

President's Message

By: Priscilla Suggs



Greetings Austin AGA,

December – a month of lights and feasts, time to make amends and tie loose ends; finish off what you started and hope for wishes to come true!

Join us, December 12th to hear Randy Anderson, a former State

Auditor's Office Conference Speaker, discuss ideas and strategies to help improve performance in the workplace and to achieve maximum potential in life.

Communication is one of the most important ingredients for success in life. No matter the audience, your ability to communicate effectively will determine your potential influence more than any other skill you can develop. To be a great communicator, you must become a seller of ideas. From conversations with upper management, to peers, to subordinates, and even with family and friends, presenting your ideas and strategies in a way that they understand and remember is critical to success in your career and life, regardless of your position or responsibilities.

December Words for Thought:

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

- Maya Angelou

Welcome New AGA Members!

I'd like to welcome new members Eulogio S. Garcia, Valerie H. Robinson, Asad Khan, Crystal St. Clair, Wayne A. Lopez, Richard E. Kukucka III, and Mark Walker. Be on the lookout to welcome our new members during the December luncheon!

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.

Happy Holidays!

Your President,

Priscilla Suggs

In this issue:

- President's Message
- Highlights from the November luncheon
- October and November Chapter Minutes
- Member Spotlight: Meet Priscilla Suggs

Upcoming trainings, meetings & events:

December 11, 2019	Webinar – Internal Control 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
December 12, 2019	CPE Luncheon - Mastering the Art of Communication 1 CPE
December 18, 2019	Webinar – Professional Development 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
January 8, 2020	Webinar – Uniform Guidance 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
January 9, 2020	CPE Luncheon - Increase Your Confidence, Enhance Your Career 1 CPE
February 5, 2020	Webinar – GASB Update 2 CPEs (www.agacgfm.com)
February 12-13, 2010	National Leadership training (NLT) 14 CPEs (Washington D.C. www.agacgfm.com)
February 13, 2020	CPE Luncheon - Personal Finance—Money Moves Outside Your Pension Plan 1 CPE

Membership News

By: Aria Negahban

The Chapter reported 117 active members as of December, including 3 new members who joined in over the past month:

- Mr. Wayne A. Lopez
- Mr. Richard E. Kukucka III
- Mr. Mark Walker

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



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

DID YOU KNOW?

You can recruit new members and receive a chance to win a \$100 Amex giftcard for every new member you recruit from September 2019 to March 2020. For more information, visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Membership-Drive.aspx>

December CPE Luncheon — “Mastering the Art of Communication”

**Randy Anderson,
E3 Professional Trainers**



The AGA Austin Chapter will host its December 2019 luncheon on December 12, 2019 at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen located at 11617 Research Boulevard, Austin, TX. This month’s topic is Mastering the Art of Communication.

Randy spent over 20 years in sales and sales management before starting E3 in 2005. Throughout his career, Randy has had the opportunity to work with virtually every type of business and in every industry. His clients have ranged from small, mom-and-pop local businesses to large corporations that are spread all across the United States. It is from that experience that Randy has drawn the ideas and strategies he teaches to help people improve their performance in the workplace and to achieve their maximum potential in life.

*Do you know a dynamic speaker?
Nominate them to speak at a monthly luncheon. Email
priscilla.suggs@hhsc.state.tx.us*

Sign up at:

<https://www.agaustin.org/cpe-events/event2.html>

Member - \$29 | Nonmember - \$34

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	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	31				

NOTABLE *and* quotable

While I love being able to attend events that provide CPE for my professional designations, AGA has provided a great opportunity for me to develop leadership skills within the chapter, and meet others that I might not have had a professional relationship with otherwise.

Will Kays, CPA, CMA
Accountant, Defense Finance & Accounting Service;
AGA Greater Columbus Chapter

Past Events

By: Bhakti Patel

Photo Credit: Sharita Jefferson



Eddie Chan, Priscilla Suggs, Linh Truong, Paul Morris, Patti Roano

During our November Luncheon, Ms. Linh Truong presented the topic of assessing corporate culture in front of an audience of 20 attendees. Ms. Truong discussed how to assess the corporate culture in key areas and how to identify red flags of an unhealthy culture. She captivated the audience by examining the top corporate accounting frauds and the common underlying culture at each organization.

Ms. Truong went through key areas every organization should analyze to understand their corporate culture: risk management, policies and procedures, the organization’s first line of defense, continuous improvement, employee interviews and surveys, compensation structures, executive and board reporting, and external feedback from sources such as external auditors and consultants, industry peers and benchmarking data.

Many thanks to Ms. Linh Truong for presenting at the AGA Austin Chapter November luncheon!



Lesa Brown, Patricia Robinson



Joel Brophy and new member, Richard Kukucka



Chance Watson, Paul Morris, Priscilla Suggs, John Rivers



Patty Hamm, Tracy Hardwick, Lesli Cathey

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

Community Service

By: Bhakti Patel

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



Women's Storybook Project of Texas Holiday Book Drive



Saturday, November 2nd from 11:00am to
Saturday, December 21st, 2019 5:00pm



Interested volunteers must sign up for a shift at <https://signup.com/go/sHToMnq>.

The Storybook Project of Texas help incarcerated mothers connect with their children through literature. Their annual

Holiday Book Drive will take place at every weekend in November and December. Volunteers are asked to stand at the front of the store, tell shoppers about the Project's mission, and then ask that they donate a book for the Holiday Book Drive at the counter when they check out.

Each day has three shifts that need two volunteers per shift. Time slots are two hours long:

11-1 pm

1-3 pm

3-5 pm

Marketing materials and badges will be supplied at the store along with printed directions and a wish list. If you have questions, contact Emilie Crimmins at crimmins.emilie@gmail.com Location: 3616 Far West Blvd #120 Austin, TX 78737

Location: Sunset Valley Barnes & Noble, 5601 Brodie Ln Suite 300, Austin, TX 78745

22nd Merry Memories Holiday Toy Fest in Dove Springs



Saturday, December 14th, 2019



River City Youth Foundation is holding its 22nd Annual Merry Memories toy giveaway and holiday festival for the community of southeast Austin's Dove Springs.

Last year's event

brought more than 2,500 children and their parents. We need LOTS of elves to help us:

**Give away thousands of toys and gifts

** Run the holiday game booths

**And much, much more!

Please sign up today to be a volunteer at this online link below. This is where you'll get more information and select a shift. Also at this link is where you can find additional ways to help before the event.

<https://tinyurl.com/MM19vols>

We need lots of early bird Elves to help with set up and lots of tidy Elves to help us tear down.

Please email PR@rivercityyouth.org with any questions or requests. Visit www.rivercityyouth.org for more information about River City Youth Foundation.

Come join the fun and impact thousands of families this season!

Location: River City Youth Green Building--volunteer registration inside, 5209 S Pleasant Valley



Are you involved in a charitable organization? Have you had an amazing volunteer experience? Tell us about it!! Email us at communications@agaustin.org

Marathon Kids at the 2019 Rockin' Resolution Race



Friday, December 27th, 2019 to Sunday, December 29th, 2019



Come out and help the Rockin' Resolution team with their packet pickup operation for the race! Volunteers will just be ensuring that those coming to receive their materials for race day are given the necessary documents and help. We will

need four volunteers on 12/27 at Ready to Run & four volunteers on 12/28 at Academy in Round Rock. Quinton Valdez at Marathon Kids will reach out with address information for both once you sign up.

Location: 3616 Far West Blvd #120 Austin, TX 78737

Sort Donated Books for Kids in Need



Monday, January 13th, 2020 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm (CT)



Join Texas Kids Read prepare books for distribution to students in Title 1 elementary schools. We will be sorting books by grade, Pre-K through 5th. Experience is not required. An experienced volunteer will be at your table to help you and answer any questions. A light dinner will be served before we start working.

Please let us know if you have any food allergies or restrictions. We will try to accommodate them.

Book Cleaning is a good event to have as a group event at your company or organization as a community service project. Texas Kids Read will bring books and supplies to your location. We will be on hand to teach your group how to clean and repair books. If you are interested in holding such an event please email us at txkidsread@gmail.com.

Location: 6405 Circle S Dr., Austin, TX 78745

2020 Austin PIT Count Volunteer Sign-Up



Saturday, January 25th, 2020 from 2:00am to 9:00am (CT)



The Point In Time Count (PIT Count) is an annual census of the homeless population in the Austin/Travis County area. In the early morning of January 25th hundreds of volunteers will head out to count every person experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Austin/Travis County.

Volunteers will count people sleeping in cars, tents, parks, under bridges, and on the streets. The information from this count is used to guide public policy and secure resources to help end homelessness in our community.

Sign up to be a volunteer! The PIT Count can't happen without the support of volunteers, and we need a lot of them. All adults are eligible to sign up. Please review the volunteer role summaries below.

General Volunteers are assigned to a section and work under the direction of a Team Lead to locate and survey individuals sleeping outside on the night of the PIT Count. General Volunteers are responsible for staying in communication with their Team Lead and completing the assigned trainings prior to the count. Anyone over the age of 18 may sign up to be a General Volunteer.

Team Leads are responsible for managing a team of 15-20 people. Leading up to the count, Team Leads will scout their assigned area to become familiar with where people stay, and Leads are responsible for communicating with their team members to relay information and answer questions. On the night of the PIT Count, Team Leads will oversee their team members to ensure their entire assigned section is covered as well as completing surveys themselves. Previous experience as a PIT Count volunteer is required for anyone interested in being a Team Lead.

Location: Austin, TX 78751

Member Spotlight

By: Bhakti Patel



*Meet your Chapter
President:*

Priscilla Suggs

Audit Manager, Office of the Inspector General

Priscilla Suggs is currently an Audit Manager at the Office of the Inspector General and was previously an Audit Manager for 2 years with the Department of Family and Protective Services. Priscilla spent three years performing risk based compliance audits for over 143 Texas institutions at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Prior to that, Priscilla spent over 5 years with DFPS as a senior auditor and began her career at the Health and Human Services Commission Office of Inspector General where she discovered one of the largest non-profit fraud cases in Austin, Texas at Family Connections. Her experience as an audit professional has included research of background information, assessments of IT controls, creation of risk profiles, tracking of funding sources, financial reports and investigation of complaints to communicate information to stakeholders.

Priscilla is currently the president of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Austin, Texas Chapter, and has previously served on boards of the Young Professionals of the Austin Area Urban League (AAUL) and the Central Region board of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Incorporated. Priscilla has a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin and an MBA from Tarleton State University. She was a participant of the HHS Executive Leadership Academy, Class 8.

Priscilla has a fond love for chocolate, travel, outdoorsy activities and good humor! Also, she is not Spanish, but she is half German; feel free to practice your Deutsche with her or share a memorable adventure with her! She loves learning about culture and new adventures!



Treasurer's Report

By: David Vasquez

As of November 31, 2019

Beginning Bank Balance	11/1/2019	\$2,820.11
<i>Funds Received:</i>		
11/1/19 - 11/26/19 ACH - Square (Nov. Luncheon)		\$521.19
11/1/2019 Dividend through 11/1/2019		\$0.27
Total Funds Received		\$521.46
Funds Available		\$3,341.57
<i>Funds Expended:</i>		
Date	Check No./Credit Card.	
11/15/2019	Bank Card November Luncheon	\$523.20
Total Funds Expended		\$523.20
Ending Bank Balance	11/30/2019	\$2,818.37
Check Register Reconciliation:		
Ending Bank Balance	11/30/2019	\$2,818.37
<i>Outstanding Checks:</i>		
Date	Check No.	Description
Total Outstanding Checks		\$0.00
<i>Outstanding Deposits:</i>		
	Date	Description
Total Outstanding Deposits		\$0.00
Adjusted Ending Bank Balance	11/30/2019	\$2,818.37
Total Chapter Funds Available Per Check Register	11/30/2019	\$2,818.37
<i>Cash On Hand:</i>		
	CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
	Luncheon Bank	\$40.00

Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

By: Elba Morales

October 17th, 2019 | 12:00 pm

Priscilla Suggs called the meeting to order. CEC Members present: Kieran Coe, Latosha Goard, Priscilla Suggs, Eddie Chan, Patti Roano, Bhakti Patel, and Aria Negahban

Approve Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

Debrief of October Luncheon

Debrief of October Luncheon

Confirmation of the luncheon for November
Plans for Thanksgiving

Recruitment

Discussed LinkedIn usage and earlier communications of luncheon events

Monthly Newsletter

Draft looks great

SLM-April 2020; board member interest

Elba and Aria are interested in attending

Annual Budget

awaiting budget from David for Spring networking event

Networking Event Update

Tentative selected date: April 9, 2019
Aria will research venue options and share with the Board
Board voted to not move forward with Kendra Scott pop-up fundraiser

University Initiative

Board agreed chapter funds need to be raised prior to re-booting university initiative

Social Media

Board members to share posts
Elba to share Luncheon reminders 2x before the event

Adjournment –The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

The next meeting is to be on Thursday, November 21, 2019 via conference line at 12 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Elba Morales

AGA Austin Secretary

Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

By: Elba Morales

December 6th, 2019 | 12:00 pm

Priscilla Suggs called the meeting to order. CEC Members present: Aria Negahban, Elba Morales, Priscilla Suggs, and LaTosha Goard

Approve Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

Debrief of November Luncheon

There were 20 attendees
Elba to send out more notifications to remind members and community
December's speaker expense will be covered by Priscilla Low turn around

Recruitment

Elba to send out more notifications to remind members and community
Tuesday or Thursday before the luncheon.

Status of Monthly Newsletter

Bhakti it looks awesome! Bhakti will send it to Elba and Elba will email it out to everyone

SLM – April 2020; board member interest

SLM will be in Dallas, TX. Aria and Elba are interested

Annual budget

Sponsorship letter – Priscilla will email draft

Networking Event Update –

Aria to copy Bhakti, Priscilla and Kieran on emails to confirm dates, partnership terms etc. with IIA, ISACA, and NABA. Have Bhakti proofread prior to emailing contacts – she may provide valuable input.
Aria is to communicate with IIA, ISACA and NABA about the event on the 9th and draft an email and expectation about their participation
And to discuss logistics and marketing
Venue Secured – Cover 3

University Initiative

Has been placed on hold

Social Media

Aria great job on LinkedIn posts! And Board sharing!!

Adjournment –The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

The next meeting is to be on January 23, 2019 via conference line at 12 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Elba Morales

AGA Austin Secretary

Industry News

Submitted by: Debi Weyer

The Names Have Been Changed

Although a full generation has passed since GASB Statement No. 34 was issued, we still see terminology from earlier reporting used in some governments' CAFRs. Change is the only constant in life." The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said it approximately 2,500 years ago, and it remains true. Government financial reporting is a case in point. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has kept up a rapid pace of standard setting for over 35 years, with most standards introducing new terminology or attributing specific meanings to existing terms that were formerly used with a wider range of meanings.

Submissions to GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) Award Program sometimes contain relics of bygone governmental generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the form of outdated terminology. There are also numerous instances of terminology that is specific to one kind of fund or financial statement element being misapplied to others, which has the potential to add confusion to the complexity inherent in a reporting model with more than one measurement focus and basis of accounting.

Although a full generation has passed since GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements — and Management's Discussion and Analysis — for State and Local Governments*, was issued, we still see terminology from earlier reporting used in some governments' comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs). The following are a few to watch out for.

Recommended terminology: *basic financial statements*

In place of: *general purpose financial statements*

While other GASB literature, including several concepts statements, talk about *general purpose financial statements*, references to the set of government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and notes to the financial statements that are required by current (post GASB Statement No. 34) GAAP are appropriately referred to as *basic financial statements*.

Recommended terminology: *issuance of debt*

In place of: *debt proceeds (or proceeds from debt)*

Context: *other financing sources*

In the governmental funds statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, the other financing source that results from a new debt issue should be referred to as *issuance of debt* rather than *proceeds*. This is because the full-face amount of long-term debt issued, rather than the proceeds (the face amount net of premiums, discounts, and issuance costs) must be reported.

Recommended terminology: *interfund services provided and used*

In place of: *quasi-external transactions*

Before GASB Statement No. 34 was issued, transactions between funds of a primary government in which the funds exchange an equal or nearly equal value — transactions which, if external, would be classified as exchange or exchange-like — were referred to as *quasi-external transactions* to distinguish them from inter-fund transfers and subsidies. In the current reporting model, they are referred to as *reciprocal interfund activity*.

To minimize the confusion inherent in a reporting model with two measurement focuses, governments need to use terminology that is appropriate to the measurement focus of the financial statements presented or referred to in their CAFRs.

Specifically, *other financing source*, *other financing uses*, and *expenditures* should be used when — and only when — referring to governmental financial statements, as those terms only apply to a current financial resources measurement focus and a modified basis of accounting. The term *expense*, including references to prepaid expenses, should not be used in or when referring to governmental fund financial statements or elements.

Finally, the pre-GASB Statement No. 34 term *fixed assets* should be discarded in favor of *capital assets*. And both fixed asset and long-term debt *account groups* have gone the way of the dinosaurs.

Other GASB statements, admittedly less than ten years old, also seem to be casting long shadows over today's CAFRs.

Recommended terminology: *net investment in capital assets*

In place of: *net position invested in capital assets, net of related debt*

Recommended terminology: unearned revenue

In place of: *deferred revenue*

GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*, changed the names of the components of net position and attributed specific meaning to the term *deferred*. The difference between a government's net capital asset value and the net amount of capital debt outstanding is appropriately — and economically — referred to as the government's *net investment in capital assets* rather than as the *net position invested in capital assets, net of related debt*.

And with the identification of new financial statement elements named *deferred inflows of resources* and *deferred outflows of resources*, funds that are held by a government in advance of being earned should no longer be called *deferred revenue*. Instead, they should be called *unearned revenue*.

Recommended terminology: *fair value or acquisition value*

In place of: *market value*

GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, defined the more precise terms *fair value* and *acquisition value* as referring to market related exit prices and entry prices, respectively. These terms should be used in place of the former, less exact, term *market value*.

One final terminology suggestion is that governments and their auditors should use the term *unmodified* when referring to an independent auditor's report that is "clean." Modifications to auditors' opinions come in the form of qualified opinions, adverse opinions, and disclaimers of opinion. While it is not technically incorrect to refer to an *unmodified opinion* as an *unqualified opinion*, *unmodified* is a more precise term. It also avoids the ironically negative connotation of being unqualified — something we never want an unfortunate choice of words to imply about us.

By: Michelle Mark Levine

Just for Fun...



 GOCOMICS.

GET A LAUGH!

AGA Austin Chapter

2019-2020 Officers and Committee Chairs

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President

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Vacant

President - Elect

David Vasquez

Treasurer

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Elba Morales

Secretary

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Patti Roano

Education Committee Chair

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Aria Negahban

Membership Committee Chair

e-mail: Aria.Negahban@CohnReznick.com

Vacant

Community Service Committee Chair

Bhakti Patel

Communications Chair

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Eddie Chan

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Debi Weyer

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Kieran Coe

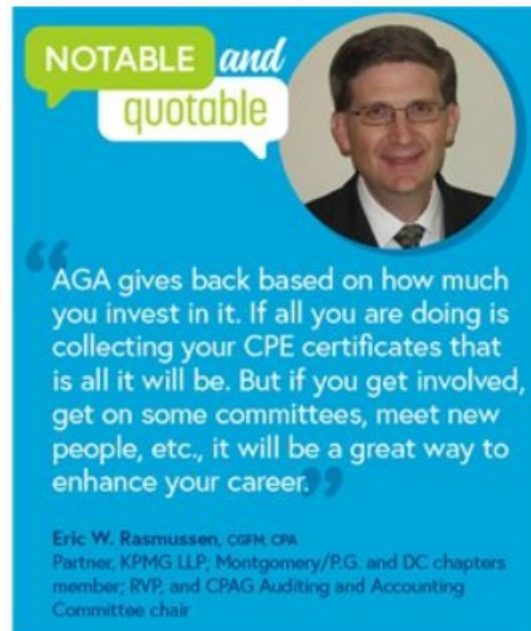
Past President

e-mail: Kieran.Coe@CohnRenick.com

Paul Morris

Regional Vice President


e-mail: pmorris1@austin.rr.com





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


[communications @agaustin.org](mailto:communications@agaustin.org)

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