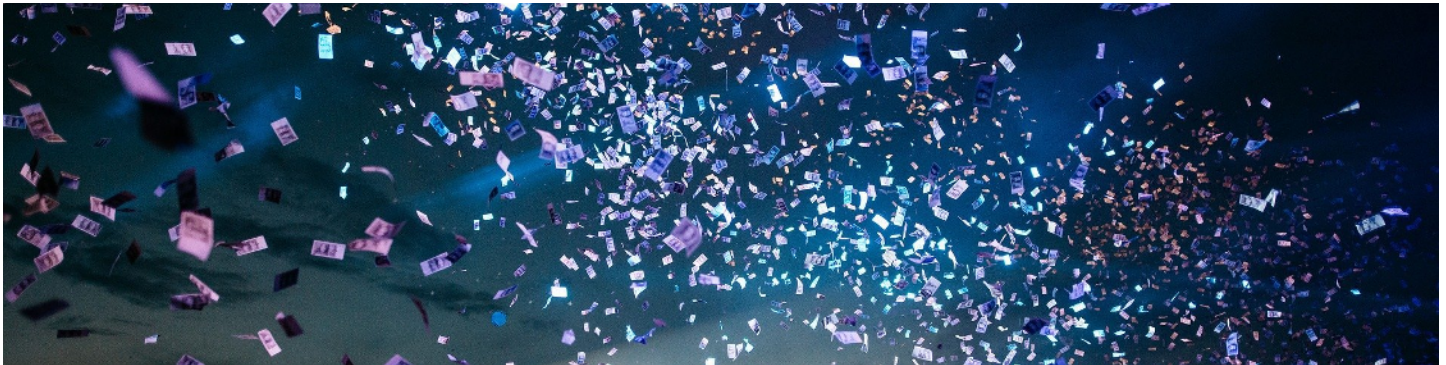




# The Ozarks Ledger



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## From Nathan's Desk

We have so much to be thankful for this year, despite the pandemic. I have found this year to be full of growth opportunities for our chapter, and personal growth opportunities to rise up to the unique challenges. I hope you can find many things to be thankful for as well.

The 2020 Technology and Transformation Summit on November 18th was 100% virtual this year and offered 8 free CPE to all AGA members. It was a conference full of learning opportunities, encouraging government financial management employees to lead us into the future with new technologies.

I wish you all the best and that you will continue to stay safe and well.

Best,

Nathan Ziegler, CPA



## Ozark Chapter Events

Chapter Meeting - January 20

- Webinar

Chapter Meeting - February 21

- Tentative in Person, TBD

Spring Seminar - March 25

Chapter Meeting - April 15

- Tentative in Person, TBD

Chapter Meeting - May 20, TBD

## New York Capital Chapter Events

Webinar - December 17

- Better Outcomes from Challenging Audit Discussions

## National Events

Virtual Event - January 26

- CGFM Live, Virtual Course 2

Virtual Event - February 3

- GASB Update

Virtual Event - February 4

- Transform Your Organization to a Digital Enterprise

Virtual Event - February 9

- CGFM Live, Virtual Course 3



**Ozarks Chapter  
Webinar - January 20th  
How to Assess Your Organization's IT Governance  
Presented by: Alan DeVaughn,  
Brown Smith Wallace  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Central)**

This presentation will provide a broad overview of IT governance and its importance in your organization. Brown Smith Wallace Advisory Manager Alan DeVaughn will introduce you to some popular frameworks, discuss their pros and cons and start you on the path to formalizing your IT governance. He'll also discuss how you should be thinking about IT governance in light of recent events.

1 CPEs Available

Free for Members or \$10 for All Others

Register for [How to Assess Your Organization's IT Governance](#) here.



## We now accept PayPal!

Please visit [AGA Ozarks - Monthly Meeting Minutes](#) to review the monthly CEC Chair Meeting Minutes.

## CGFM Live, Virtual Courses

These classes are to assist in the CGFM Certification preparation for individual participants. Registration includes 6 months of access to the AGA CGFM study guide. Please visit to link below to read more about the courses and to register.

### CGFM Certification - Live, Virtual Classes

#### Course 2

*Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting*

*January 26 - 29, 2021*

*10:30 am - 3:30 pm ET*

*\$725 Per Person*

*21 CPE Credits*

#### Course 3

*Governmental Financial Management and Control*

*February 9 - 11, 2021*

*10:30 am - 3:30 pm ET*

*\$525 per person*

*16 CPE Credits*



## Community Service

Each year, in addition to hosting monthly professional development meetings; the AGA hosts 2 full day seminars. These seminars are focused on current accounting events and future accounting changes; giving our members valuable continuing professional development. As a Civic Organization; we also give back to the community. In the past, we've centered our charitable work to Non Profits in the Springfield area however, as our club membership increases, we are seeing a larger portion of

members from the surrounding cities. The Ozarks Chapter of AGA would like to expand the charitable reach to Non Profit Organizations outside of the Springfield area. We will present a list of Organizations at the Spring seminar and attendees will vote on the charity that will receive the contribution.

Please give this request your full consideration and send your ideas to:

Jennifer Schatzer by February 15, 2021.



# News from National/NCC Rep

Hello, everyone!

2021 is here! Is earning the CGFM certification on your list of New Year's resolutions?

Here are some things you need to know:

- The CGFM certification is 100% focused on government financial management with a broad coverage of various aspects at the federal, state and local levels.
- The CGFM certification benefits you as an employee by increasing your knowledge of government financial management.
- The CGFM certification benefits your employer as you have a better understanding of how the different government financial management components fit together.
- The initial CGFM requirements are:
  - Ethics - Read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics.
  - Education - Have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university
  - Examinations - Pass all 3 comprehensive CGFM examinations
  - Experience - Complete at least 2 years of professional-level experience in the U.S. government financial management field (exams may be scheduled and take before the two years have been completed)
- Your Ozarks Chapter is here to help! Study guides for each of the exams can be checked out at no cost, and the Chapter offers CPE to help meet your requirements of 80 CPE hours every two years.
- If your employer did not pay for your exams, an Ozarks Chapter scholarship is available for the cost of the program application and exam fees after passing all 3 exams.

Contact Daphne Pevahouse, Professional Certification Chair, for more information.

I will update you next month with more news from National.

Greg Drake, 2019-2021 Ozarks Chapter NCC Representative



## New Year, New President - What to Expect:

The Presidential transition to Joe Biden will bring many changes to our government on federal, state, and local levels. There will be more funding from the federal level which will allow for state and local agencies to have more flexibility in their spending while maintaining more data and records.

## How Biden's Policy Plans Could Impact State and Local Governments

by Heidi Greene and John O'Leary (Deloitte)





## Everyone meet, Renee Vines

This month, we introduce Renee Vines. Renee was born in St. Louis, briefly lived in Washington D.C. for 6 months, with the remainder of her time being spent in Springfield. She graduated from MSU (or SMSU back in the day), interned for City Utilities in 1992, and has now worked for City Utilities for 12 years. Renee has been a member of AGA for about 8 years.

In her free time, Renee enjoys spending time with family. They love to hike, fish, float, and work outside in the garden. She also loves to cook which involves trying new recipes, getting creative and

putting her own twist on a recipe, or adding new flavors. Decorating cakes and cupcakes helps provide a creative outlet, which helps her balance out the logic and numbers oriented job she holds.

### Strictly Business:

What energizes you at work?

Brain-storming with other people to find the best solution to a problem. We have many smart, creative, talented people at City Utilities, and I am always excited to see the results when we have the right people in a meeting where we are solving tough issues.

### A Little More Personal:

What advice would you give your teenage self?

I have a teenager right now, so I would like to go back and tell my teenage self to be nice to my mother – it's a tough job!

### Just for Fun:

What is one item you can't leave your home without?

A mask and hand sanitizer - but I will be glad to leave this habit behind someday!

Youtube Video:

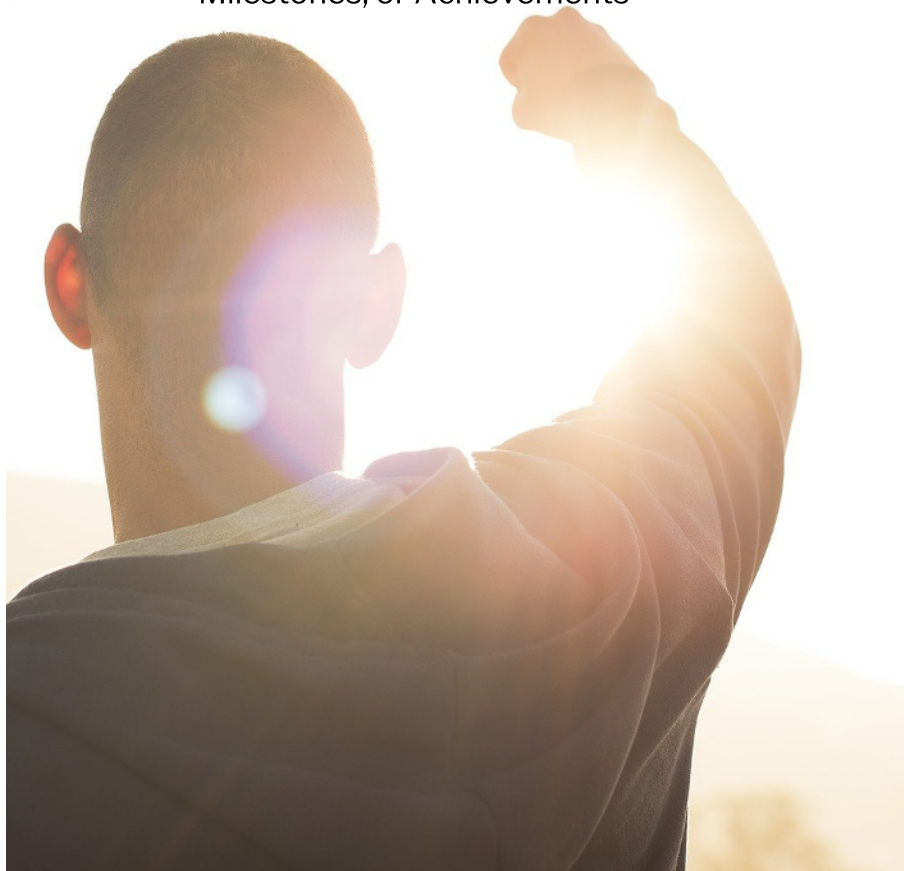
**Ethics: Yes, Even When Nobody is Watching**

Dawne Ware



## Anniversaries, Milestones & Achievements

- January Anniversaries:
  - Javier M. Adorno-Garcia, Student
  - John Delzell - Retired CGFM
  - Email Melody Ownby with any Anniversaries, Milestones, or Achievements



## Job

### Opportunities

- Missouri State University
  - Internal Auditor
- Email Melody Ownby with any governmental accounting opportunities in the Ozarks

### Volunteer Opportunities

- City of Springfield
  - Citizens' Tax Oversight Committee
- Email Melody Ownby with any volunteer opportunities in the Ozarks



# Why the CGFM?

## Brandie Fisher

### Q: What prompted you to begin the process of obtaining your CGFM?

A: While attending college, my original plan wasn't to work in government or accounting! So rather than pursue a Public Administration or Accounting degree, I have a BS in Business Management and a MBA. After graduating and working several years in the government finance arena, I realized it was something that I loved and I wanted a certificate that complemented my degrees and showcased the knowledge I had gained after college. I researched my options and quickly realized that the CGFM was a great fit.

### Q: How has networking with other CGFM holders helped you?

A: I've always known that networking is important – but how

important it is never really hit home until a year ago. I had recently switched jobs from the City of Springfield to City Utilities and even though I was responsible for managing the federal transit grants and financial reporting, all of my new training at that point had been more focused on transit operations, compliance and ADA. I was slowly teaching myself the financial side of transit by doing lots of research and referencing old reports, but I still had many questions that nobody seemed to be able to easily answer. One day I was at a training in Kansas City, hosted by the Federal Transit Administration, and noticed someone at the back of the room waving at me. At first, I thought they must be waving at someone else, or think I'm someone else – I didn't know anyone there! When he got closer, I realized it was Ken Rouch – fellow CGFM from the Lincoln Nebraska Chapter of AGA! I never in million years thought I would run into someone from AGA at a transit meeting! Now, I know that if I have a question I can reach out to Ken and if he doesn't know the answer, I also have access to his network. It made me feel a little less alone during my transition.

### Q: What would you suggest to candidates to help them pass the exams?

A: Decide how much time you need/want to study each week and schedule it. On the days I scheduled to study, I would go to a "study spot" rather than go home – because I knew I would have too many distractions at home. My favorite places to study were at the library and Panera.

### Q: What resources did you use to help prepare?

A: I think the resource that helped me the most was flash cards. I found a website called Quizlet that allowed me to make digital flash cards and it would keep track of the topics I knew and the ones I didn't. AGA members across the US had put in their flash cards as well, and I could practice those also. I'm sure there is an app now to make it even easier to study on the go!

### Q: How long did it take you from when you started the application process to complete the certification process?

A: I believe it took close to 2 years. I got test 1 and 3 out of the way quickly, but test 2 took me more than one try! During this time period I also switched jobs, and had a baby – so, the studying was put on the back burner a few times.



The AGA Podcast "**Accountability Talks**" brings topics to the governmental accounting community in an insightful and modern way. Each episode covers a different topic related to the field.

Recent Episodes:

Episode 60: CGFM with Katya Silver, Kimberly Jones, Lora Pickard, and Crystal Robinson

Episode 61: Blockchain for Grants with Mike Weklow and Justin Poll





**AGA wants to partner with you.**



**GET MORE INFORMATION TODAY!**

**Contact Daphne to see how the AGA Ozarks Chapter can support you! - [dpevahouse@neoshomo.org](mailto:dpevahouse@neoshomo.org)**

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