



Volume 17-06 February 2018

President's Message

Those of you who hold the credential of Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) or are currently working on obtaining that credential may have noticed our chapter's renewed commitment to supporting the CGFM program this year. At our board of directors' retreat last June, we agreed that focusing some of our chapter's monthly education offerings around the CGFM study guide would benefit candidates who are currently in the process of preparing for the CGFM exam, as well as helping other government accountability professionals stay current with the principles and trends in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting that CGFM holders need to know. We hope you can join us for our February 13 luncheon meeting, where Dr. Kenneth Smith of Central



Washington University (and a past President of the Seattle AGA Chapter) will present on the topic of "An Audit(or) is not enough: Additional tools and techniques from CGFM Part #3". This should be a great warm up for March's annual CGFM Month festivities. Stay tuned for more!

Mary Ann Hardy,
Chapter President

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the Seattle Chapter:

*Mrs. Sandy Langdon,
Finance Director,
City of Marysville*

Upcoming Events

February 13

Additional Tools and Techniques From CGFM Part #3

See Page 2 for details

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ARTICLES and PHOTOS WANTED

We are looking for articles to include in the SOUNDER. Please submit items for inclusion and attribution.

Also, we like to decorate the first page of The Sounder with a local photo each month.

If you have an article or picture to contribute, please send it to Tim Dobler at DOBLER5@MSN.COM. When we use your photo, we will acknowledge you in our credits section.



THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

February 13, 2018

Speaker

*Dr. Kenneth Smith,
Central Washington University*

Topic

“An Audit(or) is not enough: Additional tools and techniques from CGFM Part #3”

Dr. Smith will discuss the various components of Financial Management and Control using examples from several state, local and federal governments. Specifically, he will share a broad range of methods that can be implemented and how to assess the overall "Control Health" of an organization. He will cover examples of different governance structures and governance mechanisms including the use of video, social media, cognitive science/positive psychology and Policy Governance.

Time

12:00 – 12:50 pm

Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and networking prior to the presentation.

Place

GAO Training Room
Columbia Center
701 – 5th Ave., Floor 37
Seattle, WA 98104

Cost

MEMBERS - \$0 AND NON-MEMBERS - \$5

Menu Choices

Bring your own lunch, or purchase a box lunch from Specialty's Café and Bakery for \$15.00. Choose from the following box lunch options:

1. Smoked Ham Sandwich
2. Chinese Chicken Salad
3. Balsamic, Berry, and Avocado Salad (vegetarian)

RSVP Required

Please **RSVP** to attend and provide your choice for lunch by **Friday, February 9, 2018** to Mary Ann Hardy, hardym@gao.gov.

CPE

1 CPE awarded.

AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2017-2018

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2017-2018! Please join us at these luncheon and brown bag events and help us make this program year a success.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the GAO Training Facility on the 37th floor of the Columbia Center.

Topics will be announced as they are finalized. Dates are subject to change.

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Center.
Ken Smith, PhD. Central Washington University – Topic to be determined.**

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 – GAO 37th Floor Training Facility, Columbia Center.

**Monday April 30 and Tuesday May 1 – Governmental Accounting and Auditing
Conference**

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – Emerald Award Luncheon

NATIONAL EVENTS

Go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Event-Calendar/national-events.aspx>
For further Information.

Feb. 27–28 | Washington DC or virtual | 14 CPEs

2018 National Leadership Training

National Leadership Training (NLT) is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market.

May 1 | Washington | 4 CPEs

2018 CFO/CIO Summit

Join in Washington for this educational event and listen to an insightful dialogue on the intersection of policies and management issues that impact CFOs and CIOs and how they are working together to improve efficiency and transparency, reduce risk and strengthen their workforce.

July 22–25, 2018 | 24 CPEs

2018 Professional Development Training (See Page 6 for further details)

Top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia and the private sector share key findings and educational experiences to augment your knowledge and enhance your skills.

January 2018 Luncheon Presentation Income Tax update by Christina (Tina) Polf, CPA^{1/}

Tina Polf, CPA, who has spoken about taxes to our chapter annually for at least 5 years, began her presentation last year by saying very little change happened to the tax code and regulations, but “significant changes are expected in 2017”. Truer words were never spoken.

Tina discussed the **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** passed in December including calculating the expected change in individual tax payments. Besides summarizing the impact of the new tax rates on a typical AGA member (see whiteboard in photo below), Ms. Polf gave those present an eight-page summary of the changes and other useful information.

To begin with, tax returns are due on Tuesday, April 17th. The move from the traditional first work day on or after April 15th is compliments of our friends in Washington DC, where the local holiday, Emancipation Day, is celebrated on Monday, the 16th.

Tina’s handout included the new standard deduction amounts, various mileage rate changes, and other deductions changes or eliminations.

Tina continued down the tax return:

For income, employer provided bus passes or the like, are taxable in 2018, while alimony received is not.

Adjustments to gross income no longer include job-related moving expenses, except for military.

Deductions in 2018 for realty and personal taxes is limited to \$10,000 for joint filers. The amount that may be deducted for charitable contributions has gone up to 60% of AGI, however, there is no deduction allowed for payments to colleges and university where the contribution allows the giver the right to buy tickets. Tina also noted that casualty losses are only deductible when attributed to a federally declared disaster, furthermore, miscellaneous deductions formerly subject to a 2% of AGI limitation are not deductible in 2018.

Exemptions are no longer allowed, at least until 2025.

Taxes and rates beginning in 2018 there will be divided into 7 tiers instead of 2017’s 5. The Medicare taxes of 0.9% on incomes and 3.9% on investment income over \$250,000 (married, filing jointly) remain the same as prior years.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit is a maximum credit of \$2,500, of which 40% is refundable (\$1,000). The AOTC had previously been extended through 2017; it is now permanent.

At this point, Tina was running out of time, so she referred those present to the handout’s discussions of Due Dates, Estate and Gift Taxes and Business Provisions of the new law.

For those interested in more detail, Ms. Polf referred us to CCH at <http://tax.cchgroup.com/Legislation/Briefings>.



(L to R) Karen Murphy, Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM, Karyn Angulo, Max Foster, Tina Polf, Sam Lord, Mary Ann Hardy, and Tony Eayrs pose before an example of “tax simplification”

^{1/}Christina A. Polf, CPA is a sole proprietor with a mission of “making taxes less scary” and an emphasis on tax planning and compliance issues for individuals and closely-held businesses. She believes that it is important that you be able to ask your questions no matter how simple they may seem.

She is a past-President of the Seattle Chapter of Accounting & Financial Women’s Alliance (AFWA), a past AFWA National Board member, and currently serves on the Board of The Foundation of AFWA.

Ms. Polf’s practice is located Renton, WA. She may be reached at 425-226-1500 or TinaPolf@aol.com.

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS WEBINAR AND VIRTUAL TRAINING SCHEDULE

The national office has scheduled monthly webinars to make receiving CPE as convenient as possible. The Seattle Chapter may incorporate some of the webinars into our monthly meetings. For further information on signing up individually, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Learn-Online/Webinars.aspx>. Webinars provide 2 hours CPE each, unless otherwise indicated.

Jan. 10 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Grants Management

Feb. 7 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Understanding GASB’s New Standards on Leases and Fiduciary Activities

March 7 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Infrastructure Financing with State and Local Government

March 15 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Owning My Future: Having an Enriching Career in Changing Times
Free to AGA Members

March 28 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Cybersecurity

April 11 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Ethics

April 25 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
DATA Act

May 16 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Fraud/Data Analytics

June 13 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET
Leadership

June 22-25 | Orlando, Fla., or virtual | 24 CPEs
Professional Development Training

Sept. 20–21 | Washington, D.C., or virtual | 14 CPEs
Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training

PDT⚡2018



2018 Professional Development Training

July 22–25, 2018 | 24 CPEs
Orlando, Fla. or virtual

Three reasons you should attend:

1. **Earn up to 24 CPEs.** Enhance your lifelong learning, and gain the knowledge and understanding to better improve your job effectiveness.
2. **Stay cutting-edge.** Top-notch speakers from federal, state, local, academia and the private sector share key findings and educational experiences to augment your knowledge and enhance your skills.
3. **Network and connect.** Collaborate and engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues facing the same or similar issues, and exchange ideas to bring back to your organization.

For further details, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT.aspx>

"Auditing in a Changing Environment"



The Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum (PNIAF) will be holding its next forum meeting **Thursday, March 15 – Friday, March 16** at the Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X3.

We will offer 16 CPEs at a cost of \$175 (US dollars). The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and a reception on March 15 and breakfast and lunch on March 16.

Our keynote panel of speakers include **Carol Bellringer, British Columbia Auditor; Pat McCarthy, Washington State Auditor; and Dennis Richardson, Oregon Secretary of State.** A draft copy of the agenda is available on the registration website with the following planned presentation topics: auditing and gender, climate change and environmental audits, large concept audits, marijuana audits, real-time and prospective auditing, identifying costs and government spending, identifying high risk issues, organizational culture and change management, audit methodologies for unique groups, IT audits, improving capital project outcomes, and improving the audit process. For information and to register for the meeting, visit [Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum Meeting](#).

Please register **no later than Monday, March 5** (*Registration for this meeting is on a first-come, first-served basis.*)

Please also go to our website for information about lodging. We have contracted for rooms at \$159 per room (Canadian dollars) plus tax which are available until **February 14** or filled. Please make reservations at this hotel to keep the forum affordable.

Questions?

Audit Forum or program – Contact Jenny Wong, Executive Director at wongj@gao.gov or 415-238-0434.

Registration – Contact Shauntice Murphy, Forum Coordinator at murphys@gao.gov or 202-512-4916.

We look forward to seeing you in Victoria in March!

Jenny Wong

Executive Director, Intergovernmental Audit Forums

Strategic Planning and External Liaison

U.S. Government Accountability Office

Phones: 415-238-0434, 202-512-2940

www.auditforum.org

Greetings to all Seattle AGA Chapter Members!

We are seeking nominations for awards recognizing individuals who have excelled in a variety of endeavors that support AGA's mission to advance accountability, transparency and leadership across all levels of government.

Categories for the 2018 Seattle Chapter Awards include the following:

1. The Emerald Award: this award is presented annually by the Seattle Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants to a distinguished member of the local government accountability community, in recognition of outstanding leadership in the field of government accountability and service to the public.
2. Distinguished Mid-Career Professional Award: this award recognizes a local individual whose significant professional and community service accomplishments demonstrate commitment to the AGA values of Service, Accountability, Integrity, and Leadership. Nominees for this award should have approximately 10-20 years of experience in a field related to government or public service.
3. Emerging Leader Award: this award recognizes a local early career professional in government or public service for notable contributions toward excellence in government accountability. Experiences outside of work that support a nominee's potential for future contributions to the field may be significant in this category. Nominees for this award should have fewer than 10 years of experience in a field related to government or public service.

Our chapter's Emerald Award Committee encourages you to submit one or more nominees for our consideration. Please respond by email to hardym@gao.gov by March 23, 2018. When submitting your nominations for these awards, please provide information about your nominee's personal and professional accomplishments to help us identify the best candidate in each category.

We anticipate hosting our Emerald Award luncheon in May 2018 in downtown Seattle. Stay tuned for further details.

Regards,

The Emerald Award Committee
Association of Government Accountants, Seattle Chapter

CGFM NEWS

NEW BENEFIT FOR STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE AGA

Those interested in pursuing the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation will get an additional discount off the CGFM application fee, paying only \$33, compared to nonmember \$99 fee.



To learn more, Click here

CGFM PREPARATION OPPORTUNITY

Interested CGFM study participants interested in presentations to train toward the study guides and interested in a study group, please email info.agaseattle@gmail.com with your contact details and your preferred method of being reached. Share any additional details you think are helpful for us to know about you. Seattle Chapter AGA intends to host daytime and evening presentations and/or study groups. The goal is to have practitioners in the field teach to topics in the CGFM study guides. We are excited to offer this opportunity, which will be set-up to provide CPE's too.

To apply for the CGFM certification

1. Go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/CGFMs/CPE-Requirements.aspx>
2. Read the AGA's Code of Ethics.
3. Fill out and submit the Educational Background information below.
4. Verify and update your name and contact information in Edit Profile.
5. Pay the application fee online — \$70 for AGA members (\$33 for student members), \$99 for nonmembers.
6. Click “ok” to be directed to My Path to CGFM where you can upload your required degree documentation.

AGA membership is not required for the CGFM certification.

CGFM Intensive Review Course and examinations

AGA's Intensive Review Course (IRC) with CGFM examinations *included* is a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The next IRC, offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Arlington, Virginia, **April 26–27, 2018**. The class will run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is as follows:

- \$375 for AGA members
- \$425 for nonmembers

The CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees — a \$375 savings!

The CGFM examinations can be taken by appointment only at [Pearson Professional Testing Centers](#) from **April 28, 2018 – July 31, 2018**, using vouchers provided by AGA.

- **What is the IRC?** It is a special, limited enrollment opportunity for individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM examinations and want extra reinforcement of the material. It is a review of the main topics covered on the CGFM examinations, led by a knowledgeable instructor.

The IRC is not a shortcut. It is not a prep course with strategies on how to pass the exams, and it is not a substitute for the three AGA instructor-led training courses. The IRC is usually not enough, by itself, to prepare for the CGFM examinations — advance preparation is strongly recommended.

Registration

1. Apply and be accepted into the CGFM program (see [CGFM process](#) for more information).
2. [Pre-register for the IRC.](#)

Financial Condition as of December, 2017

Checking	\$ 1,561.87
Savings	\$ 3,066.18
12-Month CD	<u>\$ 4,669.51</u>
Total Assets	\$ 9,297.56
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 9,297.56</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	\$ 9,297.56

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending December 31, 2017

Beginning Cash Balances		\$9,592.02
Lunch meals, speaker costs (incl. parking), & name tags	\$ 52.08	
Cash Expended		<u>\$ 103.95</u>
Lunch Revenue	\$ 45.00	
Interest Income	\$ 1.52	
Subtotal Cash Deposits		<u>\$ 46.52</u>
Net Cash Change		<u>\$ 5.56</u>
Ending Cash Balance		<u>\$ 9,586.46</u>

2nd Quarter AGA Seattle Chapter Recognition Program Points

Chapter Goal: 25,000

Chapter Recognition Categories	Points to Dec 2017	Points Available	Percent Earned
Section I - Chapter Leadership, Planning, & Participation	2,885	5,000	58%
Section II - Education & Professional Development	2,025	4,000	51%
Section III - Certification	1,550	4,000	39%
Section IV - Communications	3,000 ^{1/}	3,000	100%
Section V - Membership with a Focus on Early Career and Student Members	2,925	4,000	73%
Section VI - Accountability	100	2,000	5%
Section VII - Community Service	800	2,000	40%
Section VIII - Awards	0	1,000	0%
Total as of December 2017	13,285	25,000	53%

^{1/} Points limited to points available ceiling. Actual points higher.

Recognition Levels:

A **Bronze Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 12,000 and 14,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Bronze status.

A **Silver Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 14,501 and 17,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Silver status.

A **Gold Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 17,001 and 19,500 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Gold status.

The **Platinum Chapter Designation** will be presented to any chapter that attains between 19,501 and 25,000 credits for the year. The chapter president's plaque will include recognition that the chapter has achieved Platinum status.



The Sounder

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

The purpose of the Association and the Chapter is to be an international, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of government financial management. The Association shall serve its members by providing or sponsoring appropriate educational programs, encouraging professional development, influencing governmental financial management policies and practices, and serving as an advocate for the profession. The Association shall serve government officials and the public by sponsoring efforts to ensure full and fair accountability for all public monies, and by providing a variety of pro bono services throughout the United States and its territories that support that end.

AGA Seattle Chapter 2017-2018 Board Members

President and Professional Development Chair

Mary Ann Hardy, U.S. GAO
206-654-5594
hardym@gao.gov

President-Elect

Karen Murphy
joujie@comcast.net

Immediate Past President and Education Chair

Diane MaKaeli
dmakaeli@gmail.com

Treasurer, Webmaster and Early Careers Chair

Sam Lord, HHS OIG
206-615-2257
sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov

Secretary and Historian

Karyn Angulo, U.S. GAO
206-287-4868
angulok@gao.gov

Newsletter Editor

Tim Dobler, Retired
206-364-3499
Dobler5@msn.com

Membership Chair

Tony Eayrs
King County International Airport
tony.eayrs@kingcounty.gov

CGFM Chair and Community Service Chair

Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM
Seattle DOT
202-277-8250
gabrielle.sivage@seattle.gov

Board Member

John Kurpierz
Schulich School of Business,
York University
JohnRKurpierz@gmail.com

Board Member

Ken Smith, PhD
Central Washington
University
503-428-0994
Kenneth.Smith@CWU.edu

This newsletter was produced by board member Tim Dobler, with the assistance of Karyn Angulo. Thanks to chapter members who contributed articles and photos for this issue. Masthead photo compliments of Diane MaKaeli.