

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



THE SOUNDER Vol. 18 - 06 February 2019

President's Message

Dear Chapter Members,:

February was a busy month, in spite of multiple snow days. We held our monthly training luncheon and celebrated Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day. But, it's with a spark of joy that I'm pleased to mention that Spring is right around the corner with Daylight Saving Time beginning Sunday, March 10; followed by St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17; and best of all, the first day of Spring on Wednesday, March 20. There is still a lot in store for our chapter in the upcoming months. Check our website regularly for Spring updates and the times of events.

On February 12th, 2019, AGA Seattle held a joint Central Washington University/AGA training luncheon with Ken Smith, PhD., and John Kurpierz, MPA.



Karen Murphy, Chapter President

They presented a discussion on their work related to the importance of internal auditors in school districts for improved accountability called "Internal Auditors in Washington State School Districts: A Benefit to Accountability." Internal auditors serve a school by helping it accomplish improved

Continued on p.5

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Seattle Chapter in February:

Mr. Patrick Eaton, Management and Program Analyst, Customs and Border Protection, and Mrs. Alycia Rehm, Accountant, Environmental Protection Agency.

Upcoming Event

March 27, 2019
11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
AGA Webinar
Cybersecurity: Protecting and Utilizing Government Data

Membership Renewal Season for 2019-2020

It's time to renew your membership for the 2019-2020 program year. The renewal period runs through March 31, 2019. Members can login via MyAGA and renew their AGA membership dues and/or CGFM certification online. Please support AGA and your local chapter by going to the AGA National website (<https://www.agacgm.org/My-AGA/>) to renew today!

Inside this issue:

Training Events	3-5
Chapter News	6-7
Member Spotlight	8-9
Job Posting	9
Financial Report	10
Chapter Recognition	11
Board Members	12

AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2018-2019

Save the dates for our remaining monthly education events for program year 2018-2019! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success. Unless otherwise stated, meetings will be held at the GAO Training Facility on the 37th floor of Columbia Center. Topics will be announced as they are finalized. Please note that these dates are subject to change.

AGA CPE Calendar 2018-2019

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 — AGA Webinar, *Cybersecurity: Protecting and Utilizing Government Data*

Tuesday, April 30, and Wednesday, May 1, 2019 — Government Accounting and Auditing Conference.
Event information coming soon.

Tuesday, May 14 or 21, 2019 — Emerald Award Presentation.

Completed Events

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 — Roundtable discussion on Intelligent Automation

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, — AGA Webinar, *Internal Control: Leveraging IT to Detect Fraud, Waste and Abuse*

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 — Panel discussion on Year-End Closing Processes

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 — AGA Webinar, *Internal Control: Ensuring Effective Quality Management of the A-123 Program* [cancelled due to National Day of Mourning]

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 — Annual Tax Update, Valerie Moseley, CPA

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 — “Internal Auditors in Washington School Districts: A Benefit to Accountability”





THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Webinar/ Topic

Cybersecurity: Protecting and Utilizing Government Data

Government agencies have never had access to so much data or the modern capabilities to access and use data. Increased value of data can be obtained by turning it into manageable and usable information, while leveraging modern technologies to protect data from cyber security breaches. This webinar, presented through AGA National, will explore techniques to secure data while also implementing data automation techniques to help support government programs and operations in a more effective and efficient manner.

Time

11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Speaker

Tony Hubbard, Partner, KPMG Government Cybersecurity

Place:

GAO Training Room. 701 5th Ave., Floor 37, Seattle, WA 98104

The webinar will start promptly 11:00 a.m., so please arrive early. We will have a brown bag lunch and networking at 10:45 a.m. The AGA Seattle Chapter will be hosting a food and funds drive benefitting the Rainier Valley Food Bank. Please bring food items listed in the email or donate funds to support this community service activity.

CPE/Cost

2 CPEs awarded and the cost to MEMBERS-\$5 / NON-MEMBERS-\$10

RSVP Required

Please RSVP if you plan to attend by Friday, March 22, 2018, to Karen Murphy at joujie@comcast.net.

AGA Seattle Chapter CGFM Corner

by Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM Chair

CGFM Month: March is AGA's annual Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Month. Usually this is a time where AGA National runs specials on exams and continuing professional education (CPE). At this time, there are no specials to announce. However, AGA offered many specials on CGFM items and CPE during the federal government shutdown this year. So, while we currently have no specials to announce, AGA has responded to members' and candidates' needs. If you did not receive the emails from AGA National, please be sure to sign up for an account by going to <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification.aspx> or <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership.aspx> to get connected. AGA National frequently announces specials, and AGA Seattle avoids sending duplicate email announcements.

Training for CGFM CPE: There are several training opportunities for CGFM's to earn CPE during the next three months. Some of these options are described below.

- ◆ **Wednesday, March 6.** Two-hour, 2-CPE webinar by AGA on Finance and Taxes titled "Updates to the New Tax Reform." For more information, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Webinars/2018-2019-Webinars/Finance.aspx>.
- ◆ **Thursday, March 14.** One-hour, 1-CPE webinar by AGA on Women's Leadership Experience and Personal Development titled "AGA Women's Leadership Series: The Power of being You: Insights, Influence and Innovation - A Dialogue with Women Leaders in Government Financial Management." For more information, go to [https://www.agacgfm.org/Webinars/2018-2019-Webinars/Leadership-\(1\).aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Webinars/2018-2019-Webinars/Leadership-(1).aspx).
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 27.** Two-hour, 2-CPE webinar by AGA on Cybersecurity and Computer Software & Applications (CS) titled "Protecting and Utilizing Government Data." Please join us in viewing this webinar at our March chapter training event. In part, the training addresses utilizing and dealing with legacy systems. For more information, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Webinars/2018-2019-Webinars/Cybersecurity.aspx>.
- ◆ **Monday and Tuesday, April 1 and 2.** CGFM Intensive Review Course for 18-CPE in Arlington, VA. For more information, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Event-Calendar/national-events.aspx?page=2>.
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 10.** Two-hour, 2-CPE webinar by AGA on Ethics. This is a real-life example of fraud and the lessons that can be learned about the importance of controls, segregation of duties, system controls, processing controls, physical safeguards, controls in a time of change, and the reality of the fraud triangle. For more information, go to [https://www.agacgfm.org/Webinars/2018-2019-Webinars/Ethics-\(1\).aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Webinars/2018-2019-Webinars/Ethics-(1).aspx).

If you have not been tracking federal news or do not track investigations by department Inspectors General offices, you will have missed that federal findings against urban municipalities and governmental entities are becoming a bigger theme than usual. If you work in this realm, I strongly recommend trainings like this for anyone thinking about internal corrective action before there is any serious cause for concern. The federal government is no longer relying on Single Audit findings, for which the Government Accountability Office has found a significant portion that do not meet peer review standards. This led to a study by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, as identified in its "Overview of the 2016 Peer Review Program (PRP) Study of Single Audits." Federal agencies have a deep concern for not trusting solely in a clean Single Audit.

CGFM Training, continued from p.4

- ◆ **Monday through Wednesday, April 8 – 10.** Seattle training on Construction Claims. The training is hosted by Management Concepts for \$859 and offers 24 CPE. It's Construction! Construction! Construction! in the Seattle region. The high potential for numerous issues to arise during construction contracts means that it is vital to be able to address and mitigate those issues in their most common form: claims. You will gain a comprehensive understanding of recognizing a potential claim, pricing considerations, terminations, and the roles of the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals and the courts. More information on the course is available at: <https://www.managementconcepts.com/Course/id/1020>.
- ◆ **Friday, April 12.** Seattle training on Advanced Cost Principles: Avoiding Problem Areas and Responding to Questioned Costs. The training is hosted by Management Concepts for \$649 and offers 8 CPE. More information is available at <https://www.managementconcepts.com/Course/id/2084>.
- ◆ **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 30 - May 1.** The Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants and AGA Seattle Chapter host the annual Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference, in-person and via webcast This conference offers up to 18 CPE, and AGA Seattle Board Member Dr. Ken Smith will be one of the presenters. For programming, cost, and registration details, go to <https://www.wscpa.org/CatalogSearch/EventDetail?id=0CE279D2-E440-4555-A9FF-08B7BE369906#.XHS4rZNKjMI>.
- ◆ **Monday through Friday, May 6 through 10.** Seattle training on Contract Administration. The training is hosted by Management Concepts for \$1,169 and offers 40 CPE. More information is available at <https://www.managementconcepts.com/Course/id/1022>.

Note: AGA Seattle does not receive incentives to promote private sector training. These listings are based on the experiences of members who have trained with these associations or vendors.



President's Message, continued from p.1

operations, risk management, internal controls, and governance rather than to express an opinion in financial statements.

On March 27, 2019, we will host a webinar training on "Cyber Security: Protecting and Utilizing Government Data." We will have our second annual community outreach celebration on the same day, where members are invited to donate food and/or funds to the Rainier Valley Food Bank (RVFB).

Among the other events in February was the AGA National Leadership Training, held in Washington, D.C. on February 26-28. Participants were invited to attend in person or virtually. We have elected three people to participate in the LEAD! 2019 conference from April 24-27: Karyn Angulo, our National Council of Chapters Representative; Sam Lord, our President-Elect and Early Careers Chair; and Gabrielle Sivage, our CGFM Chair and Community Service Co-Chair.

Beginning March 1, 2019, we are taking nominations for officer and board positions. We want to encourage all members to get involved, so if you have an interest in serving on the board, please let the nominating committee know by Friday, March 15, as we would like to have your name on the ballot.

In closing, please don't forget to renew your membership! The annual renewal period continues through March 31!

Respectfully submitted,

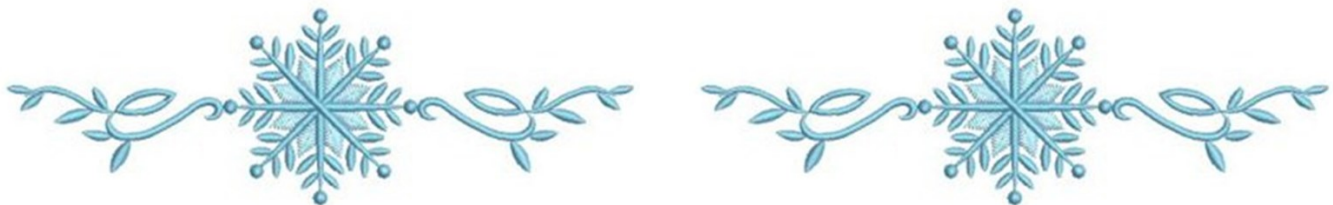
Karen Murphy, Chapter President

Chapter News

Nominations for Seattle AGA Chapter Board Members (Due by March 15, 2019)

The Seattle AGA Chapter is seeking 2019-2020 program year board nominations for individuals interested in getting more involved with the chapter. This involvement could involve anything from general participation on the board and with specific activities, to participation as a named role (e.g., president-elect, treasurer, and secretary). We would love to have some new participants on the board, and there are lots of projects just waiting for people to help out with them. We work with students and early career professionals, plan community service events, work on outreach to area government organizations, and arrange training events for members and non-members. We are also very open to new activities and ideas. What we need to do all of it, though, is your help. If you'd be interested in becoming a board member, or have questions about doing so, please contact Karyn Angulo at Angulok@gao.gov, or any of the other current board members. You can find a list of our current board members at: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Seattle/Our-Chapter/Chapter-Leadership.aspx> or on the last page of this newsletter.

Please note that the commitment to service on the board is approximately 4-10 hours a month for about 10 months of the year, which includes participating in the monthly board meetings and chapter-sponsored training events. Board members are also encouraged, as their schedules allow, to assist in work groups for a chapter project; write a newsletter article based on content published in the AGA Journal or other relevant sources, a personal experience, or other content; or give a training presentation or help with event logistics. The AGA Board would like to introduce opportunities and have new board members decide the right fit with professionals that have a passion in the sector and outreach.



Seattle Pacific University Student Presentation

by Sam Lord, Early Careers Chair

On Wednesday, February 20, Seattle Pacific University's Beta Alpha Psi student group hosted a presentation about government accounting and accountability careers. AGA Seattle Chapter members Katherine King, Mary Ann Hardy, Delores Lee, and Sam Lord presented information about their organizations, what they do on a day-to-day basis, and what a career in government accountability can look like. Two members of the Washington State Auditor's Office (Seattle office) also participated. It was a great opportunity to get in front of students with information about government as a career option, and to answer their questions about working in local, State, and Federal governments.

The Seattle AGA chapter participates in several similar forums throughout the school year as part of our outreach mission. If you would be interested in participating in a future session with students, please let us know. You can contact me at sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov. This is also a great way to meet potential candidates for job openings at your organization.

Community Service Updates

by Gabrielle Sivage and Katherine King, Co-Chairs

Food Drive Extended to the March 27 Training Event Due to Inclement Weather

The food drive is extended due to the "snow-out" in February. We invite members and guests to bring donated food or funds for the Rainier Valley Food Bank (RVFB) during the second and final collection date at the March 27 Cybersecurity training event. AGA Seattle Chapter members and guests donated 37 pounds of food at the January 15 training event when we kicked off the 2018 - 2019 community food bank outreach celebration and have donated \$90 since then. Please consider contributing a donation of funds (either online or at the March training event) or food. For online giving, you can access this website: <https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=52119>. According to the RVFB website, all foods collected should be non-perishable. Please see the website for what the food bank can and cannot accept.

The board is sponsoring a matching gift, dollar for dollar up to \$50, so we can donate at least \$100 as a chapter. We have just \$5 more to go for the full match! To help us track members' donations for the board member match, if you donate funds to RVFB online, please show a screenshot to us at the training event or email a record of the payment to community.agaseattle@gmail.com. We appreciate your support of your chapter's community service activities!



Seattle AGA April Day of Service - Look for Survey Early this Month

The AGA Board piloted a survey to launch the April Day of Service. Keep an eye out in early March for AGA Seattle's April Day of Service Survey! It has been quite some time since AGA has assembled as a community to give support together. In April this will change, and we look forward to rolling up our sleeves with you or possibly dipping a ladle or reading books, depending on your survey responses. Thank you in advance for taking 5-7 minutes to complete the brief survey you'll receive in your in-box. Please respond timely so we can set-up a great event with as much advance notice as possible. Thank you!



Tax Prep Campaign Reminder

The Seattle AGA Board is proud to support this great volunteer opportunity with the United Way of King County: Free Tax Preparation Campaign. Over the past few years, the Free Tax Preparation Campaign has helped thousands of families file their taxes and get connected to resources because of volunteers. This unique volunteer opportunity is a great way to get involved and give back to your community because it has a direct impact on families and individuals. With a number of changes anticipated to this year's tax code, volunteers, especially those with accounting knowledge, are needed now more than ever! For more information and to sign up to volunteer, go to the United Way of King County website at: <https://www.uwkc.org/volunteer/free-tax-prep/>. Please email us at the Contact Us link on our chapter website (<https://www.agacgm.org/Chapters/Seattle/Home.aspx>) if you sign up to volunteer or if you would like to learn more about the program!

Spotlighting the Adventures of an AGA Seattle CGFM Candidate During the Federal Government Shutdown

by Edward ("Eddie") Johnson, US Environmental Protection Agency

In January 2019, I had the opportunity to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a Deputy Finance Section Chief on the 2018 Northern California Wildfires Response. The agency I work for, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was tasked with the removal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in destroyed areas around Paradise, California.

My first disaster response work, the two weeks of 12-hour days were a unique experience that I would jump at the chance to repeat. As a group of about twenty, we bonded not just by eating breakfast, lunch, and dinner together, but with field oversight, contract management and countless meetings filling the space between. A typical day included calculating and reporting burn rates for diverse contracts (including helicopters!), funding of actions, and enhancing our reporting capabilities through automation and visualization. We provided regular updates to FEMA and EPA management. We also engaged with the public in a variety of community meetings and town halls. The best part of these public meetings was using the "parcel finder" tool, which allowed us to look up community members' addresses and give them a near-real time answer on if their property was safe for a return trip. The value from data collection efforts in the field was transparent in those meetings, and many displaced families left comforted by our progress.

After I returned to Seattle on January 25, EPA continued with the removal of HHW until completion of the mission assignment in February 2019. I'm the guy on the far left in the first photo below.

Cheers,

Eddie

Community Engagement Meeting: Paradise, California



Continued on p.9

AGA Seattle CGFM Spotlight, continued from p.8

Field Operations Briefing: Paradise, California



Job Posting

The King County Board of Appeals & Equalization (BoAE) is seeking an outstanding citizen to fill a Board Member position. The BoAE is an independent body comprised of seven citizen members. The Board's goal is to provide an impartial hearing environment that protects each party's due process rights and results in a fair decision. The majority of the Board's cases concern determinations from the Department of Assessments. Board members typically work between two to four days a week, Monday through Thursday, and are paid a per diem allowance of \$300 per day.

Skills/Qualifications:

The ideal candidate for this opportunity will have a background in one or more of the following areas of expertise: finance, accounting, real estate valuation, administrative law, property tax administration, mediation, construction, or land use. The applicant must be a King County resident and must not be a current King County employee. This position is open until filled. For more information about the position, including qualifications and how to apply, please visit our website at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/board-of-appeals/recruitment.aspx>.

Financial Condition as of January 31, 2019

Checking - .10% interest	\$ 1,639.37
Savings -.10% interest	<u>\$ 6,782.67</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 8,422.04</u>
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 8,422.04</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	<u>\$ 8,422.04</u>

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending January 2019

Beginning Cash Balances		\$ 8,430.75
Lunch Meals, Speaker Costs (incl. Parking), & Name Tags	\$ 19.00	
Cash Expended		\$ 19.00
AGA Dues Received	\$ 5.00	
Lunch Revenue	\$ 5.00	
Interest Income	\$ 0.29	
Subtotal Cash Deposits		<u>\$ 10.29</u>
Net Cash Change		<u>\$ 8.71</u>
Ending Cash Balance		<u>\$ 8,422.04</u>

2nd Quarter AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

Chapter Goal: 19,501; Maximum Points: 25,000

Chapter Recognition Categories	June-Dec. 2018 Points	Points Available	Percent Earned
Section I – Chapter Leadership, Planning, & Participation	2,775	5,000	56%
Section II – Education & Professional Development	1,450	4,000	36%
Section III – Certification	1,050	4,000	26%
Section IV – Communications	3,354	3,000	100%
Section V – Membership with a Focus on Young Professionals and Student Members	1,100	4,000	28%
Section VI – Accountability	450	2,000	23%
Section VII – Community Service	200	2,000	10%
Section VIII – Awards	200	1,000	20%
Total as of December 2018*	10,579	25,000	42%

* The points earned through quarters 1 and 2 come to 51% of the chapter's goal of 19,501 points for program year 2018-2019.

Recognition Levels:

A **Bronze Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 12,000 and 14,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Bronze status.

A **Silver Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 14,501 and 17,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Silver status.

A **Gold Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 17,001 and 19,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Gold status.

The **Platinum Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 19,501 and 25,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Platinum status.



The Sounder

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG

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

The purpose of the Association and the Chapter is to be an international, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of government financial management. The Association shall serve its members by providing or sponsoring appropriate educational programs, encouraging professional development, influencing governmental financial management policies and practices, and serving as an advocate for the profession. The Association shall serve government officials and the public by sponsoring efforts to ensure full and fair accountability for all public monies, and by providing a variety of pro bono services throughout the United States and its territories that support that end.

AGA Seattle Chapter Board Members Program Year 2018-2019

President and Professional Development Chair

Karen Murphy
joujie@comcast.net

President-Elect, Interim Treasurer, Webmaster and Early Careers Chair

Sam Lord, CPA, CGFM
HHS OIG
206-615-2257
sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov

Secretary, Historian, and Newsletter Editor

Karyn Angulo, U.S. GAO
206-287-4868
angulok@gao.gov

CGFM Chair & Community Service Co-Chair

Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM
Seattle DOT
202-277-8250
CGFM.agaseattle@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Tony Eayrs
King County International
Airport
tony.eayrs@kingcounty.gov

Accountability Chair and Community Service Co- Chair

Katherine King,
King County
(860) 944-9583
kking@kingcounty.gov

Board Members

John Kurpierz, Schulich
School of Business, York
University
JohnRKurpierz@gmail.com

Ken Smith, PhD
Central Washington
University
503-428-0994
Kenneth.Smith@CWU.edu

Sandra Starnes, CPA, CGFM
Port Gamble
S'Klallam Tribe
360-297-9667
sandra@pgst.nsn.us

This newsletter was produced by board member Karyn Angulo with contributions from board and chapter members. Masthead photo of snow-covered trees from the February 2019 snowstorms submitted by Karyn Angulo.