



2023 SUMMER EDITION NEW MEXICO AGA CHAPTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the latest edition of the AGA New Mexico newsletter! I am Mauricia "Reese" Chavarria-Quam, and I am serving as the new President of the New Mexico Chapter of AGA for this program year. I have been an AGA member since 2012, and throughout the years, I have enjoyed everything that AGA has to offer to its members.

To provide a glimpse of my professional background, here is a brief history of my career which encompasses a vast array of experience; nonetheless focused primarily on Accounting, Finance, Public Utilities, and Economic Development. I currently work for the Incorporated County of Los Alamos in Los Alamos, NM as the Accounting Operations Manager and Public Utilities Accountant. Some of my other experience consists of working for the State of New Mexico for ten years (2008-2018) at three different agencies to include the NM Department of Transportation, NM Aging and Long-Term Services Department, and the NM Environment Department, all within the Finance, Accounting, and Budget sections. I also worked for the Los Alamos National Laboratory for seven years early on in my career (2001-2008) while it was under the University of California and operated for the Department of Energy.

Moreover, I have had the honor to serve on several Boards and Commissions on behalf of my community, the Pueblo of Santa Clara, and the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council. I was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Santa Clara Development Corporation, the Kha'p'o Construction Company, and the Santa Clara Pueblo Utility Authority. In addition, I was appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Bureau of Indian Education through the Department of Interior for a term.

Earlier this year, I was selected for the inaugural "Tribal Leaders Executive Education Program" through the Harvard Business School at Harvard University in Boston. The experience obtained from this program will certainly compliment my education, which consists of a bachelor's degree in business administration as well as a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from New Mexico State University. Overall, my goal is to use my knowledge, experience, and networking efforts to help promote AGA and the NM Chapter as well as increase opportunities for participation by our members.

The AGA Chapter Executive Committee is planning several events to take place throughout the program year, and we are excited to share with you the various educational, social, and training opportunities that we have planned. Please be on the lookout for more information as it becomes available. I would like to thank you for your time, and I look forward to seeing you throughout the program year!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership Renewals Still Upon Us

A friendly reminder to all our members who have not renewed their membership, please do so as quickly as possible so you may continue receiving your member benefits.

As an AGA member, you gain access to a host of benefits designed to support your career growth and your success.

Did you know...AGA boasts membership across ALL levels of government. Plus, AGA also has members who work for tribal governments, academic institutions and private sector organizations. The networking opportunities is tremendous. AGA also provides you with career-enhancing tools you need to succeed. For example, advance your professional development through our annual professional development training (PDT) intensive seminars, hot-topic webinar conferences, and online opportunities at your convenience.

Also receive various publications to assist you in keeping up-to-date on current issues of the profession. As well as have the opportunity to earn the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation. The AGA benefits go on and on, so do not delay to renew your membership. Being an AGA Member also provides a wide-array of benefits for your employer as well.

Membership Q&A

Q: I forgot to pay my dues! Is it too late?

A: No. You can log on to www.agacgfm.org/renew and pay online — or call 800-242-7211, ext. 301 or ext. 317 to renew over the phone.

Q: Where can I find the benefits included in AGA membership?

A: The many benefits are featured on the Member Benefits page. Go to the AGA New Mexico Chapter website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/New-Mexico-Chapter/Home.aspx>

Click the "AGA National" tab, then click the "Membership" tab.

Additional Questions regarding AGA Membership, please contact Bryan Maestas, CGFM, Membership Chair at brymm03@gmail.com or Thinlay Dolkar, Membership Chair at thinlay.dolkar@osa.nm.us.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome New Members to the New Mexico Chapter – Thank you for your membership!

March 2022

- Paul D. Garcia, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
- Shadeen Kesani, Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
- Ashley Martinez, Romero & Weiner, PC
- Mrs. Amanda Oliveri, Third Judicial District Court
- Sammy T. Quintana, NM Public Regulation Commission
- Mrs. Eileen E. Vigil, Romero & Weiner, PC
- Jeanine Zertuche, NM Public Regulation Commission

April 2022

- Mr. Brandon Martinez, NM Department of Corrections

May 2022

- Mr. Stanley Albrycht, Montessori Elementary & Middle School
- Mrs. Julia N. Bustamante, NM DPS
- Ms. Kristen M. Dorland, NM Department of Transportation
- Ms. Kimberly C. Gonzales, NM Corrections Department
- Emmanuel Kimah, NM Department of Transportation
- Mr. Lonny Medina, Miners' Colfax Medical Center
- Samantha Tapia, NM Department of Transportation
- Ms. Donna Trujillo, NM DFA

June 2022

- Mrs. Lucia R. Valenzuela, Ninth Judicial District Court

July 2022

- Mr. Gregory J. Viola, II, Department of Energy

September 2022

- Erika Jaquez, City of Las Cruces

November 2022

- Sarah Courtts, NM Public Defender Department
- Michelle R. Johnson, NM Public Defender Department

December 2022

- Mr. Olasunkanmi Olaoye, NM PERA
- Mr. Jordan A. Narvaiz, NM Public Regulation Commission
- Mr. Jose M. Montano, NM Public Regulation Commission

January 2023

- Mr. Jesse Baldemar Muniz, City of Albuquerque

February 2023

- Melissa Ortega, NM Public School Facilities Authority
- Debbie O'Dell, NM Law Offices of the Public Defender

March 2023

- Mr. Daniel Justin Gonzalez, NM Department of Corrections
- Jimmy Andrew Trujillo, NM Department of Corrections
- Adrianna Gallegos, NM Department of Transportation
- Ms. Elise Mignardot, Office of the State Auditor
- Ramona Perea, NM Department of Transportation
- Andrea Medina, NM Department of Public Safety
- Stephen A. Montoya, REDW LLC
- Valerie Bristol, NM Office of the State Auditor
- James Chang
- Bogdanka Kuahovic, NM Office of the State Auditor

April 2023

- Isabel B. Lopez, NM Tourism Department
- Jennifer S. Saavedra, NM Tourism Department
- Roberta Vigil, NM Department of Public Safety
- Erik Alvidrez, Dona Ana County
- Rima Perez, Dona Ana County
- Micah G. Clokey, NM Public Education Department

May 2023

- Angelique Peterson, State of NM
- Sonya Ortiz, Los Alamos County
- Justin Patrick O'Shea, NM Secretary of State

June 2023

- Ms. Denise Irion, NM Taxation & Revenue Department

July 2023

- Patricia Ortiz – Gameros, US Department of Veteran Affairs

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

To be affiliated with the New Mexico Chapter, Chapter dues need to be added to membership dues as follows:

Membership Example: Government Member

Member Fees: \$100.00 + Chapter Dues \$10.00 = Total Annual Fee: \$110.00

Government	Individuals who work directly for government, academia and not-for-profit organizations. Individuals employed by a private entity as a contractor for a government agency, even if they report to a government-owned property, are considered Private Sector professionals for AGA membership. \$100/year.
Private Sector	Sole proprietors and individuals who work for private companies, corporations or partnerships. \$160/year.
Young Professional	Professionals with fewer than three years of any work experience. \$45/year.
Student	Full-time college or university students who are not gainfully employed. Free Electronic Membership.
Retired	Current AGA members who have permanently retired from government, academia, not-for-profit or commercial enterprises or ventures. \$35/year
Lifetime - Free	Lifetime membership is bestowed upon individuals who have maintained active member status for 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. Lifetime memberships are awarded each January.



CGFM - YOU Pass WE Pay Program (YPWPP)

Are you interested in obtaining your CGFM certification?

Could this be a 2023 Professional Career Goal?

We are here to assist you by offering the CGFM – YOU Pass WE Pay Program (YPWPP) to active NM AGA Chapter members.

If you have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university **and** at least 2 years of professional-level experience in the government financial management field, this is a great opportunity for you to look into the CGFM certification. If you are interested in the YPWPP program or have questions, please e-mail me at kusum.adhikari@dfa.nm.gov.

For more information on the CGFM process, please go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm-certification/about-cgfm.aspx>

Kusum Adhikari, AGA NM Chapter CGFM Certification Chair

Are you ready? Is this the year you earn your CGFM designation?

The You Pass WE Pay Program (YPWPP) is a great way to assist NM Chapter members meet their goal of obtaining the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification.

The basic criteria and steps for the YPWPP are summarized below:

STEP 1: Only NM Chapter members are eligible for this program since it is unique to the NM Chapter.

STEP 2: Begin the CGFM Certification Process on the AGA national website – <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification.aspx>. Complete the Program Application Form. Once approved, you will receive a CGFM Eligibility Letter in the mail.

STEP 3: Send an email to the CGFM Coordinator to “apply” for the YPWPP program. Once accepted into the YPWPP program, participants are allotted One (1) Year to take and pass all three examinations. The clock starts “ticking” when an agreed upon date is received by the CGFM Coordinator and the participant. A Welcome Letter is sent out to you welcoming you to the YPWPP program which will have your start date.

STEP 4: STUDY, STUDY, STUDY! Schedule, take and pass the exams. (Study materials are available for the participant to borrow on a first come, first served basis. Contact the CGFM Coordinator Kusum Adhikari at kusum.adhikari@dfa.nm.gov for more details.)

STEP 5: Upon successful completion of passing all three examinations, the participant will provide the CGFM Coordinator with a copy of the official AGA Award Letter from AGA National stating the applicant has passed all three examinations. Also, submit proof of payment with a signed statement attesting that the applicant has received no further financial assistance for this process (i.e., having an employer pay for the exams.) A determination will be made verifying that all three examinations were completed within the one (1) year time period allotted and proof of payment and signed statement are sufficient. Reimbursement will then be made to the participant.

To **earn** the CGFM certification, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Read and agree to abide by the AGA’s Code of Ethics
- Have a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
- Pass 3 comprehensive CGFM examinations
- Have at least 2 years of professional-level experience in the government financial management field

- To **maintain** the CGFM certification in active status, individuals must:
 - Continue to abide by AGA’s Code of Ethics
 - Renew CGFM annually
 - Earn 80 continuing professional education (CPE) hours every 2 years

For more information on the CGFM Certification process, visit the AGA national website – <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification.aspx>. Contact the CGFM Coordinator, Kusum Adhikari, for more information on the YPWPP process by e-mail at kusum.adhikari@dfa.nm.gov.

CHAPTER AND NATIONAL AGA HAPPENINGS

Summer Social **COMING SOON!**

The NM Chapter CEC is currently in the planning stages for the annual Summer Membership Event. Stay tuned for more details!

2023 NATIONAL PDT NEWS

The National AGA Professional Development Training was held in Orlando, Florida on July 23-26, 2023. This year's event was the highest attended PDT on record. Who could you have rubbed elbows with if you had attended? Featured speakers included Soledad O'Brien (Award-Winning Journalist, Entrepreneur and Host of the Weekly Syndicated Show *Matter of Fact* and Alex Weber (Leadership & Peak Performance Speaker, American Ninja Warrior Competitor) just to name a few! Plus Disney World was nearby! Plus the National PDT offered a total of 24 NASBA approved CPE credits.

The NM Chapter donated a Retablo to the National PDT to auction off for charity! Proceeds from auction of the Retablo of **\$210** were added to the National Community Service Fundraiser held every year at the PDT.

Picture of the Retablo donated by the NM Chapter



Future National PDTs? Always held in July of each year.

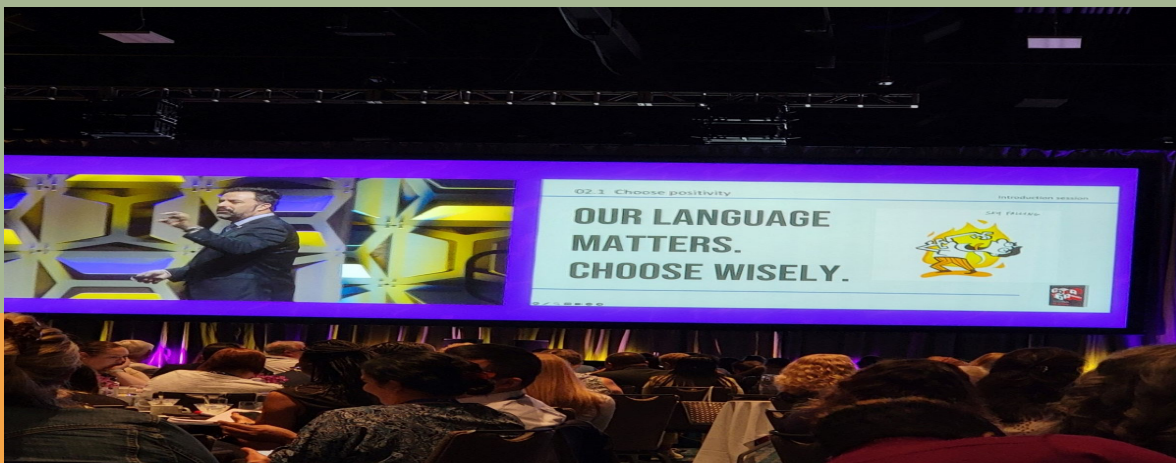
2024 – DENVER

2025 – NASHVILLE

2026 – DALLAS

2027 – CHICAGO

Pictures from the National PDT in Orlando:



More pictures from the National PDT:



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FREE CPE – FREE Members-Only Webinars

Upcoming Members Only Webinars - as a AGA Member, you are invited to attend the following webinar dates FREE of charge:

- October 11, 2023 1.5 hours, Topic - TBD
- December 6, 2023 1.5 hours, Topic - TBD
- February 14, 2024 1.5 hours, Topic - TBD
- May 15, 2024 1.5 hours, Topic - TBD

That is SIX TOTAL CPE HOURS FREE!!!

How do I sign up? Easy Peasy. Sign into your AGA profile, search on webinars, click on the links to register.

Want more FREE CPE HOURS?

- November 16, 2023 Technology & Transformation Summit 5 hours FREE for AGA Members.

How do I sign up? Easy Peasy. Sign into your AGA profile, click on National Events, select Technology Transformation Summit (TTS 2023), click on the links to register.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Members from the AGA NM Chapter Executive Committee volunteered their time one afternoon at The Food Depot in Santa Fe on June 23rd to sort and pack food donations.

The Food Depot helps to address hunger in northern New Mexico distributing over 12.5 million pounds of food last year. Volunteers, as a whole, donate 2,000 hours or more each month equivalent to nearly \$685,000 in payroll savings annually. The savings helps The Food Depot invest more into their clients and programs. The AGA NM Chapter Executive Committee members have been volunteering their time and donating annually to this program.

How do you get involved? Join the AGA NM Chapter Executive Committee and make a difference in your community and your profession!

Contact the NM Chapter today! Email us at nmagacgfm@gmail.com for information on joining.



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Mauricia J. Chavarria-Quam – Accounting Operations Manager/Los Alamos County

VICE-PRESIDENT

VACANT

TREASURER

Margaret Sena – Director Admin Services/NM State Land Office

MEMBERSHIP

Bryan Maestas, CGFM – Accountant/Los Alamos National Laboratory
Thinlay Dolkar – Staff Auditor/NM State Auditor’s Office

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Jolene Gonzales – retired state employee
Wanda Gonzales – Finance Bureau Chief/NM Department of Corrections

SECRETARY

Lynette Kennard – PERA

ACCOUNTABILITY

Elizabeth Burks – PERA

CGFM Chair

Kusum Adhikari, CGFM – Chief Financial Accountant/NM DFA

EDUCATION

VACANT

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Miranda Mascarenas – CFO

COMMUNICATIONS

Misty Schuck, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA, CICA – Partner/Burt & Company CPAs LLC

WEBMASTER/NEWSLETTER

Misty Schuck, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA, CICA – Partner/Burt & Company CPAs LLC

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Blanca Sena – ASD Deputy Director/NM Aging & Long-Term Service Department

NATIONAL OFFICE REPRESENTATION FROM NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

NCC REPRESENTATIVE – NM CHAPTER

Wanda Gonzales – Finance Bureau Chief/NM Department of Corrections

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Elena Tercero, CPA, CGFM, CGMA – Deputy ASD Director & CFO/Facilities Fiscal Director/ NM Department of Health