



# The AGA Communique



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## Make the Most out of AGA

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA), Montgomery-Prince George's County (MPG) Chapter welcomes you to our community! We are a diverse group of professionals involved in the federal, state, and local government communities and collectively committed to effective and accountable financial management at all levels of government.

We encourage you to engage with the MPG AGA chapter and the broader AGA membership. We highlight chapter activities, opportunities, and resources in our newsletter, our website ([marylandaga.com](http://marylandaga.com)), our social media pages, and email communications. Contact Nicholas Garrard ([president@marylandaga.com](mailto:president@marylandaga.com)), President, or anyone on the board to get involved.

Make the most of your AGA membership. The chapter website has detailed information on chapter events, educational opportunities, scholarships, and links to the national site (and AGA-wide benefits!). Whether you are looking for CPEs, camaraderie, networking opportunities, or insight into the latest government financial management trends and practices, AGA has the resources for you at a national and chapter level.

--The AGA Communique



## Board Member Spotlight: Brian Frey

AGA Communique's Board Member Spotlight series will feature an interview with a different board member each month. For the December 2021 issue, we interviewed Brian Frey, Education Co-Chair.

**Matt Dragonette**, Newsletter Editor (Q). Tell us about your career to-date.

**Brian Frey**, Education Co-Chair (A) I am still in the early stages of my career, a little over 4 years out of college, but so far, I have worked entirely in the government industry. I am a senior auditor in KPMG's federal audit practice, and I have experience working on the audits of both civilian and defense agencies.

Q: Can you tell us about your service on the board? How did you get involved and where have you been able to contribute?

A. I began serving on the Montgomery/Prince George's board in 2018 after I was encouraged to take on a more active role by one of my coworkers. I served as a co-chair of the Young Professionals committee for three program years. I enjoyed working on the Young Professionals committee because it afforded me the opportunity to put on programming for other individuals who were in a similar spot in their career. I especially enjoyed the outreach that we did on college campuses, including presenting to government accounting classes, because we got to expose students to careers in government accountability. I recently transitioned to co-chair of the Education committee, and

so far, I have enjoyed helping to bring engaging CPE events, covering a diverse array of topics, to our members.

Q: What's been the best aspect with AGA with respect to your career development? Are there any membership benefits you have particularly enjoyed?

A. I have really enjoyed the CPE meetings that I have been able to attend over the last few years. The chapter does a great job of recruiting speakers with

A. My favorite AGA memory was presenting to a government accounting class at the University of Maryland a couple years ago. The students were so inquisitive and asked insightful questions about the benefits of a career in the government industry.

Q: In 2020-2021, you were recognized with the Chapter Special Achievement award for your contributions to the young professionals program and chapter outreach. Can you tell us a little about the award itself and

**"Get involved early and often...the board was incredibly open and supportive to help me implement ideas and programming, and I value the relationships I have developed" - Brian Frey**

extensive experience and expertise to present to the chapter. And while I miss the networking that occurred during in-person dinner meetings, the chapter has still done a great job enabling virtual networking after sessions during the pandemic.

Q: Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?

A. AGA provides numerous opportunities to connect with like-minded professionals who are passionate about government accountability and financial management. AGA is a great way to meet these professionals and learn from their career paths and accomplishments.

Q: Being involved with young professionals and outreach undoubtedly results in some interesting experience. What's your favorite AGA memory?

what it means to you?

A. I am very grateful to have received this award! It was great to know that people appreciated the work I was putting into planning and executing events (which, of course, would not have been possible without the help of my co-chairs and the support of the board as a whole!).

Q. Do you have any advice for young professionals or soon-to-be young professionals interested in an accountability career?

A. Get involved early and often! When my coworker suggested that I join the board in 2018, I was skeptical. I was only about a year into my career and not sure what I would be able to offer the chapter. However, the board was incredibly open and supportive to help me implement ideas and programming, and I value the relationships I have developed.

## Upcoming Events

### January Virtual Meeting

"GAO's Fraud Ontology and Anti-fraud Web Resource"

January 20, 2022

Virtual (see website RSVP)

Join us to learn about GAO's efforts to better understand the characteristics associated with fraud with a federal nexus.

Sign-up on our website!

### February Virtual Meeting

"What's New with FASAB"

February 15, 2022

Virtual (see website RSVP)

Join us for a webinar about FASAB's active projects and publications, and how you can get involved. Sign-up on our website!

### March Virtual Meeting

"Climate-Related Risk: How the Government Can Lead by Example" March 15, 2022

Virtual (see website RSVP)

Join us for a webinar discussing government accountability and climate-related risks. Check out our website in early 2022 to sign-up!

### CGFM Study Group

Monthly Meetings

Contact us at

CGFM@marylandaga.com to learn more and connect with other professionals studying for the CGFM.

**Sign-up for any of our events on the chapter's website: [marylandaga.com](http://marylandaga.com)**

## Other Upcoming Events

Our annual spring workshop takes place April 7, 2022 from 8:00am-12:20pm - please save the date!

Additionally, the chapter award ceremony has not yet been scheduled but a communication is expected in early 2022. See 2021-2022 Issue I for a recap of the prior ceremony, which has historically included expert leaders from the AGA and broader government accountability community.



## December Chapter Board Meeting Summary

***Below is an abbreviated summary of the board's December meeting for each committee. Please contact our chapter president or secretary with any questions.***

**Treasurer.** Nick was provided the key to the chapter PO box.

**Awards.** Anu received reimbursement from the prior year awards and will be coordinating the date of 2021-2022 awards.

**Certification.** CGFM study group held on 11/17.

**Community Service.** Parade participants reported a great event.

**Membership.** Tanequa planned a virtual happy hour for January 5 and an "ugly sweater" photo submission.

**Education/Meetings.** Held winter workshop (Ethics) with 50 people in attendance.

**Social Media.** Freda reminded the board to submit pictures to her or send post ideas.

**Recognition.** Jillian submitted the first pulse check of the year in December. The chapter is already close to the "gold" category rating.

**General Discussion.** The board collectively discussed adding a formal disclaimer to each event to notate that the chapter may take photos for use in social media posts, event recaps, and the newsletter. At present, individuals are notified of the use of the photos or meeting minutes for AGA promotional or historical material.





# Thanksgiving Parade

*The chapter engages with the Montgomery County community in the annual holiday parade*

At left: Parade marchers (board and chapter members) hold AGA sign in the pre-parade lineup.

At right: The MPG AGA parade car with both chapter advertising and festive holiday cheer.

On November 20, MPG chapter members and supporters participated in Montgomery County's annual Thanksgiving parade to demonstrate the chapter's commitment to the community and advertise AGA to the community. As the 2020 parade was canceled, this was the second parade in a row featuring the chapter. Held annually in downtown Silver Spring, this year's iteration featured good weather (for November at least) and much needed good cheer for the community. Be sure to join the chapter for next year's parade!



## Membership Committee Spotlight: Ugly Sweaters and Camaraderie

The Membership Committee is responsible for engaging and strengthening chapter membership. Led by Tanequa McQueen, the committee has reached out to hundreds of prospective and current members each year to strengthen the chapter. In the prior membership year, Tanequa led the chapter in its achievement of the Highest Overall Growth award for large chapters, particularly impressive given the environmental challenges faced in our community. Recently, Tanequa organized a virtual "ugly sweater" photo collage for members as well as a trivia night (including accounting trivia!). Stay tuned to our chapter communications and website in early January for a virtual chapter event to encourage networking and spirit among members!



*Clockwise:* Tanequa, Jaclin, and Felix share their festive "ugly sweaters" and activity with other members. Tanequa McQueen is the chair of the Membership committee.



# Recent Accounting & Reporting Updates

*A snapshot of federal, state, and local changes.*

## **Government Accounting Standards Board**

In October 2021, GASB renamed "the most extensive report prepared following its standards" to be the annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR). No other changes were made to the ACFR, but the name was changed due to the offensive nature of the prior acronym when spoken aloud. *See [gasb.org](https://gasb.org) for the released media advisory.*

In November, the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF), which oversees GASB, announced four new board members for the upcoming five year term beginning January 1, 2022. The new members are Trustees Manju Ganeriwala, Edward (Ted) J. Goldthorpe, W. Bryan Lewis, and Diane C. Nordin. *See [gasb.org](https://gasb.org) for the press release, including the*

*extensive experience and background for each.*

## **Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board**

In November 2021, FASAB issued Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 60: *Omnibus Amendments 2021*. This standard amends SFFAS 54: *Leases* for technical corrections and clarifications. During this period, FASAB also issued Technical Release 20 (leases) and Interpretation of Federal Financial Accounting Standards 11 (debt cancellation).

In December, FASAB appointed Raymond Vicks and reappointed Patrick McNamee to the FASAB.

*See [fasab.gov](https://fasab.gov) for SFFAS 60, other guidance releases, relevant press releases and additional details.*



## News from National.

### **Selected National Training & Events:**

#### ***CGFM Live Series (virtual)***

January 25-28; February 8-10

#### **National Leadership Training** (Washington, D.C.)

February 23-24

#### **January Members Only Webinar (webinar)**

November 3

### **Other Features:**

#### ***AGA's 2021 Innovation Challenge:***

AGA selected the National Science Foundation (NSF) as the winner of the 2021 Innovation Challenge for its Financial Obligation Root Cause Explorer (FORCE). NSF's FORCE "uses a fully operational artificial intelligence and machine

learning technology stack of data aggregation, visualization, natural language processing/text analytics, and dashboard platforms" to analyze NSF's repository of grants. Visit AGA's website for a copy of the full press release.

#### ***2021 Inspectors General Survey:***

AGA performed a survey of federal inspectors general to identify challenges facing the IG community. Participants reported ongoing challenges and successes related to oversight of pandemic spending and the government's response to the pandemic. The survey also reported ongoing concerns related to IG independence. Visit AGA's website for the complete survey.

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