



Montgomery/
Prince George's
County Chapter



Program Year
2021-2022
Issue III

Recent Highlights:

- AGA's rebrand to Advance, Grow, and Accelerate.
- MPG hosts industry experts.
- Reconnecting with colleagues.

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AGA Is Now...AGA: What It Means for You

Even if you were not at NLT 2022, you may have noticed the updated logo and flurry of communication over the past month from AGA National. AGA announced its rebrand from "Association of Government Accountants" to "AGA", formally announced on February 24, 2022. With the announcement, AGA created a new tagline "Advance. Grow. Accelerate." to accompany the name change.

Additionally, AGA refreshed its logo to be blue and orange with a star (illustrated at the top right of the newsletter. According to AGA's press release, the name is expressed within the new logo: "The design represents AGA's commitment to elevating the standard

of excellence in government accountability and advancing our members' professional expertise and opportunities. The design is bold, bright, and better equipped to represent our brand moving forward."

For years, AGA has stressed its missions regarding a new symbol of excellence and transparency in government accountability at all levels of government. Its original name (Federal Government Accountants Association) reflected its original focus on the federal government, but has since expanded that mission to include all levels of state and local government around the country.

AGA's website describes its approach using each pillar of its tagline:

"Advance sound financial practices, accountability, transparency and excellence in government."

"Grow, learn, excel and engage through a network of likeminded professionals and leaders."

"Accelerate professional careers through learning opportunities and the opportunity to earn a unique credential - the Certified Government Financial Manager, the only credential developed solely with the government financial professional in mind."

See "AGA" pg. 2.

“AGA” cont.

AGA and our chapter have the resources to help you on your career journey. In addition to the CGFM certification and national events, the MPG chapter provides members with diverse educational and networking events

with professionals from across each level of government. See a sampling of our members, training events, and community-building activities within this newsletter but be sure to connect with us on our website

(marylandaga.com), via email, or our LinkedIn account. We welcome your feedback on what our chapter can do for you, but we look forward to seeing you at our next training—or trivia—event!

Board Spotlight: Nicholas Garrard

About Nicholas:

We interviewed our 2021-2022 Chapter President Nicholas Garrard for this Board Spotlight. He is a Supervisory Senior Associate at TFC Consulting Inc.

Q: Can you tell us about your service on the board? How did you get involved and where have you been able to contribute?

A. Several years ago, I attended an AGA MPGC networking event at a restaurant in Silver Spring with some of my TFC coworkers. This was my first local event, after attending a couple larger events previously. Everyone from the chapter was friendly and suggested I get more involved, specifically with Early Careers/Young Professionals. I first served during Corinne Dougherty's program year, as Early Careers Co-Director, alongside Dhiren Patel and Erica Williams. It was very enjoyable to collaborate with other committees and organize social events for our members. Next year, I joined Jon DeBoer's board as an Education

Co-Director, and had the pleasure of working with Carol-Ann Boothe, Yehuda Schmidt, Maggie Huang, Toyin Ojumu, Revelation Brown, and now Brian Frey. This is an incredible team! There is so much that goes on in the background in order to deliver such quality for both virtual and in-person events. Last year, in addition to Education responsibilities, I shadowed Mat Wenzel during his year as Chapter President. This proved to be invaluable, as I knew what to expect month-to-month.

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

A. In terms of my career development, AGA's greatest value is its network. This is the hub for all the leaders perform-

ing the same work that we all do. I enjoy that membership offers all sorts of training opportunities. Since my background is in Data Analytics, and not traditional accounting, I am always trying to learn what agencies and organizations are doing to stay ahead of the curve.

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

A. I would recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability because this is the best organization for them to network, train, and grow within their field. This is where thousands of like-minded professionals meet to discuss the advancement of this line of work.

See “Spotlight” pg. 3.

Membership & Early Careers Virtual Trivia Night

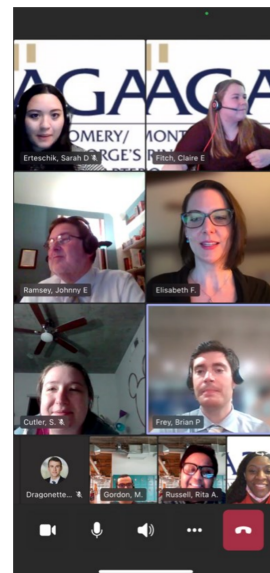
The chapter hosted a virtual trivia night on February 17 for the second year in a row. Questions ranged from Black history to AGA trivia with geography dispersed throughout. Members from other chapters, prospective members, and MPG members competed in good spirit for Amazon gift cards and bragging rights!

The event hosts, Tanequa McQueen, Sara Erteschik, and Claire Fitch hosted the event—including creating all of the questions and supporting all logistics. (Fortunately, this year did not require as many hints by the hosts!)

Congratulations to Sophie Cutler for winning! Matt

Dragonette (Newsletter Editor) and Brian Frey (Education) placed second and third respectively. The chapter looks forward to making the event an annual tradition, and hopefully in-person in the future!

Some trivia participants pictured at right through Microsoft Teams:



Board Member Spotlight

(cont. from pg. 2)

Q: What's unique about the Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter? What changes have you seen over time?

A. The Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter is unique in its membership and location. We are one of AGA's largest chapters, thanks to our proximity to Washington, D.C. DC is our largest chapter, as many members like the convenience of attending events during or after their workdays downtown. We have the advantage of being both close enough for after work events, and also the draw of a hometown feel, as we serve our local community too.

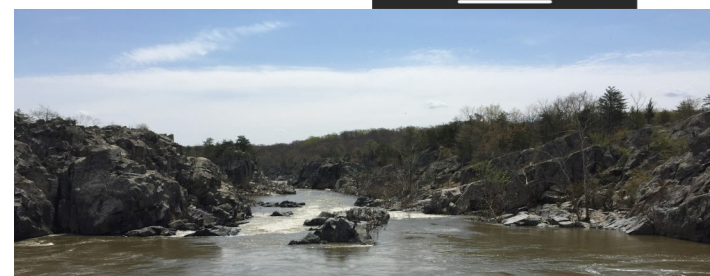
Q: Do you have a favorite chapter event? If so, can you share what

made it so meaningful?

A. My favorite chapter events are our educational offerings. These are very well attended, offer CPE, and offer networking opportunities.

Q: AGA recently re-branded from the "Association of Government Accountants" to AGA to embrace its broader purpose. As an experienced member and significant supporter, what are your thoughts on the change?

A. That's a great question. I attended a "sneak-peek" showing of the rebrand, and I must admit, it has taken some time to understand the correct communication of the changes. However, the change is positive, as it allows us to reach



those outside the accounting-specific community. Accountability is important for all, and we want to welcome those who might have seen us as siloed. I also really like the new color scheme and modern logo.

Q: What areas of government accountability and financial management do you see AGA focusing on over the next few years?

A. I see AGA focusing on Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). These are now seen as

emerging topics, but both technology and the importance of our environment are here to stay!

Q: 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 advise those considering joining AGA to JOIN NOW! This is our renewal season, so it's a great time to join us. AGA will advance your career, your network, and the way you view our industry.

MPG Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) CPE Training

On March 15, the chapter hosted past chapter president Corinne Dougherty for a presentation on ESG and the federal government. Corinne, audit partner at KPMG LLP, previously presented

on this topic to FASAB in December 2021. Corinne presented a introduction to critical ESG concepts and standards including key aspects applicable to the federal government environment.

Upcoming MPG Chapter Events

April Networking & National Speaker Event

"Cocktail Hour/Dinner with the DC AGA Chapter" on Saturday April 9, 2022 from 5:30-9:00pm at the Washington Hilton. It will be a great opportunity to network with our neighboring chapter and hear from the national AGA President, Gerry Boaz, who will speak during dinner. See our website for additional information and to register for the event.

April Educational Meeting

"Spring Workshop" on Thursday April 7, 2022 from 8:00am-12:00pm. Virtual (see website RSVP). Join us to learn up to 4 CPEs learning about a variety of financial management skills.

Topics include the use of technology for federal governance, risk, and compliance programs; an overview of the federal governmentwide financial report, utilizing ERP systems for internal controls, and methods to improve budget execution tracking.

2021-2022 Chapter Awards Dinner

Our annual awards dinner will be a hybrid event this year on June 1, 2022! See our website for additional information and to RSVP.

CGFM Study Group Monthly Meetings Contact us at CGFM@marylandaga.com to learn more and connect with other professionals studying for the CGFM.

Sign-up for any of our events on the chapter's website: marylandaga.com

(Other) News and Events from National

Sign-up for any national chapter events on the national AGA website: agacgfm.org

Cybersecurity/ERM Webinar (2 CPEs)

Webinar on March 23, 2022 from 2:00-3:50pm. Per the AGA website, "This session examines common attack vectors, such as ransomware, used by malicious actors against critical government financial infrastructure and systems. Discussion will also touch on methods to prevent and detect breaches and steps to prepare for and react to an eventual breach or attack."

Ethics: More Ethical Dilemmas—You Make the Calls (2 CPEs)

Webinar on April 6, 2022 from 2:00-3:50pm. Per the AGA website, "This interactive webinar will explore several potential ethical dilemmas vis-à-vis AGA's Code of Ethics to determine how and why trained and experienced government accountability professionals sometimes run afoul of our ethics principles."

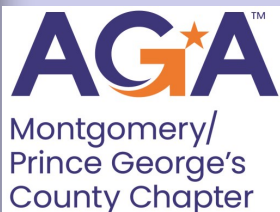
2022 Enterprise Risk Management Workshop

All-day workshop on April 14, 2022 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The event pro-

vides up to 7 CPEs and features both speakers and small-group breakouts. Per the AGA website, "This event provides participants with practical insight from Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) leaders. The integration of ERM is essential for the maturation of the ERM environment. Sessions will include integration of ERM with reporting, cybersecurity, collaboration strategies and enterprise-wide activities."

CARES Act Webinar (2 CPEs)

Webinar on April 20, 2022 from 2:00-3:50pm. Per the AGA website, "The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, pumped more than \$2 trillion into the US economy to address the many challenges faced by the nation from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this piece of legislation was just one of many related to COVID relief funding and oversight. Together these laws created a number of unique issues and requirements for the oversight and accountability community. In this session, learn from leaders in CARES Act and COVID-related accountability who will present both federal and state perspectives on this important area.



“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Standards: Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB)

GASB. Per a GASB news release, GASB is adding a “major project for going concern uncertainties and severe financial stress and pre-agenda research activity on subsequent events” to its technical plan for 2022.

The project will include considerations of improvements to existing guidance, defining “severe financial stress”, and what information would

be necessary to disclose.

GASB also issued a release that the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) named six new and reappointed seven existing members of the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC).

For academics and researchers, GASB has announced a request for research relevant to the GASB’s

standard setting activities as part of the Gil Crain Memorial Research Grant. Read more in the GASB posting on its website.

FASAB. No significant news for the period as a number of FASAB projects are ongoing. Projects include climate-related financial reporting, reporting model considerations, and technical clarifications of existing standards.

Federal Excerpts: Government Accountability Office (GAO)

GAO issued a number of recent reports and other documents as summarized in its most recent “Month in Review” on its website.

Of recent note, GAO released its audit report (with disclaimer of opinion) for the FY 2021 Consolidated Financial Statements of the US government. According to GAO, the primary challenges facing the U.S. government’s financial

results include financial management problems at DoD and SBA, unreconciled differences between federal agencies, and financial reporting weaknesses.

GAO also released several reports on data quality and financial systems. For one agency, GAO recommended a system migration plan to transition to its modern financial

system. For another agency, GAO noted improvements in the implementation of a financial system and improving overall data quality but recommended that it facilitate an agreement on collecting standardized cost data and to establish goals and expectations for using the data.

2021-2022 AGA MPG Board & Contact Information

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MPG February 2022 Abbreviated Board Meeting Minutes

Treasurer: Wilson mentioned that he has completed all financial statements and they are currently in Nick's review but will go to Denise after for posting to the website.

Accountability: Brett stated that the Accountability committee is currently in the process of doing the CCR scholarship and sending out invitations to various schools. One team from Morgan State has already registered, but they are planning to re-send the invite to schools that haven't responded to see if there is more participation.

Awards: Anu mentioned that she has been looking into an in-person or hybrid awards event since Omicron is settling down. Nick mentioned that the only thoughts would be how to set up a projector or the visual aspect for those viewing in attendance and virtually. He also stressed that if we do a hybrid event, we need to take into consideration the engagement from both the individuals in-person and virtual.

Certification: Nick stated that Lauren held a CGFM study group about two or so weeks ago. There were a handful of individuals in attendance and Lauren was able to give a lot of helpful content. Nick also emphasized there is a good chance to win study guide

materials if you attend.

Young Professionals: Sarah stated the joint Young Professionals/Membership Trivia Event is tomorrow and currently there are about 15 people registered. She encouraged individuals to invite others and register if you haven't already.

Membership: Tanequa stated that she is working on the membership satisfaction survey and hopes to send that out soon.

Education/Meetings: Toyin stated the Education/Meetings committee has had a lot of success with using Zoom. They have been able to use Zoom for polling rather than Conferences IO and registration through JotForm, which interfaces with Zoom. The Education Committee stated they had success with using JotForm.

The next education meeting is on Tuesday, March 15 on environmental social justice. This session is for 1 CPE in specialized knowledge and consists of a presentation by Corinne Dougherty. Carol emphasized that a flyer was sent out for this meeting, which has been shared with friends and on social media.

The Spring Workshop is on April 7 from 8am to noon. Carol wanted to get the board's thoughts on giving speakers for Education

Committee events an allotment of free attendee vouchers for the workshop.

Historian: Jeff informed the board that he is still updating the website and information. Nick mentioned to the board that he wanted to celebrate and recognize Jeff's 40 years as a member.

Newsletter: Matt stated that based on the timing of awards, he wanted to start the next newsletter now. He also mentioned that instead of rushing the last newsletter, he wants to delay it until after the awards ceremony so that he can include the highlights from the event.

Recognition: Jillian stated the next reporting for recognition will occur on February 18 and will include all chapter accomplishments from December 2021 through February 2022. She asked all board members to be on the lookout for any emails from herself or Nick confirming events and accomplishments of your committee.

Sponsorship: Nick stated the action item for sponsorship is to check on the two sponsor checks mentioned previously in the meeting. Additionally, the sponsorship committee will be sending a request to update the AGA chapter website.

Social Media: Freda stated she has been focused on the LinkedIn page and growing communication. She asked the board to keep including hashtags (#AGA, #Accounting, #YoungProfessionals, #Government) and resharing the AGA posts. Freda said her goal is to get 50 people a month to join the LinkedIn page and currently the page is at 250 people.

Webmaster: Denise informed the board that the 123Signup account has been closed but wanted to check whether any committees still needed this account even though there are other methods of registration.

Denise sent out a monthly email request last week and Carol asked for the email to be sent out with a new title. Denise said she will aim to send a draft email next week. Denise also said she added the chapter events to the AGA National website to be posted for March.

Special Projects: Nick stated that the chapter is currently looking for someone to do a financial review of our finances, not an audit. He is currently looking into non-local chapters.

NCC Rep: Mat stated mentioned that they are currently looking into the rates for events and how to compete in terms of membership and attendance. One big focus right now is for renewal season and attracting new members to chapters.

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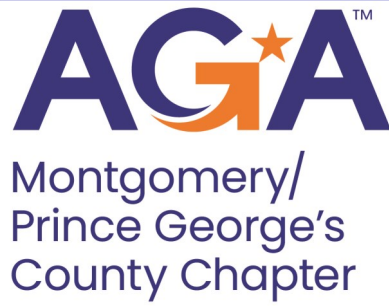
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