

# AGA Phoenix Chapter (www.agaphoenix.org)

PY 2015-2016

October 2015



## Message From the President



I would like to thank everyone who attended our September meeting on citizen-centric government reporting.

This month, we will host two AGA National web conferences: Government Innovation on October 7th, and Fraud Prevention on October 21st. Detailed information on the events is on our website.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please email me at [aga@agaphoenix.org](mailto:aga@agaphoenix.org).

Thank you for supporting the Phoenix chapter.

Joshua Consier  
President  
AGA Phoenix Chapter

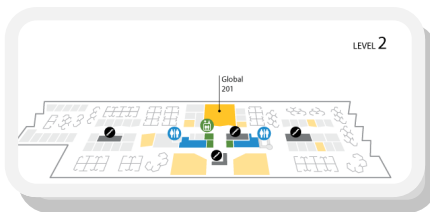
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### 10/7/15 Meeting (2 CPE)

1. Lunch (10:30 AM)
2. Government Innovation (11:00—12:50 PM)

### 10/21/15 Meeting (2 CPE)

1. Lunch (10:30 AM)
2. Fraud Prevention (11:00—12:50 PM)



## Goals for 2015-2016 and Beyond

- Membership & Education:
  - Provide 36 education credits throughout the program year. Audio conferences and live speakers.
  - Reach out to new members within first month of membership.
  - Reach out to all non-renewing members in May/June.
  - Provide social/recruiting event in Spring.
- Accountability:
  - Prepare chapter’s Citizen Centric Report (CCR) by September 30, 2015 and post to website.
  - Submit chapter’s CCR to AGA’s Certificate of Excellence Review Program.
- CGFM Goals:
  - Continue reimbursements for chapter members who pass all three sessions of the CGFM tests. Reimbursement includes the cost of the three exams and application fee.
  - Communicate and promote CGFM designation to Chapter members .
  - Provide CGFM study guides to members on a first come first serve basis.
  - Seek State proclamation for March as CGFM month and provide recognition to CGFM members.
- Early Career & Scholarship:
  - Reach out to college accounting clubs to present about jobs in governmental accounting and discuss what AGA is and how it can impact students’ careers.
  - Annually award up to two scholarships for students enrolled in an Accounting, Finance or Public Administration curriculum.

PY 2015-2016 Budget	
Education	\$24,250
Membership	\$2,000
Travel	\$3,500
Board Expenses	\$2,000
Scholarship	\$1,500
CGFM	\$1,000
Community Service	\$600
Website	\$500
Early Career	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,450</b>

## 2015 Sectional Leadership Meeting Update

The 2015 Sectional Leadership Meeting also referred to as SLM was in Kansas City, MO during May 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. It was an informative session that covered a wide range of topics that affects the different chapters. The SLM contained valuable information about certification and education, chapter administration, membership, chapter leadership, and young professionals. These topics that were covered are all important issues for chapters and by working to improve each of these different aspects can help to strengthen the chapter. One thing that I took from the SLM is that we need to start working on recruiting more young professionals to get them involved with the chapter. The SLM was a great experience that provides you with a greater understanding of what AGA does and the goals and objectives of the Association of Governmental Accountants.

Joshua Neidigh

**CGFM Study Group:** If you are interested in joining a CGFM Study Group, please contact John Schutter at [john.schutter@asu.edu](mailto:john.schutter@asu.edu)



### CGFM Study Resources Available:

For AGA members interested in taking the CGFM please contact our CGFM chair Elisa Gin at [cgfm@agaphoenix.org](mailto:cgfm@agaphoenix.org) for more information. Currently there is 3 complete set of materials available for check out.

Also, successful CGFM candidates can apply for reimbursement of the application and examination costs.

Contact our CGFM chair for step by step instructions on the CGFM process:

[cgfm@agaphoenix.org](mailto:cgfm@agaphoenix.org)



# AGA Phoenix Chapter

## *A Report to Our Members 2014-2015*

### A Message From Our President

The Phoenix Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is excited to present our member-centric report for the fifth consecutive year. Member-centric reporting is part of AGA's initiative for governments to provide clear and understandable financial information to not only trained financial professionals, but to the average person.

We invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings or our annual Professional Development Conference as we strive to provide high quality, low-cost continuing professional education to its members and the government accounting community. More info can be found at [agaphoenix.org](http://agaphoenix.org).

We hope our report provides improved transparency and accountability of our strategic objectives and finances. We welcome any feedback and hope to see you at a future event.

Josh Consier

AGA Phoenix Chapter President

### Our Strategic Goals

- Provide high quality, low-cost continuing professional education to the membership and the government accounting community.
- Promote the value of AGA membership in order to retain and expand membership.
- Promote the value of the Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) program.
- Promote government financial management to schools and colleges and become spokespersons for the advancement of government accountability through quality course offerings to students.
- Seek National AGA support for a consistent local web site format and the technical support necessary to provide a web based venue that the membership can use to research current information relating to the Phoenix chapter.
- Promote networking among membership at chapter events.
- Promote Executive Board membership in order to diversify our ideas and strengthen our focus.
- Expand AGA membership throughout the state.



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### Mission

The Phoenix Chapter serves Arizona professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality, low-cost continuing education, promoting professional development and interaction among members, and fostering a commitment to community involvement as well as a sense of responsibility for advancing government accountability.

### Vision

The Phoenix Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) actively creates an avenue for membership to share ideas with each other, to share knowledge and time with the community, and to promote the advancement of government standards and accountability within the profession.

# How We Have Progressed

## *Fiscal Year 2015*

### 2015 Accomplishments

- Our Chapter held eleven monthly educational meetings throughout the year, as well as an Ethics update and our annual PDC for a total of 36 CPE credits.
- The Phoenix Chapter of AGA earned sufficient Chapter Recognition Points during the 2014-2015 Program Year to be the recipient of the Gold Chapter Designation Award from AGA Nationals.



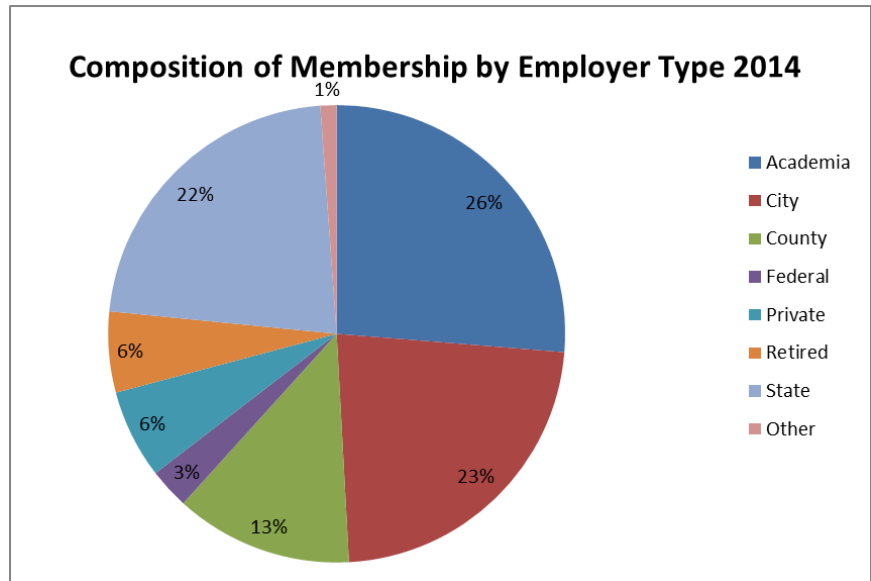
AGA Education Committee Member, Justin Poll, receiving the Gold Award for Chapter Recognition from outgoing AGA National President, Bill Miller at the AGA National PDT in Nashville, TN.

- This year our Chapter awarded one \$1,000 scholarship to a student identified for his academic excellence and community service achievements.
- Our Chapter awarded two scholarships to members who passed the CGFM exam this year.
- This year, our Chapter continued to improve and refine our chapter web site.
- We helped out at the Ronald McDonald House, preparing and serving dinner to families of children staying at Cardon's Children's Medical Center.
- We sponsored families through the Christmas Angels program.

### Membership Demographics

	2014	2015	% Change
Total Membership	196	177	-10%
CGFM Certifications	87	85	-2%
CPA Licenses	90	84	-7%
Bachelor Degrees	119	100	-16%
Master Degrees	46	51	11%

### Composition of Membership by Employer Type 2014

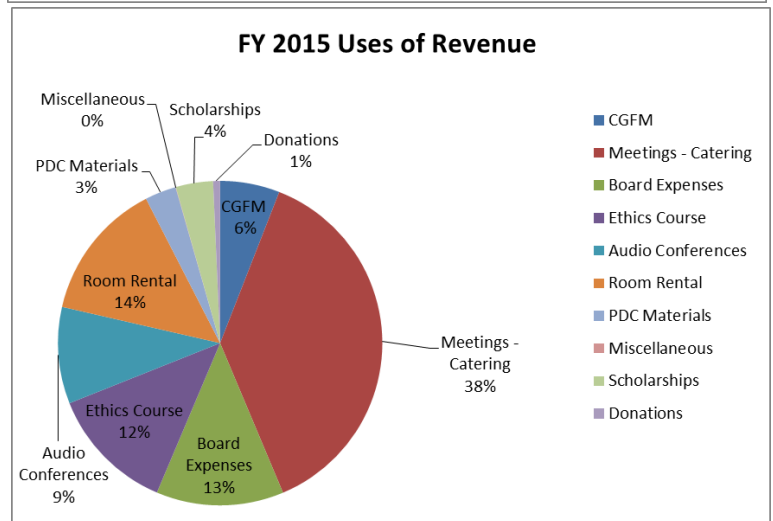
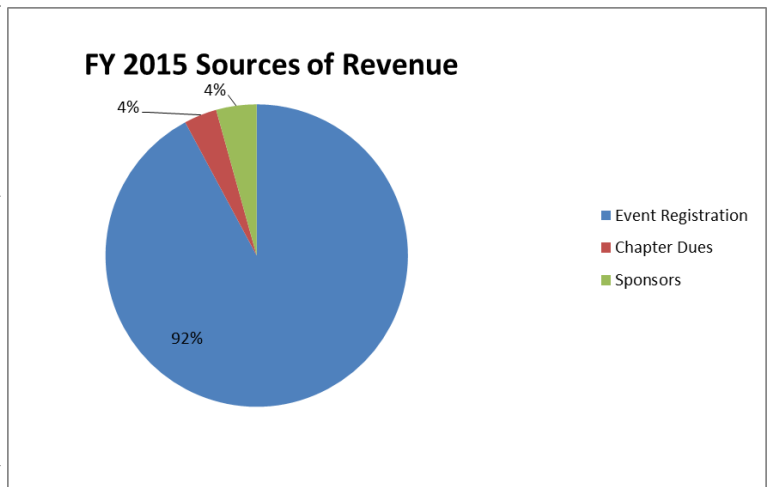


# Our Finances

## *Revenues and Expenses*

What are the costs for servicing our members and how are those costs paid?

PHOENIX CHAPTER		
SCHEDULE OF SOURCES AND USES		
	FY 2014	FY2015
<b>SOURCES</b>		
Event Registration	23,989	24,270
Chapter Dues	1,702	926
Sponsors	0	1,139
Miscellaneous	26	13
	25,717	26,348
<b>USES</b>		
CGFM	526	1,603
Meetings - Catering	9,709	10,182
Board Expenses	4,337	3,431
Ethics Course	3,026	3,397
Audio Conferences	685	2,600
Room Rental	2,208	3,741
PDC Materials/Catering	8,484	840
Miscellaneous	872	10
Sponsorships/Scholarships	1,190	1,000
Donations	378	188
	31,415	26,991
<b>SOURCES OVER USES</b>	-5,698	-644



Expenses related to the FY 2014 PDC Materials/Catering were higher due to a change in venue based on availability of conference centers.

### Independent Audit

An Independent audit of the Chapter's finances was conducted, resulting in a clean opinion. Complete financial information can be found at [www.agaphoenix.org](http://www.agaphoenix.org).

# What's Next

## *Key Initiatives*

### Challenges-FY 15 Targets

- Produce timely and effective communication and information to our members. Our Chapter's goal for FY15 is to produce the Monthly Treasurer's Report and Monthly Newsletter within 10 days of the close of the month. Our treasurer, Leslie De'Reche, and Newsletter Chair, Michelle Huckabay, have worked diligently to meet these goals. Another goal is to produce the Chapter's Citizen Centric Report and have it posted to our website by Sept 30, 2015.
- Increase community service to meet the needs of our community. John Schutter continues as the Community Services Chair.
- We are striving to retain and increase membership. Our Chapter's goal is to retain 90% of our current members, and increase new membership by 5%.

### We want to hear from you.

If you would like any additional information on our Chapter or are interested in volunteering for a committee or serving on our Executive Board, please contact any of our Board members. You can find a listing of our Board members on the "Contact Us" page on our website. We look forward to hearing from you.

**AGA – Phoenix Chapter**  
 PO Box 64911  
 Phoenix, AZ 85082-4911  
[www.agaphoenix.org](http://www.agaphoenix.org)



**Ronald McDonald House volunteers in May 2015  
 after making dinner for residents**





City of Phoenix

## Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



- The VITA program prepares tax returns for free for low-to-moderate income individuals and families.
- Volunteers receive **FREE** training in how to prepare a basic tax return.
- There are a variety of volunteer opportunities within the VITA program; tax preparers, greeters, site coordinators and instructors.
- The tax preparation sites are located throughout the city of Phoenix with various dates and times of operation.
- Becoming a VITA Volunteer provides **satisfaction** of helping others.

**For more information or to volunteer, contact Briselda Rodriguez at 602-534-0543 or go to [volunteer.phoenix.gov](http://volunteer.phoenix.gov) and search VITA**

For more information or a copy of this publication in an alternative format, Contact 602-262-4520 voice.  
The city's TTY Relay phone number 7-1-1 may be used if needed.



## Volunteer Roles



### Site Coordinator

- Provide coordination, organization and supervision for a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program site
- Ensure that all volunteers adhere to the city of Phoenix's VITA policies, IRS Volunteer Standards of Conduct and Quality Site Requirements
- Coordinate a schedule for volunteers
- Compile reports and volunteer hours on a monthly basis
- Complete site coordinator training
- Complete mandatory Volunteer Standard of Conduct and Site Coordinator Training
- Complete advanced tax law training, including the use of electronic filing software

### Tax Preparer

- Prepare basic or advanced 1040 tax returns and related schedules for eligible taxpayers
- Interview taxpayer to determine if all income, deductions and allowable credits are claimed
- Prepare only those returns for which certification levels were completed
- Complete mandatory Volunteer Standard of Conduct Training
- Complete tax law training, including the use of electronic filing software
- Certified Public Accountant and Enrolled Agents can receive Continuous Professional Education (CPE) credits

### Greeter

- Greet the taxpayers and sign them in
- Ensure the taxpayer has all the necessary documentation
- Monitors site traffic to ensure all taxpayers checking in receive assistance
- Complete mandatory Volunteer Standard of Conduct and Greeter / Screener Training

### Instructor

- Instructs tax law and tax preparation software
- Complete mandatory Volunteer Standard of Conduct Training
- Complete IRS Link & Learn tax law training and become certified in advanced
- Become familiar with the Link & Learn Practice lab
- Attend an instructor Train – the –Trainer class
- Certified Public Accountant and Enrolled Agents can receive Continuous Professional Education (CPE) credits

**We request volunteers to serve a minimum of 4 hours a week during tax season**

**Association of Government Accountants  
Phoenix Chapter  
Education and Meeting Plan  
2015-2016 Program Year**

Date	Event	Topic	CPE Credit	Registration Dead-line	Location
9/23/15	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 10:30am-11:00am-Education Seminar 11:00am-12:50pm	Citizen Centric Report	2	9/18/2015	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
10/7/2015	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 10:30am-11:00am-Audio Conference 11:00am-12:50pm	Government Innovation: An Imperative, Not an Oxymoron	2	10/2/2015	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
10/21/2015	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 10:30am-11:00am-Audio Conference 11:00am-12:50pm	Fraud Prevention	2	10/16/2015	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
11/4/2015	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 11:30am-12:00pm-Education Seminar 12:00pm-1:50pm	Municipal Finance	2	10/30/2015	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
12/16/2015	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 11:30am-12:00pm-Audio Conference 12:00pm-1:50pm	Topic TBD Holiday Social	2	12/11/2015	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
1/13/2016	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 11:30am-12:00pm-Education Seminar 12:00pm-1:50pm	TBD	2	1/8/2016	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
1/22/16*	8:00am-8:30am Continental Breakfast 8:30am-12:00pm-Class	Ethics—ASCPA	4	1/15/2016	Maricopa Community College 2411 W. 14th Street Tempe, Arizona 85281
1/27/2016	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 11:30am-12:00pm-Education Seminar 12:00pm-1:50pm	Leadership	2	1/22/2016	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
2/19/2016	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 11:30am-12:00pm, Seminar 12:00p-12:50pm	ASRS	1	2/12/2016	TBD
	1:00pm-1:50pm	Deferred Comp	1		
	1:50pm-2:40pm	Federal Tax Update	1		
	2:40pm-3:30pm	State Tax Update	1		

**Association of Government Accountants  
Phoenix Chapter  
Education and Meeting Plan  
2015-2016 Program Year**

Date	Event	Topic	CPE Credit	Registration Dead-line	Location
3/23/2016	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 10:30am-11:00am-Audio Conference 11:00am-12:50pm	Internal Controls	2	3/18/2016	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
4/13/2016	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 10:30am-11:00am- Audio Conference 11:30am-12:50pm	DATA Act	2	4/8/2016	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
5/6/2016*	8:00am-4:00pm PDC	Topics TBD	2	4/29/2016	Rio Salado College 2323 W. 14th St. Tempe, AZ 85281
			1		
			1		
			2		
			1		
			1		
6/1/2016	Chapter Meeting-Lunch 10:30am-11:00am- Education Seminar 11:30am-12:50pm	TBD	2	5/27/2016	ASU Skysong Global Room 201 1475 N Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85257
			36		

\*These events are not monthly chapter meetings and will be at an additional cost. Details will be provided in future newsletters and/or on the Calendar of Events page on our website.

**Prospective members are welcome to learn more about us by attending a monthly chapter meeting. Registration per monthly chapter meeting date, which includes lunch, is as follows:**

**Members:**

\$20 each monthly chapter meeting, or package deal—\$180 for all sessions\*

**Non-Members**

\$30 each monthly chapter meeting, or package —\$330 for all sessions\*

\*excludes special events (Ethics and Professional Development Conference—PDC)

To RSVP, please go to our online registration site: <http://agaphoenix.eventbrite.com>

Thank you for your interest!

# AGA Phoenix Chapter, Treasurer's Reports - August 2015

## Treasurer's Report

Book Balance 7/31/2015	\$8,299.69	
Receipts	\$.63	
Disbursements	\$693.35	
Book Balance 8/31/15	\$7,606.97	
Outstanding Checks	\$601.38	
Outstanding Deposits	\$0.00	
Adjusted Book Balance	<u>\$8,208.35</u>	
<u>Account Balance</u>		
Cash on Hand	\$50.00	
Savings Balance	\$5.00	
Your Savings Balance	\$354.85	
Money Market Account	\$3,162.30	
Checking Balance	\$4,636.20	
	<u>\$8,208.35</u>	
Difference Adjusted Book vs Bank	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td style="width: 100px; height: 15px;"> </td></tr></table> \$0.00	

## Balance Sheet

8/31/2015

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Cash on Hand	\$50.00
Savings Balance	\$5.00
Your Savings Balance	\$354.85
Money Market Fund	\$3,162.30
Checking Balance	\$4,636.20
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<u>\$8,208.35</u>
Inventory	\$22.98
Speaker Gifts	\$120.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$8,351.33</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
<b>TOTAL Liabilities</b>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Equity</b>	<u>\$8,351.33</u>

# Announcements - Job Postings

**Internal Auditor (part time), Maricopa County. Salary range of \$25.52/hr.—\$35.45/hr. Open until filled.**

The internal auditor assists in conducting audits of County financial and accounting systems, as well as departmental operations, programs, and contracts.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, management or a related field. Good verbal communications and writing skills. High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office. Knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards.

**Submit resume and cover letter to Maricopa County Internal Audit, Wendy Thiele at:**

[thielew@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:thielew@mail.maricopa.gov)

Would you like to post your organization's job postings on our website?

Please email AGA Phoenix Webmaster, Karie Tepper, at [webmaster@agaphoenix.org](mailto:webmaster@agaphoenix.org).

# AGA Phoenix Chapter Executive Board Program Year 2015-2016

**PURPOSE:** Consists of chapter officers, past president, committee chairs, and other members appointed by the chapter president. Responsible for all chapter business and planning.

**OFFICERS:**

President	Josh Consier
President Elect	Gergana Kovatcheva, CGFM, CPA
Past President & Secretary	Kim Prendergast, CGFM, CIA, CPA, CFE
Treasurer	Leslie De'Reche, CGFM, CPA

**ADDRESS:** AGA Phoenix Chapter, PO Box 64911  
Phoenix, AZ 85082-4911

**PHONE:** (480) 731-8582      **FAX:** (480) 731-8560

**EMAIL:** [AGA@agaphoenix.org](mailto:AGA@agaphoenix.org)

## Our Purpose

### Mission Statement

AGA Phoenix Chapter serves Arizona professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality, low-cost continuing education, promoting professional development and interaction among members, and fostering a commitment to community involvement as well as a sense of responsibility for advancing government accountability.

### Vision

AGA Phoenix Chapter actively creates an avenue for membership to share ideas with each other, to share knowledge and time with the community, and to promote the advancement of government standards and accountability within the profession.

## We'd Love Your Input!

Please remember to send in any articles of interest, including any that you may have written on the subjects of management, accounting, or auditing. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

In addition, please send us any special announcements in relation to promotions, marriages, births, anniversaries, certifications achieved, or any other significant event for any of our chapter members. Any article submitted by the second week of the month will be included in the next month's newsletter.

Please email your news for forthcoming newsletters to:

[newsletter@agaphoenix.org](mailto:newsletter@agaphoenix.org)





## Check out AGA's Free Toolkits & Guides:

- Sub-recipient vs. Contractor Checklist
- Blended and Braided Funding
- Leveraging Government Resources in Challenging Financial Times
- Risk Assessment Monitoring Toolkit
- Cooperative Audit Resolution and Oversight Initiative
- Fraud Prevention Toolkit
- Candidate Assessment Toolkit for Grant Managers
- How Federal, State and Non-Profit Collaboration Improved Efficiencies in Delinquent Debt Collection
- Citizen Centric Report: How To

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Tools-Resources/Overview.aspx>

## Membership Referral Program

Did you know that you can gain \$50 if you get two individuals who are not currently members to join our chapter? All you have to do is have them put your name down on the sponsor section of the membership form.

It is always nice to have new faces become members to our growing organization!

## Board Members Wanted

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee and to be on the Board, please contact AGA at the following e-mail: [aga@agaphoenix.org](mailto:aga@agaphoenix.org)

# We Are Always Looking For People Interested In Joining Our Organization

*NOTE: Excerpts and links below are from AGA's national website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).*

### What is AGA?

Briefly, AGA has been serving the government financial management profession for over 50 years As a not-for-profit educational organization, AGA serves the professional interests of financial managers from the local, state and the federal governments, as well as public accounting firms, responsible for effectively using billions of dollars and other monetary resources everyday. Members are accountants, auditors, contract, financial and performance, budget analysts, chief financial officers, information systems managers, finance directors, inspectors

general, professors, students. Membership in AGA is like tapping into a reservoir of actual real-world knowledge and experience of government financial management experts.

### Benefits of Joining

If you asked a member which of the benefits they value the most, they probably would say education and networking, which often occur at the same time and place. Here are some of our members' favorites: Continuing Professional Education and Networking Opportunities Keep Up-to-Date on Current Issues Keep Abreast of the Latest Technologies and Financial Systems Professional Guidance and Certification

### How Can You Join?

Click the links below to access the Membership Application and to find out membership types and dues.



Click <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Join-or-Renew.aspx>

**to complete the online AGA Membership Application.**

**\*\*Did an AGA member inspire you to join? Don't forget to enter your AGA Sponsor's Name and Member ID on the application.\*\***