating, and National Council of Chapters Representative. The chairs of the standing committees are nominated and elected as Chairs of the CEC per Article VIII above.

In addition, the Chapter President, upon ratification by the CEC, may establish such Committees and Task Forces as may be needed to assist the CEC and the Chapter President in carrying out the programs and operations of the Chapter. The Chapter President shall, in consultation with the Chapter President-Elect, appoint those chairs.

Committee membership, terms, and responsibilities will be as set forth in the Chapter's Policies and Procedures.

## Article X

### FISCAL YEAR

The annual fiscal year of the Chapter shall begin April 1 of each year and end at the close of business on the 31st day of March. NOTE: The Association fiscal year begins April 1 and ends on March 31st.

## Article XI

### FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

The Chapter Executive Committee shall have authority to prescribe such procedures as it deems appropriate to assure adequate budgetary and financial controls for the Chapter.

#### SECTION 2. BUDGET

Approval of the budget by the Chapter Executive Committee shall constitute authority for the responsible officials of the Chapter to obligate funds as provided in the budget. However, no commitment shall be made that will cause the pertinent category of expense in the budget to be exceeded by more than 10 percent (10%), unless this expense has the advance approval of the Chapter Executive Committee.

## Article XII

### DUES

#### SECTION 1. Chapter Dues Rates

The Chapter portion of the annual dues rates for the different categories of membership shall be set by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CEC. [See Article VII, Section 3.]

#### SECTION 2. National Waiver of Dues - Military Status

Article XII, Section 2 of the National AGA Bylaws, version February 11, 2020, set out waivers of dues during active duties of service or active deployment for military personnel and reservists and is further addressed in National's policies and procedures. National executes waivers of dues for military status.

#### Sectional 3. Dues Waived and Dues Paid as Remuneration of Service to AGA National or the Chapter

National Bylaws or National Policies and Procedures that waive dues are granted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CEC. or as further set out in the Chapter Policies and Procedures.

Dues paid as a scholarship or as remuneration for service to the Chapter will be granted by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Chapter Board Membership, or as further set out in the Chapter Policies and Procedures.

## Article XIII

### DISSOLUTION

In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the business and affairs of the Chapter, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, all assets shall, after payment or making provisions for payment of all liabilities of the Chapter, be distributed exclusively to the Association of Government Accountants, provided that the Association shall at the time qualify as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any future Internal Revenue Law. If at that time the Association is no longer exempt under Section 501(c)(3), the CEC shall dispose of all assets exclusively for the purpose of the Chapter or to such Association or organization as shall at the time qualify as exempt under Section 501(c)(3), in such manner as the Chapter Executive Committee shall determine.

## Article XIV

### PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the proceedings of the Chapter unless otherwise provided by statute, the Articles of Incorporation of the Chapter, or these Bylaws.

## Article XV

### AMENDMENTS

#### SECTION 1. GENERAL

The power to make, alter, amend, or repeal the Bylaws shall be vested in the Chapter membership. The power to make, alter, amend, or repeal the Policies and Procedures is vested in the Chapter Executive Committee, provided that any such action of the Chapter Executive Committee can be overturned by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Chapter membership.

#### SECTION 2. ORIGINATION OF BYLAWS AND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AMENDMENTS

Proposed changes in these Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of the Chapter shall be submitted in the following manner:

- (a) By proposal, in writing, to the President-Elect, or President if the President-Elect position is vacant, from any Chapter Committee or the AGA National Office.
- (b) By proposal, in writing, to the President-Elect signed by 20 percent of the membership or 12 members of the Chapter, whichever is less.

#### SECTION 3. PROCESSING PROCEDURES

Proposals shall be submitted to the Chapter's Bylaws and Procedures Committee. The Chapter Bylaws cannot contradict nor contain any ambiguity in relation to AGA's National Bylaws. After review and coordination with the initiator, appropriate changes along with Committee analysis shall be submitted to the CEC, who shall submit Bylaws changes to the Chapter membership for a vote. An affirmative vote by two-thirds (2/3) of Chapter members present is required for approval. After ratification by the membership, the amendments to the Chapter Bylaws should be provided to the AGA National Office. Modifications to the Policies and Procedures shall become effective upon approval by a majority of the CEC.

## Article XVI

### LIABILITY OF OFFICERS AND INDEMNIFICATION

#### SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the real and personal property of the Chapter officers, Chairs, and Committee and Task Force members shall not be available to satisfy any of the Chapter's corporate debts to any extent whatever.

#### SECTION 2. INDEMNIFICATION

- (a) The Chapter may indemnify any current or former chair, current or former officer, or any person who may have served at AGA's request as a chair or officer of another Corporation, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him or her in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which he or she is made a party by reason of being or having been such chair or officer, if such person acted in a manner required by the law of the Chapter's state of incorporation in order to be eligible for indemnification.
  
- (b) Expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding may be paid by the Chapter in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding as authorized by the Chapter Executive Committee in the specific case, upon receipt of a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the relevant standard of conduct for indemnification and a written commitment to repay any funds advanced if it is ultimately determined by a court of law or AGA's Ethics Committee that the individual has not met the relevant standard of conduct.
  
- (c) The indemnification provided hereunder shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any applicable statute as amended from time to time, any bylaw, agreement, vote of the members of the Chapter or disinterested chairs or otherwise, both as to action in their official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office. Such indemnification shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Chapter officer or chair and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person.