Greetings AGA members and guests,

It’s official! The AGA Tallahassee Chapter reached another milestone with the completion of our 8th Annual Government Training Event. We had over 300 attendees and speakers including National’s Chief Executive Officer, Ann Ebberts, and National’s Gulf Region Vice President, Amanda Green. Both of these ladies were extremely pleased with the Chapter’s effort and organization. As the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) looks towards finishing out the year with the remaining webinars and luncheons, the GTE Committee begins planning for the next GTE for February 8-9, 2018. This team never stops! Please be sure to recognize this committee at any of our upcoming events (Jim Maxwell, Patrick Cowen, and Jose Alfaro).

What next???? Well, although there are only four months left of this Chapter year, we have a lot left to do! There will be a webinar and luncheon every month; we have four awards to give out, a couple community service events to work and a new website to roll out (yes a new one!) We hope to see you at any or ALL of these events. As for the website, you may recall in the last newsletters that National will be hosting all Chapters websites going forward. The Tallahassee Chapter will have its upcoming call the beginning of March with an anticipated roll out in June/July for the next Chapter year. This will be a significant savings for the Chapter and provide a more secure uniform format nationwide.

March is CGFM month! If you are unfamiliar with the CGFM designation, please read our CGFM page on the Chapter’s website to learn more. I received my designation in November 2015 and feel very proud to have those four letters after my name. I encourage all to sit for the three part exam and achieve this wonderful designation. March is also renewal season. Please be sure you renew your AGA membership and select the Tallahassee Chapter as your local chapter. If you have any questions about renewing your membership, or if you are interested in joining the AGA, please contact Sue Graham (suegraham@aud.state.fl.us). Sue does a wonderful job as our Membership Coordinator and she would be more than willing to answer your questions.

Lastly, I wanted to thank our CEC for the continued support and dedication you have for the Tallahassee Chapter. It’s hard to believe the success the Tallahassee Chapter has with just the 19 volunteers in the CEC. I am proud to be part of the CEC and the growth over the last year and half.

I hope you have a wonderful spring and hope to see you soon!

Steve Burch, CGFM, CPA, CFE
President, Tallahassee Chapter
Tallahassee Chapter AGA 2017 Government Training Event

Another year, another GTE (Government Training Event), and another excellent array of speakers and topics fulfilled the event’s Partnering in Progress theme. Over 330 finance, accounting, and audit professionals attended last month's 2-day training event, held February 9-10, 2017. This was the 8th annual GTE hosted by the AGA. This year the GTE was held in conjunction with the 2017 AGA Gulf Region Professional Development Training.

GTE attendee evaluations describe a very successful event. All speakers rated well, but obvious favorites included:

- Melinda DeCorte (GAO Green Book and COSO Internal Control Framework)
- Lance Schmidt (Data Analytics for Informed Decisions)
- Lisa Parker (GASB Update)
- Charles Thornton (How to Start Seeking More Breathing Room In Your Life)

Feedback included pros (well worth the fee; great learning experience, excellent speakers and topics) and a few cons (challenges with lunch service, limited seats with table access). A full recap of attendee evaluations will be placed on the AGA website soon. Evaluations also capture attendee input on speakers and topics for the next GTE, feedback the AGA Team is already running with for next year. Topics mentioned thus far include: Conducting Audit Interviews, Auditing Automated Records in a Paperless Environment, and Emerging Cyber Risks and Threats.

Next year’s GTE will again be held at the FSU Conference Center on February 8-9, 2018. If you would like to become more involved in the planning and administration of this event, you are encouraged to contact a chapter leader or send an email to Jose Alfaro (josealfaro@kpmg.com) or Jim Maxwell (jmax333@gmail.com). Finally, if you want to provide written feedback and ideas for the next conference, AGA’s Post-Event Survey is still live.
Scenes from the 2017 “GTE”
Chapter Award Nominations Due in May 2017

The Tallahassee Chapter AGA is sponsoring several Chapter Awards to formally recognize individuals who have promoted excellence in government accountability and financial management. Awards to be presented at the June 2017 Chapter Luncheon Meeting are:

- **Advancing Government Accountability:** Recognizes major contributions to advancing government accountability, particularly through participation in AGA. Nominees must be current members of the Tallahassee AGA Chapter.

- **Excellence in Government Leadership:** Recognizes a government professional who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government leadership, outstanding leadership, and high ethical standards. Nominees do not need to be members of AGA.

- **Emerging Government Leader:** Recognizes early career government financial managers for notable contributions toward excellence in financial management. Nominees do not need to be members of AGA.

- **Chapter Author Award:** Recognizes individuals who have submitted valuable articles for the Chapter Newsletter. Nominees do not need to be members of AGA.

You likely know someone who deserves recognition, now is the time to consider making a nomination. The deadline to submit a nomination is **May 19, 2017**. The nomination can be submitted online. Links to the award nomination forms are located at [www.tallahasseeaga.org](http://www.tallahasseeaga.org)

If you have questions, please contact us at TallahasseeAGA@gmail.com

---

Have You Renewed Your Membership Yet?

Have you renewed your AGA membership? It’s quick and easy to renew online. As an AGA member, you gain access to a host of benefits designed to support your career goals and success. An AGA membership awards you the following benefits:

- Education and networking opportunities
- Awards and scholarship programs
- National and Chapter leadership opportunities
- Career Center and Online Job bank
- Subscription to the *Journal of Financial Management*
- *And much more!*

Log in at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) to renew today!
Congratulations New CGFM!

The Tallahassee AGA Chapter would like to send out a big CONGRATULATIONS to Karen Russell for her achievement in obtaining the CGFM designation!!! Karen is the Clerk Treasurer/Finance Director for the St. Lucie County Fire District in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Tallahassee AGA Chapter Sponsors CGFM Training

The Tallahassee AGA Chapter is planning to sponsor CGFM review courses from October 4-6, 2017, for Examination 1 - Government Environment and Examination 3 - Government Financial Management and Control. Notices will be sent out in late summer, watch your emails for further information on how to register for this training.

March is CGFM Month

In March 2006, then-National AGA President, Tallahassee’s own Sam McCall, issued a Proclamation announcing that each March going forward is “CGFM Month.” The proclamation indicates that AGA members have responded to the AGA’s mission of “Advancing Government Accountability,” by continuing to broaden educational efforts with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor and character, as emphasized in the AGA Code of Ethics.

The CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today’s government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. Until March 31, 2017, the CGFM application fee is reduced to $35.

Learn more about CGFM month and the CGFM certification at this link.
The Tallahassee AGA Chapter was presented with the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) for the 2016 report submitted this past fall to AGA National. The CCR, submitted annually by the Chapter, reports to the membership on who we are, what we do, educational training presented, community service activities, leadership activities, membership makeup, finances, and much more. By submitting the CCR each year, the Chapter also can receive points toward the Chapter Recognition Program, where AGA National provides awards at the end of the Chapter year to outstanding Chapters.

The AGA’s CCR Initiative is intended to foster innovative means of communication between governments and their citizenry. AGA believes that government financial information should be provided in a format that is clear and understandable, updated regularly, delivered to all, easy to locate, honest, and technically accurate.

Please click this [link](#) to read the Chapter’s award winning CCR report.
Community Service Activities

In December 2016, the Chapter participated with the Wreaths Across America project, donating wreaths to honor veterans who served our country. The Chapter also supported the Elder Care Services Elder Elf Program, fulfilling Christmas wishes for local elderly residents.

Our upcoming community service activity will be the WFSU Public Radio Spring Pledge Drive. We are seeking volunteers for the pledge drive during the following two shifts:

- April 3, 2017, from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm
- April 5, 2017, from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

To volunteer or for more information, please contact our Community Service Director, Ernestine Jackson at Ernestine.jackson@deo.myflorida.com

We also accept donations of travel-size toiletries at every Chapter luncheon meeting and Chapter hosted web conference for those residing at the Ronald McDonald House and those served by the Big Bend Homeless Coalition. Thanks to our members and friends for helping us to continue support our local Community.
AGA National News

ERM Implementation
AGA released a new research series publication on “An Agency Guide for ERM Implementation” in February 2017. Following the private sector’s lead, several government agencies are adopting enterprise risk management as a decision-making tool to help keep risks and rewards in balance. The publication points out that ERM focuses on larger risks affecting the entity’s mission, is enterprise-wide, and looks at major risks, including the failure to take advantage of opportunities that can help the entity succeed in a changing environment.

See this link to read the entire research series publication.

AGA Professional Development Training
Mark your calendars now as another great PDT is currently being planned. The 2017 PDT is scheduled for July 9-12, 2017, in Boston, Massachusetts.

For those in Florida, take note… the AGA 2018 PDT is coming back to Orlando from July 22-25, 2018! Make plans now to attend these events.

Can’t travel to attend the PDT’s? AGA now has an option where you can virtually attend the PDT’s and other AGA National Training events. See www.agacgfm.org for information on training events.

Young Professionals - 2017 PDT Scholarship
AGA National’s Young Professionals Focus Group (YPFG) annually selects five young professionals to attend AGA’s Professional Development Training (PDT) in July. Participants will act as ambassadors for attendees and assist at the AGA exhibit hall booth and other areas during the PDT. To apply applicants must:

- Be an AGA member in good standing
- Be a first-time attendee at this annual event
- Work directly for government or a nonprofit (federal, state, local or tribal)
- Be under the age of 30
- Be available Saturday afternoon prior to the start of the PDT and assist at the AGA booth throughout the event
- Be willing to provide feedback on their PDT experience prior to departure

Participants will receive a five-night scholarship to cover the PDT hotel cost, complimentary registration to the PDT, CPE’s, and networking opportunities. If you are interested in applying, please click here.
AGA National News

AGA National Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, finance, information systems, or public administration? If so, consider applying for an AGA Academic Scholarship today. AGA has the following scholarships available:

- Rising College Freshman: One full-time: $3,000 and one part-time: $1,500
- Current Undergraduate: Three full-time: $3,000 and two part-time: $1,500
- Graduate Students: Two full-time: $3,000 and one part-time: $1,500
- Community Service: AGA can award two $1,500 scholarships for community service among the three collegiate categories above.

To view further details and apply, see this link.

2015-2016 Report to Members

The AGA’s 2015-2016 Report to the Membership is online now. The report gives an overview of AGA’s major accomplishments, training, and finances, with a look at future planned initiatives. To find out more about what AGA has done for the membership, please review the report at this link.

Why Join AGA

Did you know that AGA is the member organization for government-finance professionals? AGA leads and encourages change that benefits our field and all citizens. AGA’s networking events, professional certification, publications and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers.

AGA offers all professionals a variety of ways to engage and develop your career in the government financial management industry whether at the federal, state or local level. AGA offers resources such as a Fraud Prevention ToolKit, How-to Guides, Research Reports, Networking, Member and Vendor Directories, Online Discussion Groups, Career Resources, National and Chapter Training Events.

AGA members work in government financial management across sectors and worldwide, working to increase government financial performance and accountability. Members educate themselves via the many training events offered by AGA to ensure they are up-to-date on the most relevant news and information.

View all of the valuable benefits of AGA membership at www.agacgfm.org
Save the Date — Upcoming Chapter Events

Chapter luncheon meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 11:30 am at the Florida State University Turnbull Center. Webinars locations will vary this year; please review the registration announcements for each location. We look forward to seeing you at the Chapter events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 29, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Hosted Webinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 3 and</td>
<td>Community Service—WFSU Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 5, 2017</td>
<td>Pledge Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 12, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Hosted Webinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 19, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Luncheon Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 17, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Hosted Webinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 17, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Luncheon Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 19, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Award Nominations Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 14, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Hosted Webinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 21, 2017</td>
<td>Chapter Luncheon Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please check out the Chapter’s website for information such as Chapter Officers/Board Members, community service activities, chapter recognition, luncheon and web conference dates, board meeting minutes, chapter bylaws, chapter histories, and much more.

www.Tallahasseeaga.org

Tallahassee Chapter
Association of Government Accountants
P.O. Box 1335
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Join us on Facebook
TallahasseeAGA

“Follow" us on Twitter
@TallahasseeAGA

If you have any announcements, articles or other items for upcoming newsletters, please email us at
Tallahasseeaga@gmail.com

AGA’s Mission:
AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

www.agacgfm.org