



The AGA Communique



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President's Welcome

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2021-2022 AGA program year. I have had the pleasure to serve on the board since 2017 and am honored to continue my participation by serving as chapter president.

Last year, our chapter, like many across the world, made drastic changes to our plans due to COVID-19. Our excellent team, led by Past-President and current NCC Rep **Mathew Wenzel**, reached, and even surpassed, its goals.

To name a few: Our community service initiative raised funds for food aid in the area; The membership and sponsorship teams kept our community connected and growing; Our certification directors made virtual materials available to candidates and held e-study sessions; By being proactive in identifying and training with a virtual platform, the Education and Meetings committee held high-quality events that reached hundreds of attendees; Young Professionals linked our current leaders with leaders of the future through happy hours and trivia.

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2020-2021 MPG AGA Chapter Awards Ceremony

Each spring, as our program year draws to a close, the outgoing and incoming Chapter Presidents work together to highlight the accomplishments and contributions during the current year and share the vision for the upcoming year. Given the pandemic limitations on gathering in person, as has been our tradition from the past, our chapter pivoted to the online virtual platform without missing a beat.

The 2021 Chapter Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday June 9th, 2021. **Mat Wenzel**, Chapter President 2020-2021, opened the Ceremony with an expression of thanks to our sponsors, without whose support, our important work in advancing government accountability could not go on. Tashu Trivedi from TFC Consulting (Gold Sponsor) and Eric Rasmussen from KPMG (Silver Sponsor) shared remarks and Cotton and Company (Platinum Sponsor) and Clifton Larson Allen (Silver Sponsor) provided remarks via video.

The evening featured a deviation from the past, keynote presentation by former Chapter Presidents **Andrew Lewis** (KPMG LLP) and **Doreen Shute** (CLA), who are the outgoing and incoming AGA National Treasurers. In their presentation, *Building Your AGA "Career"* Doreen and Andrew provided a comprehensive and detailed

look at the multitude of opportunities to become involved and engaged with AGA at the National level and shared their own valuable perspectives and experiences serving in various capacities over the years. They also shared how these experiences have fostered and supported their own professional career growth and development and have been very fulfilling on many fronts.

and improving financial management within the government, particularly in her leadership role at FASAB. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Williams played a critical role in the development of federal reimbursable business processes and is the FASAB project manager on management's discussion and analysis and risk reporting.

Nicholas Garrard, Achievement

2020-2021 MPG AGA Awardees

Distinguished Leadership Award: Robin Gilliam

Achievement of the Year: Nicholas Garrard

Chapter Special Achievement: Brian Frey

Their presentation and sharing gave us a glimpse of what is possible beyond serving at the Chapter level and was truly inspiring. They received overwhelmingly positive feedback, via comments in the chat and discussions afterwards - had it been in-person, it would have received a standing ovation. Subsequently, Mat presented the traditional three Chapter Outstanding Achievement Awards for valuable contributions to the field of government financial management.

Robin Gilliam (FASAB), Distinguished Leadership Award recipient, was honored for her leadership and longstanding achievement in implementing

of the Year Award winner, was honored for his role in transforming the Chapter Education program to an online platform. He played a key role in the selection, implementation, and use of the new platform to enable the chapter to continue its education program.

Brian Frey, Chapter Special Achievement award winner was honored for his extensive contributions to the young professionals' program and chapter outreach.

Accountability Director **Brett Parris** introduced the student recipients and their faculty advisor for the Citizen Centric Reporting Scholarships awarded by the chapter. The students

Awards cont. on page 6

Upcoming Events

Community Service Event

September 28, 2021

Washington DC

Join us for a volunteer event at the Capital Area Food Bank to sort and pack food to help families in need. Sign-up on our website!

October Training: COVID-19

October 14, 2021

Virtual (see website RSVP)

Location

Description if needed

November Training: GASB Update

November 17, 2021

Virtual (see website RSVP)

Description if needed

December Training: Ethics

December 8, 2021

Virtual (see website RSVP)

Description if needed

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

President's Welcome, cont. from page 1

We did all this in addition to the trials and tribulations that COVID-19 left us to deal with at home. Incredible. The 2021-22 year will bring its own challenges. There is reason to be optimistic about the possibility of in-person and/or hybrid events. If you're like me, you can't wait to catch a game with our chapter members, participate in a hands-on community service project, or see some of our favorite industry speakers deliver a presentation in-person.

Switching to a hybrid model will be a transition just like going virtual was, and we plan on doing things with the safety and interest of everyone in mind. Guidance on this will come from National, State, and Local experts. I know we have the team up whatever task. Our board has worked hard this summer to establish our plans for the program year.

In fact, we already have several events fully planned. Our first CPE-eligible education event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14th. This event is free for all attendees. Keep checking the events tab on our website (AGA Montgomery/P.G. Chapter), and you can see all of the upcoming events, including meetings, workshops, community service programs, and early careers events.

Events are added regularly, so check back often. Also, connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram for updates as well! If you have comments, questions, or would like to learn more about how to become a member, get involved, or join the board, please don't hesitate to contact me at president@marylandaga.com.

Thank you,

Nick Garrard

Montgomery/Prince George's County (MPGC) Chapter
President

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Together Once Again Young Professionals connect in-person to kickoff new year

On September 9, The Young Professionals committee hosted its first in-person event since early 2020 at Denizens Brewing in Silver Spring. The event featured local brews, snacks, and conversation with other chapter members. The weather cooperated for a wonderful end of summer celebration and allowed many to connect for the first time in an in-person setting. Young Professionals Directors Claire Fitch and Sarah

Erteschik planned and executed the event, and in addition to connecting existing members, were excited to have signed up a new member for the chapter. (See picture of some attendees at left.) We look forward to you joining us at the next in-person or virtual event in the coming events.

Be on alert (via email, website, or social media) for the Young Professionals' next event or any of our upcoming Membership events!

Be a CEAR Reviewer!

All-Star panel presents the merits and successes of CEAR review

MPG AGA's Education Committee hosted its first training event of the program year on September 14, featuring a robust discussion on the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) program for federal government agencies. Reviewers in the program provide recommendations for individual agency PARs/AFRs, recognize critical agency efforts, and trains agency participants to disseminate knowledge to other financial management peers.

The panel consisted of seasoned CEAR reviewers and experts in the federal accounting field. They shared some of their own tips in reviewing as well as some best practices from recognized agencies. It was an enlightening discussion and received very positive recipient feedback. Participants received 1.5 CPE thanks to the chapter's ongoing education efforts. The chapter is very grateful for the moderator's and panel's time and contributions to the federal reporting environment!



From left to right: Moderator Diane Dudley (retired KPMG LLP partner); Panelists John Hummel (retired KPMG LLP partner); Eric Rasmussen (KPMG LLP partner); Debbi Thomas (11th Hour Service Managing Director).

Recent Accounting & Reporting Updates

A snapshot of federal, state, and local changes.

Government Accounting Standards Board

In July 2021, GASB issued a proposed Concepts Statement that describes the Board's proposed focus on state and local government note disclosure requirements. *See [gasb.org](https://www.gasb.org) for the revised exposure draft and additional details.*

Earlier in 2021, GASB released a fact sheet discussing its June 2020 exposure draft on the financial reporting model. GASB has sought to revise governmental fund financial statement standards to have a short-term financial resources and accrual accounting focus. *See [gasb.org](https://www.gasb.org) for the fact sheet and additional details.*

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

In July 2021, FASAB issued Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 59, *Accounting and Reporting of Government Land*. This standard amends several existing standards and prescribes additional accounting and disclosure requirements for land and related activity, and further clarifies requirements for stewardship land. SFFAS 49 is effective for reporting periods beginning after September 30, 2021, though including a four year transition period for the information to be reported as basic information. *See [fasab.org](https://www.fasab.org) for SFFAS 49 and additional details.*



News from National.

Selected National Training & Events:

CGFM Live Series (virtual)

September 27-30; October 5-7; November 1-2

Internal Control/Improper Payments (webinar)

October 6

Ethics Training (webinar)

November 3

Other Features:

2021 CFO Survey:

AGA has published the results of the 2021 Annual CFO Survey: The COVID Challenge on its website. The report dives into workforce, real estate,

information technology and organizational resiliency planning. Visit AGA's website for a copy of the full report.

2021 CARES Act Survey:

AGA issued a five question survey to participants in its Citizen-Centric Report program. Most participants received CARES Act funding, but survey respondents reported a wide-range of funding uses, processes to comply with CARES requirements, and total expenditures during 2020. Visit AGA's website for results dashboard and complete analysis.

AGA National's website: www.agacgfm.org

Awards, cont. from page 2

gave a very informative and creative presentation about their CCR project on the city of Baltimore, "Charm City." Their CCR project and presentation reflected thoughtful informational and design decisions. The audience was appreciative of their presentation and efforts for taking on the CCR challenge. One student expressed wanting to have a mentor from the Chapter. AGA in action, at its best!

Scholarship Winners: **Nadezhda Lebbie, Joshua Ogbuokiri, Marian Powell, and Terrance Holtz**

Faculty Advisor: **Dina El Mahdy**
from Morgan State University

Mat then recognized the individual contributions of each member of his board during the year. Being valued in this manner, with the personal touch that Mat provided was really special and meant a lot. Our Chapter is fortunate to have such thoughtful and dedicated leadership. The Board members had the option to select a traditional glass award, an AGA polo shirt or a donation to a local food bank. \$350 dollars was donated to two local food banks in

Montgomery and Prince Georges County on behalf of 10 Board Members who selected the donation option.

Finally, to close out his Presidency, Mat made parting remarks about the accomplishments for the year and passed the gavel to **Nicholas Garrard**, Chapter President, 2021-2022. Nick presented the Ralph Flaherty Award to Mat for his excellent service as Chapter President during unprecedented time. Nick shared his vision for the upcoming year. Nick thanked everyone for attending and the sponsors for their support. There was an opportunity to mingle virtually after the main event ended. The goals of celebration, learning and appreciation for the valuable contributions of Awardees, scholarship recipients, Board members, chapter leadership and sponsors were successfully accomplished in the shared service and vision for advancing government accountability.

Anu Sharma, CGFM, CFE, is the Chapter Awards Director. She can be reached at as434@columbia.edu.

August Chapter Board Meeting Summary

Below is an abbreviated summary of the board's August meeting by committee. Please contact our chapter president or secretary with any questions.

Treasurer. The FY21 financial statements have been posted to the chapter website and all outstanding FY21 expenses were paid. The committee is working to develop an SOP and obtain new chapter insurance.

Certification. The chapter is planning to establish a monthly or bimonthly study group meeting in addition to offering raffles for CGFM study materials

Community Service. The chapter will be participating in the volunteer event at the Capital Area Foodbank on September 28 as well as the Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade on November 28.

Membership. The chapter will be adding a networking event in late September, including a game night and

an opportunity for chapter members to introduce perspective members to the chapter.

Social Media. Expanded social media connections to include Instagram.

Sponsorship. Drafting sponsorship letters to be sent to prior and prospective sponsors by end of September.

Other Committees. All committees provided updates related to internal coordination and planning for the upcoming program year (webmaster reminders to provide updates, recognition committee establishing legal and AGA organizational deadlines for required filings, education committee establishing its full schedule on the website, etc.) Please see our website for additional details across committees.

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