

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Members!

I am thrilled and honored to serve as your Chapter President for the 2024-2025 program year. As an AGA member since 2012, with years of volunteering on the board—primarily with the Early Careers and Membership committees—AGA has become a cornerstone of my



professional journey. It's a privilege to now lead our chapter into its next phase of growth and success.

This year, we've implemented key changes to our operations and goals, focusing on improving timely, effective communication and formalizing our infrastructure and program operations. These enhancements are designed to strengthen our chapter's impact and value to members like you.

We're part way through the program year now and have conducted Monthly Chapter Meetings in addition to some exciting social events, including the Program Year Kickoff Multi-Chapter

Luncheon (a fresh take on our traditional picnic) and the Fall Winery/Brewery Tour. These gatherings reflect our commitment to creating opportunities for connection, learning, and fun. AGA has played a vital role in my career, providing invaluable relationships, networking, speaking, and leadership opportunities. These experiences have been instrumental in preparing me for my current role as an executive leader in our industry and community. I am passionate about ensuring our chapter continues to provide the same opportunities for growth and development for all members.

What's Inside

- President's Message - 1
- Past President Message - 2

Chapter Information

- Upcoming Chapter Events - 5
- Upcoming AGA National Meetings & Events - 7
- Member Spotlights:
 - Diane Huang - 14
 - Mary M. Jean - 17

Membership Updates

- New Chapter Members - 9
- Anniversaries - 10
- CGFM® Corner - 12
- Membership News - 13

Other Chapter News

- Past Chapter Events - 19
- Early Careers - 21
- Community Service - 21
- Corporate Sponsors - 24
- Chapter Board Members - 25
- Contact Us - 26

As we move forward, our chapter is focused on both short- and long-term goals, including:

- **Enhancing efficiency** through collaboration with the DC and other local chapters.
- **Strengthening marketing and communications** to keep you informed and engaged.
- **Hosting impactful events** that deliver value and foster community.
- **Prioritizing government members and leaders** to better serve their unique needs.

Together, let's make this a transformative year for the AGA Northern Virginia Chapter. Thank you for your continued support and engagement and I look forward to working alongside you to achieve our goals!

Warm regards,
Jacob MacDonald
President, AGA Northern Virginia Chapter



PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Christopher Horton, Ph.D., CIA,
CGFM®, CRMA, CCSA

Last year, as I assumed the role of chapter president, I laid out five areas of focus for my year. As I have transitioned to serving as your Past-President, it is a perfect time for me to look back and self-assess these areas.

1. **Chapter Meetings:** During the 2023-2024 program year we continued our hybrid chapter meetings at the lovely Washington Golf and Country Club. Thanks to our chapter leadership team we heard outstanding presentations from fiscal management leaders representing the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Internal Revenue Service. This program year we have continued our insightful presentations. But we need support from our members to make our

chapter meetings a true success. To the extent you are able, I urge you to attend a chapter meeting in person and enjoy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and enjoyable fellowship with colleagues and friends.

2. **Training Events:** I was pleased that NOVAGA re-started the Winter training session in December 2023, and our Spring training event in April 2024 was the highest attended Spring session in several years. Thanks to Kevin Love and the Education Committee for their work on this event. We also held a CGFM® study session, due to the efforts of Kevin Shers and the CGFM® committee. Finally, we held a virtual ethics training in January 2024 to beat the deadline for Virginia CPAs to turn in their ethics training credits. As we continue in 2024-2025, we hope to offer all these events again and will look for additional training opportunities.

3. **Member Events:** Our member picnic in September 2023 was well-attended and set a high

standard for future years. We also had a delicious wine tasting trip in November. I was particularly pleased about the Early Career Committee's efforts to set up an Early Careerist event at WHINO in Arlington this Spring. Finally, I was immensely proud of the outstanding work of the NOVAGA leadership team, notably Cherry Sancho Ung and Joe Hungate, to hold our first Awards Gala in June 2024. We presented three awards to superstars in the financial management community. First, we recognized the Honorable Caral Spangler, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), with the Pentagon Memorial Service Award in recognition of her years of service to defense financial Management. Last, and certainly not least, we celebrated Reza Mahbod, President of RMA Associates, with the Federal Financial Partnership Award recognizing his history of federal support, thought leadership, and many contributions to NOVAGA.

4. **Communication:** Our chapter has a strong record of communication, thanks to our long-time Newsletter editor and Board Secretary Sonia Kessler. Sonia has been the linchpin of NOVAGA communications for years, and her contributions received well-deserved recognition as the NOVAGA Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 AGA PDT. Further, I was pleased to bestow the President's Award on Sonia at the Awards Gala for her tireless dedication to the critical tasks of Board leadership. We also have an easy-to-navigate website and a revitalized LinkedIn page, thanks to our Webmaster and Social Media Chair Zak Kennedy. Finally, our Accountability Committee Chair Brian Grega ensured that our Chapter Annual Report was issued so that our members can see clearly what the NOVAGA leadership is doing on behalf of the members.

5. **Engagement:** NOVAGA leadership is constantly looking for ways to engage our members with value-added information and activities. With this goal in mind, I was particularly impressed by the work of the Early Careers Committee and pleased to bestow on this committee the President's Award at the 2024 NOVAGA Awards Gala for its initiative in planning events and looking for ways to strategically link to the broader goals of the chapter. Reaching out to Early Career professionals is critical to the continued success of NOVAGA, and I look forward to more of what the Early Careers Committee has in store this program year.

Looking back, we had a momentous year in the NOVAGA chapter, thanks to an outstanding and enthusiastic leadership cohort. I would be remiss if I did not also thank our sponsors: KMPG; RMA Associates; Kearney and Company; and Sikich for their generous financial support and staff support to this chapter.

And now, a new leadership team is in place to build on the successes of the past year. I encourage all our members to work alongside the Board and Committee chairs by volunteering for committees, attending membership meetings, signing up for training events, and bringing your creative, innovative ideas to the fore to benefit all our members. I am honored to serve as your AGA National Council of Chapters representative this year and look forward to finding other ways to collaborate with you in future program years.

Yours in Service,
Chris Horton
President, 2023-2024, Northern Virginia Chapter



Platinum Sponsor

RMA | Associates

- 💰 Recovered tens of millions of unobligated dollars.
- 🔍 Helped clients obtain unmodified audit opinions.
- 🔧 Used proprietary tools to:
 - Identify hundreds of millions of dollars in unaccounted property.
 - Close over 250 corrective action plans.
 - Offer implementable recommendations to resolve security weaknesses.



CONNECT WITH US!

✉ info@RMAFed.com

☎ (571) 429-6600

🌐 RMAfed.com



Upcoming Chapter Events

NOVAGA Chapter Meetings

NOVAGA Chapter meetings have concluded for this program year. Check your email, the chapter website, and LinkedIn for additional information, how to register and associated costs.



January 15, 2025 – AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Monthly Meeting

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1027064817517?aff=oddtcreator>

February 20, 2025 – AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Monthly Meeting

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1027071066207?aff=oddtcreator>

March 20, 2025 – AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Monthly Meeting

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1027079822397?aff=oddtcreator>

April 17, 2025 – AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Monthly Meeting

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1027084937697?aff=oddtcreator>

May 14, 2025 – AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Monthly Meeting

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1027090153297?aff=oddtcreator>

June 17, 2025 – AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Monthly Meeting

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1027091557497?aff=oddtcreator>

Other Chapter Events

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – AGA Northern Virginia Chapter VA Ethics – Virtual

If you are in need of completing your Ethics Course to meet the Virginia Board of Accountancy (VBOA) Annual requirements, your solution is here. The AGA Northern Virginia Chapter is pleased to announce a comprehensive virtual session to fulfill your 2-hour requirement. Details of the session are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Platform: Zoom – the link will be emailed to you 24 hours before the event day.

This virtual event has been tailored to meet the specific criteria set by the VBOA, ensuring a thorough coverage of the Ethics Course. Our knowledgeable presenter(s) will guide you through the essential topics, providing valuable insights and facilitating a meaningful learning experience.

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1080436979089?aff=oddtcreator>

Ticket Type: AGA Member – \$45; Non-AGA Member – \$55

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

AGA DC & Northern Virginia Chapter Holiday Party

Come and celebrate the holidays with your fellow AGA DC and NOVAGA Chapter members. Food and drinks will be provided with your paid registration! Members only event – \$10 per ticket.

Link to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1086996388459?aff=oddtcreator>

Upcoming AGA National Meetings & Events

AGA ONLINE TRAINING PORTAL

Check out AGA's Online Training Portal page for its Federal Financial Management Course Library contents (<https://aga.learnupon.com/store>). AGA's Federal Financial Management Course Library was developed and presented by Wendy Payne, former Executive Director of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, and provides online on-demand courses. For a nominal charge, AGA members can purchase any of the five courses currently available online.

Upcoming AGA National Meetings & Events

AGA ONLINE TRAINING PORTAL

Check out AGA's Online Training Portal page for its Federal Financial Management Course Library contents



<https://aga.learnupon.com/store>

AGA's Federal Financial management Course Library was developed and presented by Wendy Payne, former Executive Director of FASAB, and provides online, on-demand courses.

For a nominal charge, AGA members can purchase any of the five courses currently available online.



Upcoming AGA National Meetings & Events – continued

February 19–20, 2025 – National Leadership Training

Hybrid (DC) | 14 CPEs

Register to attend National Leadership Training 2025 on February 19–20, 2025, in Washington, D.C., and gain valuable insights from leading government financial management professionals and industry experts. Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your leadership skills and network with peers from across the industry. Registration and Fees - there is an early bird deadline of Jan. 31, 2025. Click here to learn more - <https://www.agacgfm.org/Events/NLT/Home.aspx>

See AGA's website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Events.aspx> for additional trainings and events.

December 2024

Su	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	31				

January 2025

Su	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	31	

February 2025

Su	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	

March 2025

Su	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	31					

April 2025

Su	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			

May 2025

Su	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	31

Webinars

Check out AGA's Training & Events page for upcoming Webinars on AGA's website [here](#). Webinars marked with an asterisk (*) are free members-only events; all others include a registration fee.

- **December 4, 2024** | 2:00–3:50 PM ET | Internal Control | 2 CPEs
- ***December 11, 2024** | 2:00–3:15 PM ET | Preparing for Transition and Succeeding in Disruption | 1.5 CPEs
- **January 15, 2025** | 2:00–3:50 PM ET | AI | 2 CPEs
- **January 29, 2025** | 8:00–9:00 AM ET | Wake Up Wednesday Coffee Chat – FREE! | 1 CPE
- **February 5, 2025** | 2:00–3:50 PM ET | GASB Update | 2 CPEs
- **March 5, 2025** | 2:00–3:50 PM ET | ERM | 2 CPEs
- ***March 12, 2025** | 2:00–3:15 PM ET | Free Members-Only Webinar | 1.5 CPEs
- **March 26, 2025** | 2:00–3:50 PM ET | RPA/Machine Learning | 2 CPEs

NEW NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER MEMBERS



May 2024

Ashton Harris, Jin Lim, Karla Valle-Mannes, and Ambika Sapkota.

June 2024

Taimur Bajwa, Brian Klishis, Adam Langknecht, Amber Ostrup, Shruti Pandey, Alisha Rivers, Dan Salenger, and Manoj Srivastava.

July 2024

Candace Williams, Tiffany Tran, Kenneth Allman, Regenna Bembry, Karen Cherry, Lyndsey Elliott, Rebecca Evertsz, Troy Ho, Matthew Hoak, Kristen Landry, Christopher Marotta, and Rochelle McMurray.

August 2024

Feras Almoualem, Malwina Derr, Christopher Dickerson, Jr., Diana Huang, and Alexander Kelley.

September 2024

David Hendrix, Crystal Jones, and Danny Lee.

October 2024

Monique Williams, Shahbaz Aftab, Thomas Luong Madhav Tummala, and Martel Walker.

Gold Sponsor

KPMG

Go from transactional to transformational. Elevate your finance functions with KPMG.

Learn how KPMG can help optimize performance and streamline compliance with customized finance transformation solutions.

visit.kpmg.us/fedfintrans

KPMG. Make the Difference.

© 2024 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. (US) 1511480-034

Federal Advisory Services



ANNIVERSARIES – LIFETIME

Lifetime membership is bestowed upon individuals who have maintained active members status for at least 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. This means that as of today, NOVAGA’s lifetime members have been active since at least 1981; in fact, NOVAGA has 36 lifetime members, with two that have been active since joining in 1965 – 58 years ago! Our lifetime members have a combined 1,759 years of membership in AGA!

Lifetime memberships are awarded each January, with the next slate of lifetime members to be awarded in early 2025. In January 2022, NOVAGA had three members attain lifetime status, bringing our total lifetime members to 36.

To all of our Lifetime Members, thank you for your continued support, and your service to our chapter, and to AGA. The NOVAGA Chapter recognizes and congratulates our chapter members on their milestone anniversaries from **May 2024 through October 2024**.

Lifetime Members (40+ Years)

Karl L. Boettcher
Joseph C. Brown, Jr.
Sheila B. Clark
Joyce L. Fitzhugh
William J. Keating
Raymond D. Kidd
Philip D. Lavietes
Thomas F. McCarty
Edward J. Migliore
Michael Slachta, Jr.
George H. Stalcup
Jeffrey C. Steinhoff
James C. Stewart
B. Anthony Turner
Thomas E. Young



ANNIVERSARIES – CONTINUED

30 Years

Bernice Marie Lemaire
Amelia Leswing

25 Years

Alfred E. Buck
John L. Dettbarn, Jr.
Jasmine A. Faubert
Ann Elizabeth Flach-Fulcher
Donald V. Hammond
Reza Mahbod

20 Years

Eric Baltas
Dawn Sue Forrest
Richard P. Gustafson, Jr.
Chad W. Mouw

15 Years

Kevin A. Grillot
Rebecca Jill Jaramillo
Naji Raymond Lakkis
Martin Lee
Kenneth M. Miller
Christine M. Nelepka
Fred A. Runnels, Jr.
Xiaolei Wang
Melinda Milhouse

10 Years

Anthony A. Adams, Jr.
Gary Barton, Jr.
Blake Carpenter

10 Years – continued

Judith L. Cotter
Alan Evans
Julia J. Fiorio
Regla I. Garrett
Kevin L. Merrill
John Sembe Morlu, li
Christopher Scott Pritchett, li
Ivy G. Raysor
Michelle Thomas
Benjamin C. Watts
Sylvia V. Wendel
Elizabeth L. Williamson
Sharon Willoughby

5 Years

Jim Baker
Richard Gallagher
Marcus Glasgow
Davisson Han
Claudia Kim
John M. Shakarji
BonnieShin
Gregory Sinclair
Warren Stone
Kimberly Sweet
Kyle Sylvester
Victor L. Velez Machado
Lisa Wittman
William S. Willer
Laron E. York
Sean Lydon Cassidy
Michael Zuromski
Judy Phruksaraj

1 Year

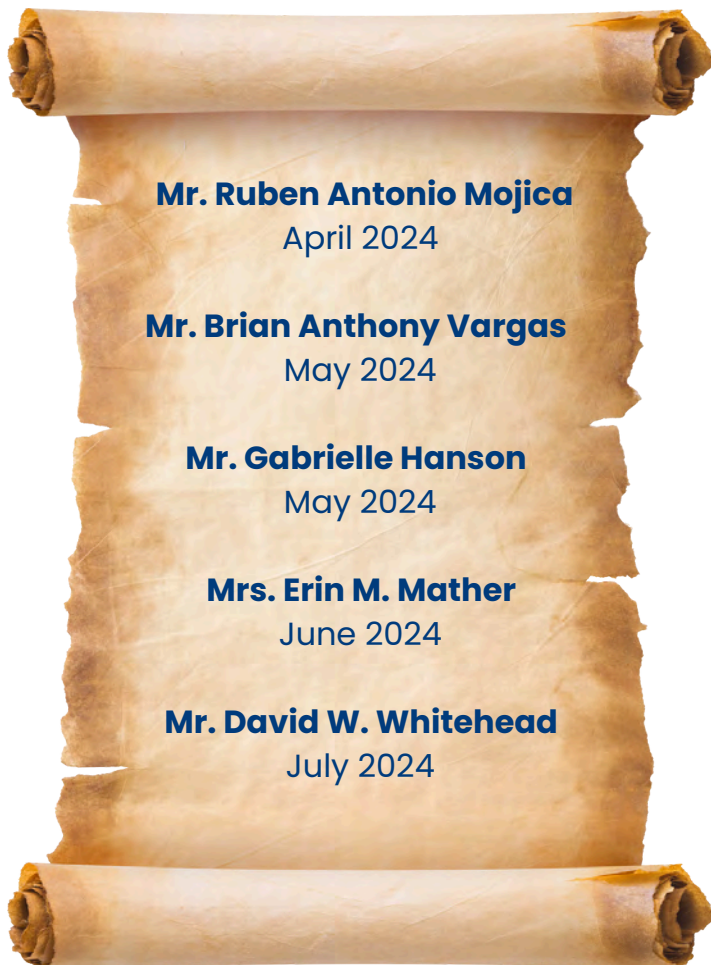
Jinnan Chen
Lydelle Jackson
Greg Keene
Lennox S. Smith
Michael Alexander Smith
Jay Jay Williams
Andrew Conran
Ryan Elsberg
Nayda Forteza
Veronica Harris-Hill
Nikola Lojanica
Jaren Mckeever
Benjamin Moncarz
Heather Morgan
Jeymy Vanessa Pena Mercedes
Anita G. Robertson
Sherif Said
Andrea Tse
Michelle A. Vasquez
Hiep N. Vo
David W. Whitehead
Nicholas Broemmell
Ricardo Carmona
Tony Duckworth, Jr.
Natasha Hoyte- Benjamin
Thomas Kirven, Jr.
My Bui Le
Francis Mccourt
Danita R. Newkirk
Nico Pineres
Sofia Rivera-Encinas
Hanan Salahadin
Alex Danial Torres
Elizabeth "Izzie" Yi





WE HELP MAKE GOVERNMENT BETTER

To serve the American people, the government needs sound, efficient, and transparent financial management. At Kearney, we're driven by that purpose every day. We provide services across the financial spectrum and have served every Cabinet-level department, all branches of the military, and more than 30 independent agencies. Consistently recognized as a "Best Place to Work," Kearney cultivates a "people-first" culture.



Mr. Ruben Antonio Mojica
April 2024

Mr. Brian Anthony Vargas
May 2024

Mr. Gabrielle Hanson
May 2024

Mrs. Erin M. Mather
June 2024

Mr. David W. Whitehead
July 2024

CGFM[™] CORNER

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM[®]) certification demonstrates competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. The CGFM[®] is unique because it not only encompasses a specialized focus on government financial management, but it also has broad coverage of various aspects of financial management at all levels of government.

NOVAGA recognizes and applauds our chapter members who have obtained their CGFM[®] certification since the last publication of the chapter's newsletter.

For more information on the CGFM[®], check out the CGFM[®] page on our Chapter's website [here](#).

★CGFM EVENTS

We conducted a CGFM® Information Session on **October 2, 2024** with a total of nine attendees. There was a great instructor to student ratio and the group is excited for their upcoming exams.

A future session is planned to cover Exam 1 material next in **January 2025**. Check the NOVAGA Chapter's website and LinkedIn for information and registration details.

Note that some CGFM® study events are eligible for CPE credits. Check the website and registration details for additional information.



★CGFM TIPS FOR THE MONTH



Tip #1

After the beta period, the CGFM® exams will be back to normal starting in January 2025, and you can get your exam results with the push of a button at the end.

Tip #2

Periodically, the CGFM® examination content outlines are revised. This last occurred on September 1, 2024 so be sure to check for any expanded topics, new order of topics and new percentages (number of questions on the exam from a particular section).



Attention Chapter Members! If you have any pictures taken at any NOVAGA events (virtual or in-person events) or have information that should be included in the newsletter, please email the Newsletter Editor (Sonia Kessler at sonia.kessler@sikich.com).

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The "NOVAGA Program Year 24-25 Membership Survey" seeks to obtain crucial feedback from AGA Northern Virginia Chapter's members and event attendees. The objective is to gather valuable insights that can enhance member experiences, stimulate engagement, and tailor events for maximum benefit to all. The survey explores the respondent's career stage, reasons for joining or renewing membership, event attendance interests, preferences for future event themes, and favored platforms for virtual interaction, and more.



UPDATE YOUR EMAIL

Each year, NOVAGA executes various chapter-level events that occur alongside the educational and award events, and the many networking, sporting, and/or fundraiser events.



During this program year, our social, educational, and other events will continue to take place in-person and virtually whenever possible.

To make sure you receive all updates on future educational and social events from AGA and NOVAGA, check your profile and make sure your email is up to date! And don't forget to check your spam folder.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Diana Huang

Community Service, Chair
New Member

Q1: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: I am currently working as a financial management specialist with over 15 years in the federal government auditing/accounting field. Over the years, I've worked as an auditor in different agencies helping agencies and organizations maintain transparency, identify risks, and improve operations.

Q2: What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?

A: My career began 15 years ago in auditing with DoD Office of Inspector General. I actually met the current NOVAGA President, Mr. Jacob MacDonald while working for the DoD Office of Inspector General. It was at this job that I learned the importance of collaboration and interpersonal skills, both skills became essential as I progressed in my career.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – CONTINUED

Q3: How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?

A: I learned about the AGA when I attended the 2024 AGA Professional Development Training. At the conference, I ran into a lot of people I used to work with, including Mr. Jacob MacDonald. I decided to join the NOVAGA chapter and serve as the Community Service Committee Chair after seeing how beneficial AGA can be for my career.

Q4: 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 think the most beneficial aspect of AGA is probably the opportunity to connect with others to learn from their experiences and discuss new ideas and solutions to similar issues facing your organization. The membership benefits provide access to these opportunities through the AGA sponsored events.

Q5: Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?

A: I would recommend AGA for the networking opportunities, training opportunities, and insightful presentations from guest speakers on a wide variety of government accountability topics.

Q6: Do you have any advice for professionals in government who are considering joining AGA or are not active members? How can AGA play a role in their career?

A: My advice is to build meaningful relationships by focusing on shared interests. Once you establish those genuine connections, it can play a significant role in advancing your career. AGA can provide the means for networking.

Q7: What is something most people do not know about you?

A: I was a second-degree black belt in taekwondo and earned a silver medal for sparring in the AAU Junior Olympics.





Northern Virginia Chapter

The **association** that **connects** and **empowers** financial related professionals supporting government.

MAKE CONNECTIONS THAT LAST

BECOME A CORPORATE SPONSOR

BECOME A CHAPTER MEMBER

ABOUT US

The Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA was chartered on June 1, 1968 with professionals in the government financial management community.

The Northern Virginia Chapter is primarily comprised of members from Virginia and the greater Washington DC area.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

<http://www.agacgfm.org/novaga>



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Q1: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: My name is Mary M. Jean. The M stands for Myca (Me-ka), which is what my family and long time friends call me. I come from a pretty big family. I am five of six children. I enjoy my close-knit family and enjoy being around family and friends whenever I can. I love to travel and explore as many places and countries as I can, when possible. I am a CPA and CFE and Audit Manager with HUD - OIG.



Mary M. Jean
New Member

Q2: What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?

A: After college, I started my career in accounting and financial reporting. While I love accounting, I quickly learned that the month-end, quarterly, and year-end closes were not for me. After being in those roles for some time, I took time off from accounting

and got my real estate license. I did real estate full-time for about six months, while I figured out the next steps. Then decided to pivot to the audit field, and have been doing audits for the last 20 years with first in the private sector and then public sector for the last 13 years.

Q3: How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?

A: I learned about AGA some years ago when a former colleague invited me to one of the social functions. I joined the NOVAGA chapter because Northern VA still has a special place in my heart; although I now live in MD.

Q4: What's been the best aspect with AGA with respect to your career development? Are there any membership benefits you have particularly enjoyed?

A: AGA has top notch training and conferences. I find them very timely and relevant. Also, I enjoy AGA's social outings and meeting new and good people.

Q5: Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?

A: Because the very essence of AGA is to support the government's work and initiatives. The first A in the name seeks to "Advance sound financial practices, accountability, transparency and excellence in government". AGA would align with their career and aspirations.

Q6: Do you have any advice for professionals in government who are considering joining AGA or are not active members? How can AGA play a role in their career?

A: I would encourage them to join or get active. I would also share that membership is quite

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – CONTINUED

inexpensive and tell them about the conferences, training and the opportunity to network and meet like-minded people. Lastly, I would share that there is something in it for them.

Q7: What is something most people do not know about you?

A: While I am pretty outgoing and can be a social butterfly, I am truly an introvert at heart. I love my alone time and personal space. Also, I am a member of the oldest Black church in Alexandria, VA; Alfred Street Baptist Church.



NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETINGS

Our chapter meetings have been held in-person at the Washington Golf and Country Club, located at 3017 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA. Parking is free, and attendees receive 1 CPE credit.

For additional details and to register, check your email and the chapter's website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Northern-Virginia-Chapter/TrainingEvents/Event-Calendar.aspx>. Also, check the Chapter's LinkedIn page for details on chapter meeting events.

NOVAGA has several chapter meetings scheduled for this program year, with great speakers. To our speakers, we thank you so much for giving us your time, energy, and providing us with insight into some great topics.

- Artificial Intelligence and Automation for Redefining Work and Workforce Strategy in Digital Age
- Blockchain in Federal Government



- Wednesday, January 15, 2025
- Thursday, February 20, 2025
- Thursday, March 20, 2025
- Thursday, April 17, 2025
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025
- Tuesday, June 17, 2025

PAST CHAPTER EVENTS

ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

This year's NOVAGA Gala was another success! Held June 14th, this year's Gala was held at the Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, VA.



ANNUAL FALL WINERY & BREWERY TOUR

On Saturday, November 18th, 2024, NOVAGA members held its annual Fall Wine & Brewery Tour. The group visited three local wineries/breweries in Loudon County. Members met at Pentagon City Mall and took a charter bus to Quattro Goombas, The Barns at Hamilton, and Bear Chase Brewery for a day of wine/beer tasting, food, and fellowship.



EARLY CAREERS HAPPY HOUR

The early career committee is ever growing, with six new members fitting our criteria in 2024. Their mission statement is simple: They strive to empower those early in their careers to build connections with fellow professionals in the industry and provide opportunities to contribute positively to AGA. NOVAGA Early Careers Happy Hour at Whino (in Arlington, VA) on April 25, 2024



PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF HAPPY HOUR

We recently celebrated the beginning of the program year with a chapter-wide happy hour at Starr Hill Biergarten in Tysons.



COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

We're excited to share the success of our recent fundraising efforts in support of two incredible charitable causes: the AGA's National Community Service Fund (NCSF) and St. Jude.

At the AGA Northern Virginia Kickoff Celebration, our 50/50 raffle raised \$165 for the AGA's NCSF, with Anu Aterya, a chapter member and a co-chair of the Corporate Sponsorship

COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS – CONTINUED

Committee, winning \$165! The funds raised will go toward supporting several national charities, providing community service scholarships, and enabling AGA to match chapter fundraising efforts throughout the year.

At the AGA Multi-Chapter Networking Event at Starr Hill, another 50/50 raffle raised an impressive \$475 for St. Jude to help fund lifesaving cancer treatments for children worldwide. Suraj Naik, a DC Chapter member from EY, generously donated his winnings back to charity.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made a difference through these meaningful initiatives! Stay tuned for details about our upcoming in-person community service event – we’re looking forward to making an even greater impact together!





AGA Northern Virginia Chapter PY25 SPONSOR BENEFITS

Increase your company's visibility in the government financial community by supporting the AGA Northern Virginia Chapter. As a chapter sponsor, you'll have the opportunity to connect with influential State, Local, and Federal employees, showcasing your commitment to advancing excellence in government financial management. Our sponsorship levels offer affordable ways to support AGA's mission while making a positive impact in your local community. Join us in building a network of excellence within the government financial sector.

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter Corporate Sponsorship Director: Cherry Sancho Ung at cherry.AGACHapters@gmail.com

Visit the Northern Virginia Chapter website for more information – <https://www.agacgfm.org/NoVAGA>

Link to register and become a sponsor –

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeC4EV1RGVnOTO3VJU6aYV8R7fCoS8fa3VEzrsEm5LkHsphsQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Corporate Sponsorship Benefits 2025

Program Year 2025 Sponsorship	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$2,500	\$1,000
Small Business	\$5,000	\$3,700	\$2,000	\$1,000
VISIBILITY & BRAND AWARENESS	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Your Company logo and description on the Chapter's website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition by the President at Chapter events	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company description in Chapter Newsletters program	Full Page	½ Page	¼ Page	¼ Page
Featured "Thought Piece" article in Chapter Newsletter	✓	✓		
MARKETING TOOLS				
Pre-event registration mailing lists	✓	✓	✓	
Opportunity to Speak about your organization at the 2025 NOVAGA Awards Gala	✓	✓	✓	✓
Job Posting — NoVA Website with logo, description, link	✓	✓	✓	
ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES				
Complementary ticket(s) to the Annual Awards Gala	3	2	1	
Complementary ticket(s) for happy hours and events	2	1	1	
Complementary ticket(s) to the Annual Luncheon	2	1		
Complementary registration at the Monthly Meeting	4	2	1	
Exhibitor booth, Complementary conference registrations, and moderate session(s) at the Annual Workshop event	✓ Booth 2 Full Reg 2 Sessions	✓ Booth 1 Full Reg 1 Session	✓ Booth	
Introduction of one speaker at the Monthly Meeting and featured photo in the Newsletter	✓			



Thank you to our corporate sponsors for supporting our Chapter and our members during this program year. Through your continued support, we can continue hold chapter meetings and CGFM® study groups, and other networking and membership events.

We are excited to announce a new initiative this year: a special discount for small businesses – Platinum, Gold, and Silver levels. We believe this will provide greater opportunities for diverse organizations to engage with our Chapter and contribute to our shared goals.

For information on becoming a corporate sponsor for this program year (2024 – 2025) or the next program year (2025 – 2026), please contact our President, Jacob MacDonald at j.macdonald@rmafed.com and the Corporate Sponsor Chair Cherry Ung at cherry.agachapters@gmail.com.

Platinum Sponsor

RMA | Associates
Auditors. Consultants. Advisors.

Gold Sponsor

KEARNEY & COMPANY **KPMG**

CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

President	Jacob MacDonald
President-Elect	Irfan Satriadhi
Immediate Past President	Chris Horton
Secretary	Sonia Kessler
Treasurer	Kiera Murphy
National Council of Chapters Representative	Chris Horton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Accountability / Outreach	Brian Grega , Chair
Advisor	Reza Mahbod , Chair
Awards	Raymond Urias-Rivera , Chair
CGFM®	Kevin Shers , Chair
Chapter Recognition	VACANT
Community Services	Diana Huang , Chair
Corporate Sponsorship	Cherry Sancho Ung , Chair Anu Atreya, Co-Chair
Education	Kevin Love , Chair Silas York, Co-Chair Jaslin Madrigal Castro, Co-Chair
Early Careers	Rhett Raham , Chair Chad Willhite, Co-Chair Lindsay Berra, Co-Chair Colin Elgarten, Co-Chair Dylan Gilbert, Co-Chair
Historian	Neda Haghighat , Chair
Membership	Xiaolei Wang , Chair Maria Ocop, Co-Chair
Newsletter	Sonia Kessler , Chair Nishit Kurani, Co-Chair Cherry Sancho Ung, Co-Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS – CONTINUED

Programs	Joseph Hungate , Chair
Special Events	Cherry Sancho Ung , Chair Jaslin Madrigal Castro, Co-Chair
Webmaster & Communication	Zak Kennedy , Chair Danny Lee, Co-Chair



CONTACT US

NOVAGA is an association with about 900 members from the federal, state, local, public, and private practices, with the mission statement to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability. We would love to hear from you! Feel free to email one of our board members directly, connect with us on LinkedIn, or check out our home page at www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/NOVAGA.

