

July 2017 Newsletter

President's Message

Hello to AGA members and non-members.

The close of fiscal year 2017 has come and gone and marks the beginning of our 2017-2018 AGA program years. I look forward to working with you to make it a successful year. It is everyone's involvement that makes a good organization and your input greatly appreciated.



Several members from our Chapter had the pleasure of attending the National PDT in Boston, MA. Our Chapter was the recipient of the Platinum award for the Chapters past year's performance. I had the pleasure of assisting Dan Thurmon during his presentation. Dan's presentation was exciting and motivational. It was quite a thrill to throw

an axe to Dan on a unicycle while he unnervingly balanced the contraption. Dan suggests that we all should be off balance as it allows us to grow professionally and personally.

He quoted from his book...

"Off Balance" and says "Being questionably off balance is more than okay-it's the way it's supposed to be. And should you learn to make the most of it, you can find a new capacity to manage missteps and create your desired future. You'll have greater energy, building momentum for your life that will propel you to greater (outward) successes and heightened (inward) fulfillment. And along the journey, you'll inspire others with your actions."

The Chapter will hold its annual member appreciation picnic in mid-August. More information will be available as plans are finalized. Everyone is invited to join us and we look forward to enjoying the cook-out. Please remember to bring school supplies to the picnic, which will be donated to the schools. Thank you to all that contribute to this worthy cause. Contact Charities Chairperson Margaret Sena if you have any questions regarding the charity.

Annual awards were announced at the June 2017 chapter luncheon. The Financial Manager of the Year, Sanjay Bhakta is our award winner, with two other nominees, Shannon Sanders of Office of the State Auditors, and Miranda Ntoko from Generals Service Department. Please give your congratulation to these award-winners for the stellar work performed for their agencies and AGA.

Feel free to contact our Vice President Janet Pacheco-Morton or Bryan Maestas if you have ideas for speakers for our luncheons. We will continue to have the audio conferences which will be posted on the NM Chapter website, <http://agasantafe.org/>. Look for email and newsletter announcements. Contact Education Chair Bryan Maestas, audio conference questions.

We look forward to another wonderful and successful year!! Chapter luncheons will resume in September.



Wanda M Gonzales
President

Financial Manager of the Year

Two of Three Nominees for Financial Manager of the Year from State Auditor's Office

Shannon Sanders nominated, Sanjay Bhakta winner of Association of Government Accountant's Award

SANTA FE, NM – Today, two of the three nominees for the Financial Manager of the Year Award of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) were from the Office of the State Auditor (OSA). Shannon Sanders, an Audit Manager at OSA, was nominated for her hard work and dedication to helping government work better throughout New Mexico. Deputy Auditor Sanjay Bhakta won the award and credited the collaboration and contributions of all staff at OSA. The third nominee was Miranda Ntoko from the General Services Division.

“We are honored that our office’s efforts to help taxpayers and make government work better were recognized,” stated State Auditor Tim Keller. “We are lucky to have two outstanding financial managers on our team, Deputy Auditor Sanjay Bhakta and Audit Manager Shannon Sanders. Congratulations to all of the nominees, we value your hard work for our state.”

A photograph of the nominees with State Auditor Tim Keller and AGA’s President Vince Lithgow and President-Elect Wanda Gonzales is attached. The AGA is a member organization for financial professionals in government.



The Office of the State Auditor helps government work better by providing transparency and accountability for government spending; informing policy choices; and tackling fraud, waste and abuse. OSA is an independently elected executive agency responsible for examining the use of public dollars in New Mexico.

Paparazzi Highlights...National PDT

Six NM Chapter Executive Committee members attend the National PDT in Boston MA on July 10th through July 12th: Wanda Gonzales, Zella Cox, Luis Eres, Margaret Sena, Elena Tercero and Donna Sandoval. New Mexico received a platinum award for Chapter Recognition for this past program year. The platinum is the highest award given to chapters that met goals for Administration, CGFM, Education, Membership and Accountability. Elena led an "Early Morning Stretch" or PiYO for the third year. Donna participated in a panel break-out session "Best Practices in Brevity", she spoke about the Citizen Centric Report (CCR) she prepared for the New Mexico and Albuquerque Chapters. Donna also presented an outline of a CCR for the NM Department of Information Technology, stay tuned this will be released sometime in the next few months.



Dan Thurmon, Peak Performance Coach, was the energetic after-lunch presenter in Boston, MA at the National AGA Professional Development Training (PDT). Dan's advice was stop trying to live your life "on balance" and start living "off balance on purpose".

He proved his point by juggling with a volunteer from the over 1,900 attendees. Yes, that volunteer was our own Wanda Gonzales, Chapter President.

Here is Wanda "tossing" very sharp objects to Dan. Good job Wanda, both of you survived!



Paparazzi Highlights...Awards Luncheon



Vince Lithgow, Immediate Past Chapter President, is presenting the Financial Manager of the Year (FMY) Award to Sanjay Bhakta, Deputy State Auditor. Thank you, Sanjay, for your contributions to state government and AGA!



State Auditor Tim Keller is speaking to the FMY lunch attendees.



CGFM You Pass We Pay Program (YPWPP)

The You Pass We Pay Program (YPWPP) is a great way to assist Chapter members meet their goal of obtaining the CGFM. There are three basic criteria to the YPWPP:

- Only NM Chapter members are eligible for this program since it is unique to our Chapter.
- Participants are given six (6) months to take and pass all three examinations. This clock starts "ticking" when an agreed upon date is reached by the CGFM Coordinator and the participant. We will send out a letter welcoming you to this program, which will have the start date. What we like to let participants know is that they should have already applied for the certification and have received a letter/email from the AGA National Office acknowledging their CGFM application approval. This way no time will be wasted applying for the CGFM and you can concentrate on studying for the exams.
- Upon successful approval, the participants will need to provide us a copy of the letter from AGA National stating they have passed. This will allow us to verify that the exams were completed within the six-month time-period. Additionally, we will ask for proof of payment and a statement saying that the applicant has received no further financial assistance for this process (i.e. having the employer paying for the exams).

To maintain the CGFM certification in active status, individuals must continue to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics, renew CGFM annually and earn 80 continuing professional education (CPE) hours every two years.

Please go to the agacgfm.org website or email Luis R. Eres at luis.r.eres.civ@mail.mil for more information.

Education

Don't forget education - the Chapter has webinars. Updates on the location of these trainings will be posted on the Chapter web-site as well as disseminated through email.

Chapter Finances

AGA NM CHAPTER TREASURER'S REPORT June 2017

Book Balance (ledger)	\$	32,637.82
Unreconciled amount	\$	592.82
Outstanding deposits	\$	-
Outstanding checks	\$	78.00
Bank Balance (bank statement)	\$	33,308.64
Stmnt Ending Bank Bal as of 6/30/17	\$	33,308.64

Transaction / Description	Date	Check #	Payment Amt.
Wanda Gonzales (reimb. National's gift)	7/10/2017	1780	\$ 78.00

New Mexico Chapter Website

Please visit the New Mexico Chapter web-site at agasantafe.org to view the most recent postings of Chapter events, happening and member profiles.

2017-2018 Chapter Executive Committee

Position	Name	Employer	email	Telephone
President	Wanda Gonzales	NM Supreme Court	supwmg@nmcourts.gov	505-827-4865
President-Elect	Janet Pacheo, CGFM	Self employeed	jpmorton@morton-firm.com	505-660-0085
Vice President	Zella Cox	General Service Department	Zella.Cox@state.nm.us	505-476-1857
Past President	Vince Lithgow, CGFM	Retired	cvince3@q.com	505670-3994
Treasurer	Blanca Sena	NM Correction Department	Blanca.Sena@state.nm.us	505-827-8694
Secretary	Philip Gonzales, CGFM	Jaramillo Accounting Group, LLC	Phillip@JAGnm.com	505-250-7231
Appointed Positions				
Accountability Chair	Donna Sandoval, CGFM	DoIT	Donna.Sandoval@state.nm.us	505-827-2955
Certification Chair	Luis Eres, CGFM	National Guard	luis.r.eres.civ@mail.mil	505-690-3487
Education Chair	Bryan Maestas, CGFM	Aging Long Term Service Dept.	bryan.maestas@state.nm.us	505-476-4766
Membership Chair	Miranda Mascarenas	AXIOM	miranda_mascarenas@yahoo.com	505-767-7600
Newletter & Comm. Chair	Michael Chmura	Momentum LLC	momentus@bellsouth.net	770-329-6841
Community Service Chair	Margaret Sena	State Land Office	msena@slo.state.nm.us	505-827-5705
Webmaster Chair	Elena Tercero, CGFM, CPA	CYFD	elena@littlelightaccounting.com	505-930-3585
Research/Historian Chair	Sandra Steckler	HELP New Mexico	ssteckler@gmail.com	505-450-7555
Early Career Chair	Vacant			