

Newsletter

VOLUME 2020, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2019

President's Message

By: Priscilla Suggs



Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 Program Year for the Austin AGA Chapter! We're excited to take on another year of luncheons and are working hard to secure speakers covering trending topics and new material! Stay tuned for our October and November speaker listing.

We'd like to welcome our September 12, 2019 speaker, Ed Kelly. Ed is the recently appointed Chief Data Officer (CDO) for the State of Texas, and he'll discuss and share the success of the past four years and the opportunities for the future of Texas government data management practices and data sharing during his presentation titled, "*The Texas CDO Journey - Looking Back, Looking Forward*".

Welcome New and Transfer AGA Members!

I'd like to welcome transfer member Delores Burkhardt the Director of Accounting Systems with the Department of Veteran Affairs and our new members Breanna Jones and Arnold Robinson, both governmental accountant members. Be on the lookout to welcome our new and transfer members!

Board Participation

As always, we are looking for additional participation on the board and committees. Please reach out to any of our committee members if you would like to get involved or contact priscilla.suggs@hhsc.state.tx.us or Kieran.Coe@CohnReznick.com directly. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the chapter.

See you all this Fall!

In this issue:

- Message from our new President, Priscilla Suggs
- Benefits of becoming an AGA member
- Highlights from the 2019 Networking Event
- Spotlight: Paul Morris, Regional Vice President

Upcoming trainings, meetings & events:

September 12, 2019	CPE Luncheon - Ed Kelly, State of Texas Chief Data Officer 1 CPE
September 18, 2019	Virtual - Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training 14 CPEs
October 2, 2019	Webinar – Finance 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
October 10, 2019	CPE Luncheon - TBD 1 CPE
October 23, 2019	Webinar – Internal Control 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
November 20, 2019	Webinar – Ethics 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
December 11, 2019	Webinar – Internal Control 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
December 18, 2019	Webinar – Professional Development 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)

Membership News

By: Aria Negahban

The Chapter reported 108 active members as of September, including 15 new members who joined over the summer:

- Ms. Laura Atkins
- Ms. Rita R. Aurandt
- Mrs. Jessica R. Corley
- Mr. Gregory S. Guerrero
- Ms. Breanna L. Jones
- Mr. Kevin D. Jones
- Mr. Devon McMillian
- Mr. Wayne T. Mobley
- Ms. Jackelin Montelongo
- Mrs. Gabriela D. Rodriguez
- Mr. Salvador Sanchez
- Mrs. Jessica P. Scott
- Hon. Rodney J. Valls
- Mr. David Vasquez
- and yours truly, Mr. Aria Negahban.



All of us here at the Austin Chapter extend a warm welcome, and look forward to meeting everyone at the next event.

We would also like to acknowledge the following individuals who have recently celebrated their AGA membership milestones between the months of June and September:

1 Year:

- Ms. Eva Dorman, CGFM
- Mrs. Viktoriya Bolshedvorova Jenson
- Mr. Shawn P. Riggs

10 Years:

- Mr. Andrew D. Gilbert, CGFM

20 Years:

- Mr. Jack N. Clark, CGFM, CPA

Benefits of Becoming an AGA Member

AGA is the only association supporting 15,000 professionals working in federal, state and local governments as well as the private, nonprofit and academic sectors. AGA membership gives you the tools and support you need to make your mark on the profession.

As an AGA member, you gain access to a host of benefits designed to support your career growth and success. Key benefits include:

- Education, leadership and networking opportunities through more than 100 AGA Chapters
- Four annual national training events with member rates that save you more than \$150 per event
- Complimentary members-only webinars
- Advocacy: AGA provides valuable input to standards-setting bodies and policy-makers on behalf of the government financial management profession
- Subscription to the quarterly *Journal of Government Financial Management*
- Discount on CGFM renewal fees

**Sign up to be a member at
www.agacgfm.org**

Government - \$100/year

Private Sector - \$160/year

Young Professional - \$45/ year

Student – FREE Electronic Membership!

Retired—\$35/year

Lifetime—Free

September CPE Luncheon

By: Priscilla Suggs

The AGA Austin Chapter will host its September 2019 luncheon at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen located at 11617 Research Boulevard, Austin, TX. We welcome Ed Kelly, Chief Data Officer for the State of Texas as our speaker for this event.

Mr. Kelly has over 30 years' experience in business and information technology. He currently serves as the Chief Data Officer of Texas for the Department of Information Resources (DIR). In his role, he works with agencies and institutions of higher education to collaboratively develop data policies, standards, and best practices to improve data governance and integrity statewide.

Prior to joining DIR, he held positions with the Texas Department of Agriculture as Chief Administrative Officer and with the Texas Department of Public Safety as Chief Information Officer. Ed's experience includes a variety of roles in the private sector for the State Street Bank and Trust Company, Fidelity Investments, Dell Computer, Dell Financial Services, and Unisys Corporation.

Meet Ed Kelly on September 12, 2019



Sign up at:

<https://www.agaustin.org/cpe-events/event1.html>

Member - \$29 | Nonmember - \$34



September 2019

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Do you know any dynamic speakers that would like to present at one of our CPE luncheons? Submit their name and email address to: communications@agaustin.org

Past Events

By: Bhakti Patel
Photo Credit: Sharita Jefferson



From left to right: Kieran Coe, Ray Kissiday, Ernest Almonte, Kirby Cathey, Priscilla Suggs, David Vasquez

We closed out the 2019 chapter year with a bang at our May luncheon at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen on May 9, 2019. We welcomed Ernest A. Almonte, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGFM, 2018 -2019 AGA National President-Elect. Mr. Almonte is a partner at RSM and is a firm-designated government, not-for-profit, litigation support, and higher education specialist.

Twenty-four individuals attended the monthly luncheon. The winner of the March raffle, a \$25 Olive Garden giftcard, was Nathan Ross of CohnReznick . Congratulations Nathan!

***Do you have pictures from an AGA event?
Submit them to publish in the next newsletter!
communications@agaaustin.org***



From left to right: Patti Hamm, Tracy Hardwick, Aria Negahban, Leah Havens , Marcus Garrett, Priscilla Suggs



David Vasquez, Nathan Ross, Andrew Dimas, Leslie Cathey, Kirby Cathey, LaTosha Goard

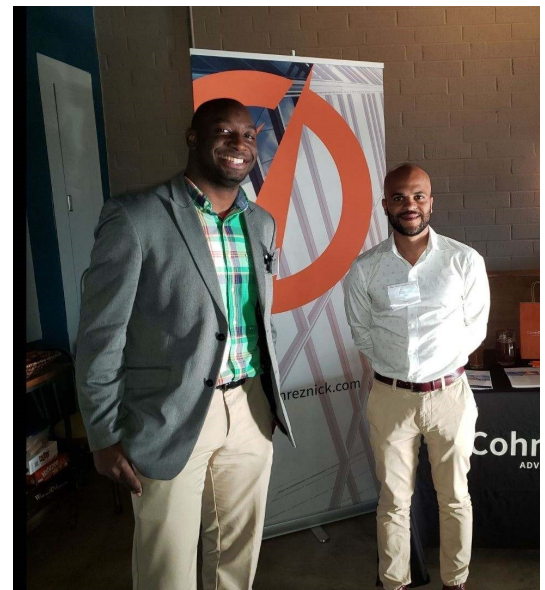


Priscilla Suggs, Ernest Almonte, Nathan Ross

2019 Networking Event



The Chapter hosted its annual networking event at The Brewtorium. And what a great turnout it was! This year, we co-hosted with the Austin Chapters of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA). It was an evening filled with amazing food, craft beer and fantastic networking. Special thanks to our sponsors: elnosec, OpenSky Technology Solutions, Grant Thornton and Cohn Reznick. The event was rounded out by a raffle prize from Cohn Reznick (congratulations David Vasquez!) and canned food donations that were provided to the Capital Area Food Bank.



Special thanks to The Brewtorium for providing excellent service for the AGA-IIA-ISACA 2019 Networking Event.

Community Service

By: Bhakti Patel

Information obtained from <https://www.givepulse.com>

Green Corn Project - 2019 Fall Dig-in



Saturday, September 14, 2019 from
8:45am - 12:00pm (CT)



Join a team helping someone with limited access to good food start growing some of what they eat!

Green Corn Project is an Austin non-profit that educates Central Texans on organic vegetable gardening.

Come learn how to install and maintain an organic vegetable garden or share your knowledge by working with a team of volunteers to install or replant a garden for an individual or organization with limited access to good, nutritious food. We meet at a central location off of Rosewood Ave. where we gather our supplies, discuss the day's activities and then divide into teams and drive or carpool to the individual garden sites.

When you arrive, check-in and get a name tag at the table and someone will help you find a task like bagging compost, sorting plants, or organizing our tools. Once everything is ready, we'll discuss the sites for the day, divide into teams, and drive to the individual gardens (carpooling is encouraged). No experience is needed as each team will have an experienced dig-in leader. Please wear closed toed shoes and bring gardening gloves, hat, water, and sunscreen - we'll supply the tools, materials, and knowledge.

If you're representing a group larger than 3, please contact us through our website prior to registering. For groups under 3, please add a note to the note field on the registration form.

We'll send a reminder email a few days before the event.

For additional information, please visit:

<http://greencornproject.org/>

Location: 1210 Rosewood, Austin, TX 78702

2019 CASA Superhero Run



Sunday, September 15th, 2019 from
5:00am to 1:00pm (CT)



The 2019 CASA Superhero Run 5K and Kids 1K helps children in Central Texas who've been through abuse or neglect. You can be part of that by volunteering on race day to help with course spirit, parking, staging, recycling, clean-up and more.

Learn more and sign up at <https://www.casasuperherorun.com/volunteer>.

Location: 11501 Burnet Rd Building 902, Austin, TX 78758

Birthday enthusiasts needed!!



Tuesday, September 17th, 2019 from
6:15pm to 8:15pm (CT)



THE BIRTHDAY PARTY PROJECT hosts super fun, themed birthday parties for the children living at the Salvation Army's Downtown Shelter every month! They provide everything needed (from decorations to activities to cupcakes and more!) but we need birthday enthusiasts (that's our funny name for volunteers) to really bring each party to life!! Depending on the theme each month (think DJ dance parties and petting zoos!) you'll get to play games with the kids, do crafts, sing Happy Birthday and give out lots of hugs and high-fives!! **PLEASE NOTE: You MUST register with The Birthday Party Project and have your background check performed in order to gain entry to the party.** Click on link below to view our Austin calendar and to sign up for the fun! Or email for more information

Location: Austin, TX 78701

Shadow Food Run & Orientation at Trader Joe's



Saturday, September 21st, 2019 from 9:30am to 11:30am (CT)



We are excited to meet you when you shadow a food run, where we pick up surplus food from a grocery store or restaurant and deliver it to a local community center or shelter.

We will also do a quick 30 minute orientation at 9:30 am so that you are that much closer to becoming a volunteer!

The training/orientation is held at Panera Bread next to Trader Joe's. The trainer will be wearing a Keep Austin Fed shirt or hat.

Please register for the date that works best with your schedule and plan to meet a few other new volunteers in the process.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE YOU REGISTER:

- You only need to attend ONE orientation. Please choose one date only.
- You need a car to be a food runner with Keep Austin Fed.
- Orientation is only for volunteers interested in a recurring commitment. It is not for volunteers trying to fulfill a few service hours.

If you have any questions along the way or if you cannot find an opening for an orientation, please email us at volunteer@keepaustinfed.org

Location: Trader Joe's rear loading dock, 2805 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746

Sustainability Spirit Squad Football v OSU



Saturday, September 21st, 2019 from 6:30pm to 10:30pm (CT)



Volunteers needed to help monitor recycling and compost bins making sure people are disposing their items correctly. Responsibilities include educating fans about recycling and composting, monitoring recycling and compost bins and sorting through trash/ recyclables when needed.

Volunteers will be given free T-shirts. This is a wonderful opportunity to earn service hours, support the "Bleed Orange, Live Green" initiative and support your team/university! With your help we can achieve our zero waste goal!

Location: Austin, TX 78712

Community Healing Garden Workday



Sunday, September 22nd, 2019 from 11:00am to 1:00pm (CT)



At the ESB-MACC's Community Healing Garden, we grow herbs that can be used in everyday health. If you are interested in gardening or sharing in our harvest, join us for one of our workdays. Volunteers will be working hands on maintaining the garden and its infrastructure. Please dress comfortably and appropriately for the weather.

Volunteers will need to have completed and signed a Volunteer Application and Waiver which can be found under the "Documents" tab on the event page, at the bottom of the registration page under "Liability waivers and release forms", or on the ESB-MACC website.

Location: The Community Healing Garden is located behind the northwest wing of the ESB-MACC building., 600 River St, Austin, TX 78701

Member Spotlight

By: Bhakti Patel

Meet Paul Morris



Paul Morris joined FEMA's Texas Recovery Office in April 2018. He is a 23 year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve where he currently holds the rank of captain.

Paul previously served in leadership roles in federal compliance and advisory services with 28 years of experience in healthcare, higher education, cancer research, federal and state regulatory functions and state agencies.

He is currently the Senior Reserve Officer for Sector U.S. Coast Guard Corpus Christi. During his Coast Guard career, he served as a liaison officer for catastrophic weather events such as Hurricanes Ike, Gustav and Harvey and the 2011 flooding of the Mississippi River.

He served as the director of the Forward Operating Branch during the Deepwater Horizon spill in Louisiana. Following the September 11, 2001, attacks, he coordinated Coast Guard boarding teams securing commercial traffic in Galveston, Texas.

Paul served as the President of the AGA Austin Chapter from July 2012 – June 2014 and currently serves as the Chapter's Regional Vice President.

Paul graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He later earned certifications in accounting and auditing, focusing on internal controls and risk assessment, and participated in national security course work at the National Defense University.

DID YOU KNOW?

AGA was founded as the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA) by Robert W. King and a group of federal government accountants on Sept. 14, 1950. AGA expanded in 1975 to include state and local government finance professionals. At that time, the organization's name was changed to the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

Treasurer's Report

By: David Vasquez

As of August 31, 2019

Beginning Bank Balance	8/1/2019	\$3,280.55
<i>Funds Received:</i>		
8/1/2019 Dividend through	8/1/2019	\$0.28
Total Funds Received		\$0.28
Funds Available		\$3,280.83
<i>Funds Expended:</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check No./Credit Card.</i>	
8/31/2019	Bank Card	USPS PO BOX ANNUAL
Total Funds Expended		\$106.00
Ending Bank Balance	8/31/2019	\$3,174.83
Check Register Reconciliation:		
Ending Bank Balance	8/31/2019	\$3,174.83
<i>Outstanding Checks:</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Check No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
Total Outstanding Checks		\$0.00
<i>Outstanding Deposits:</i>		
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
Total Outstanding Deposits		\$0.00
Adjusted Ending Bank Balance	8/31/2019	\$3,174.83
Total Chapter Funds Available Per Check Register	8/31/2019	\$3,174.83
<i>Cash On Hand:</i>		
	CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
	Luncheon Bank	\$40.00

Industry News

Submitted by: Debi Weyer

Municipalities and PCI Compliance – Do we have to?

Any entity (public, private, for profit, not-for-profit) that takes credit cards for payments must comply with PCI requirements. Knowing your merchant level is the first step to understanding what your compliance requirements entail.

With the Payment Card Industry, or PCI, compliance is generally something we assume big box stores and your average merchants all have. If they have a credit card swipe machine, they must be doing all the right things, right?

But when it comes to our local cities, towns and school districts, our comfort level is less clear. Does my small-town Recreation Department have all the right “things in place” to be compliant with PCI? Better yet, do they even have to be? And what if a third-party processor is used? Does that get the town off the hook?

Do towns, cities and school districts need to be PCI compliant?

The short answer is yes. If the entity processes credit cards, they need to be PCI compliant. The difference is in *how* they can become compliant. Expectations for a municipality are nowhere near those of a big box store or retailer like Walmart or Amazon. First, PCI compliance is divided into four levels, based on the number of Visa and/or Mastercard transactions that are processed per year. Level 4 (the lowest level at less than 20,000 e-commerce transactions per year) is generally where most municipalities will fall. Based on the PCI compliance level, different requirements must be met.

So what does the town have to do now?

Let's start with the lower levels. Levels 2, 3 and 4 are required to complete a yearly self-assessment using the PCI self-assessment questionnaire tool (SAQ), in addition to a quarter-

ly network scan by an approved scanning vendor (the PCI Security Standards Council lists approved scanning vendors online).

The first part of the SAQ is a series of yes or no questions pertaining to each applicable PCI Data Security Standard requirement. There are different SAQs available for different merchant environments based on how the organization or entity accepts payment cards. Part 2 of the SAQ is an “Attestation of Compliance,” or certification that you are eligible to perform and have performed the appropriate self-assessment – essentially “checking the box” that you followed the rules.

Entities that fall into Level 1 must have yearly assessments of compliance by a Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) in addition to the above requirements for Levels 2, 3 and 4. The yearly assessment takes a closer look at the entity's point of sale (POS) system, reviews areas of vulnerability and identifies a prioritized list of security improvements the entity can make. In response, the entity must develop appropriate security measures to monitor the payment system going forward. The town should start by identifying the appropriate SAQ for them, using the guidelines at <http://www.pcisecuritystandards.org>.

What if a third-party processor is used?

There are SAQs specific to these types of entities. For example, Questionnaire A is designed for organizations that accept payment cards as “card-not-present merchants” (e-commerce or mail/telephone-order) that have fully outsourced all cardholder data functions to PCI DSS compliant third-party service providers, with no electronic storage, processing or transmission of any cardholder data on the merchant's systems or premises. For towns using third-party PCI-compliant companies (such as PayPal) to do their transacting for them, this may be the

questionnaire for them. So while the questionnaire may be shorter and simplified since the PCI vendor is doing the bulk of security legwork, the town still needs to go through the SAQ process.

What if the town does nothing?

If the entity doesn't abide by PCI compliance requirements, Visa reserves the right to change the entity's level standards to those of a higher (or stricter) level. So where the town may have only been expected to maintain Level 4 compliance, they now may have to abide by more. Not to mention the risks associ-

ated with a customer card data breach – both reputational and financial. Data breaches lead to lost business, and lawsuits. Banks can additionally charge fees and a number of penalties can be imposed if the entity does not become PCI compliant.

Any entity (public, private, for profit, not-for-profit) that takes credit cards for payments must comply with PCI requirements. Knowing your merchant level is the first step to understanding what your compliance requirements entail. Determining the right SAQ for you is second. Utilizing third-party payment processors may help, but won't get you

By: Lindsey M. Donato, CISA, PMP

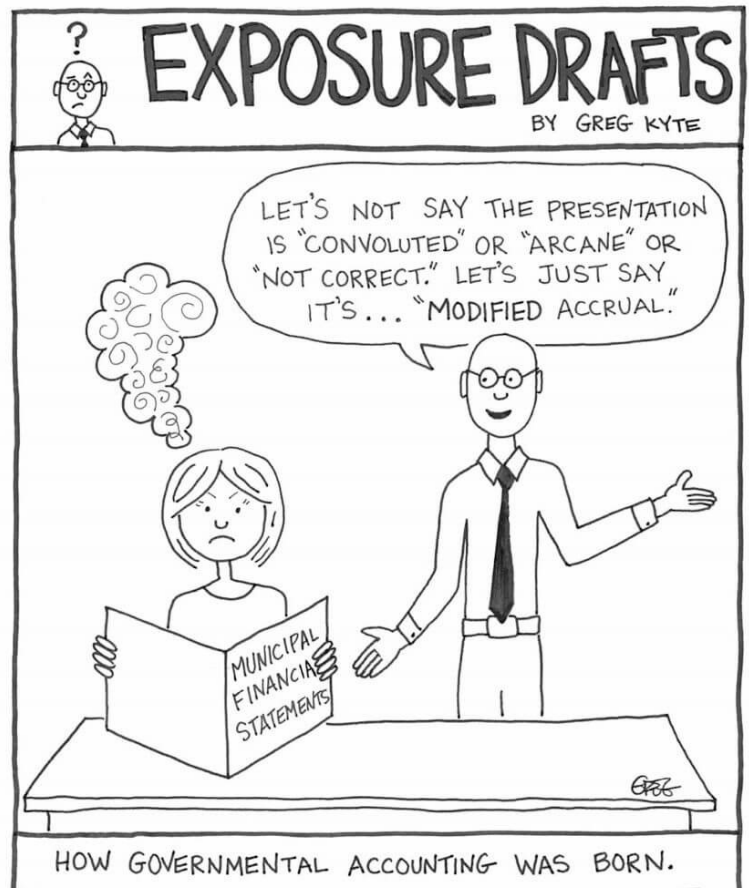


Just for Fun...

ac·count·ant

[uh-kount-tnt], n

1. the person in any business enterprise most likely to know what is actually going on, and least likely to be able to do anything about it.



AGA Austin Chapter

2019-2020 Officers and Committee Chairs

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President

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Vacant

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Elba Morales

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Patti Roano

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Aria Negahban

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Interested in joining the Chapter Executive Committee? Email us at:


communications @agaaustin.org

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