

Letter from the Editor



Welcome to the February issue of the Communique!

During the month of January, we welcomed Deborah Stover- Springer, Esq., of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to our monthly dinner meeting on January 14th to discuss “Effective Writing Techniques for Communicating with Busy Government Leaders.” In February,

KPMG’s Rob Dwyer and Mike Pontiakos joined us to give a presentation on the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act - “FITARA: What You Need to Know.” In March, our scheduled speaker will be Mike Peckham of HHS, who will present “The Data Act.”

In February and March , please join us for the following events and webinars:

- Free AGA Audio Conference on Fraud Prevention on February 17th,
- National Leadership Training Event, February 23-24,
- The EC Joint Chapter Happy Hour at Penn Social on February 24th,
- AGA Membership Happy Hour at Famous Dave’s on March 3rd, and a
- Free AGA Audio Conference on Grants on March 9th.
- March is also **CGFM Month!** If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a CGFM, additional information is included on page 5 of the newsletter and online at agacgfm.org/CGFMmonth.

For more information on these events, as well as their locations, times, and RSVP contacts please see pages 2-3. Please also check the website frequently for updates on educational and social events for our chapter.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our chapter events, or would like to become involved, please contact our Chapter President Marlon Perry by email at president@marylandaga.com. If there are features or events that you would us to include in future editions of the newsletter, please contact me at newsletter@marylandaga.com.

And stay tuned next month for a message from our Chapter President.....

- Michelle Merritt, Newsletter Editor

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Upcoming Chapter Events

February 10| February Dinner Meeting (1 CPE)

Presentation: Rob Dwyer and Mike Pontiakos from KPMG will discuss “FITARA: What You Need to Know.”

Time: 6:30—8:30 PM, Reception 6:00—6:30PM

Location: Hilton Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

Cost: \$35 per person for non-government employees, \$20 for state, local, and federal government employees, and \$15 for students (credit card payment required).

Registration: <http://www.marylandaga.com/events/meetings.cfm>

February 17| *FREE* AGA Audio Conference: “Fraud Prevention” (2 CPEs)

Sponsored for our chapter's members by corporate partners CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 11710 Beltsville Drive, Ste. 300, Calverton, MD 20705

RSVP: Contact Katrina Lynch @ Katrina.Lynch@claconnect.com or 301-931-2050.

February 24| EC Joint Chapter Happy Hour

Join the MPG, NOVA, and DC Chapters on Wednesday, February 24th for the AGA 2016 Tri-Chapter networking event from 5 - 7pm. Light fare and drinks will be provided.

Time: 5:00—7:00PM

Location: Penn Social, 801 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20004

Cost: Free

RSVP: earlycareers@marylandaga.com (limited to first 25 respondents from each)

March 03| Membership Happy Hour

Come out and learn about the AGA and network with other members. Guests are encouraged. Buffet will be served.

Time: 6:00—8:00 PM

Location: Famous Dave's - 880 Capital Center Boulevard, Largo, MD 20774. (Right off the Largo Town Center Metro Stop

RSVP: Natalie Samuel at nsamuel@deloitte.com or Kathleen Sobieralski at kathleen.sobieralski@umuc.edu or Jonathon C. DeBoer at Jonathan.DeBoer@claconnect.com . **Please RSVP by 2/26/16.**

March 9| *FREE* AGA Audio Conference: “Grants.” (2 CPEs)

Sponsored for our chapter's members by corporate partners CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 11710 Beltsville Drive, Ste. 300, Calverton, MD 20705

RSVP: Contact Katrina Lynch @ Katrina.Lynch@claconnect.com or 301-931-2050.

March 9| March Dinner Meeting (1 CPE)

Presentation: Mike Peckham, HHS, will present “The DATA Act”

Time: 6:30—8:30 PM, Reception 6:00—6:30PM

Location: Hilton Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

Cost: \$35 per person for non-government employees, \$20 for state, local, and federal government employees. and \$15 for students (credit card payment required).

Registration: <http://www.marylandaga.com/events/meetings.cfm>

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	1	2	3	4	5

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Special Events—National Leadership Training (DC)



National Leadership Training
2016 | February 23–24 | 14 CPE
Washington or virtual

Date: February 23—24, 2016

Time: 8:00 AM—4:35 PM

Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, DC

CPE: Up to 14 CPE credits available

This is the event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find solutions to shared challenges, network with your peers, and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. This training offers up to 14 hours of CPE.

Who Should Attend:

- Senior-Level Managers and Executives
- CEOs and Presidents
- Accountants, Auditors
- CPAs, CGFMs

What to Expect:

- The overall experience, satisfaction, and rating for NLT 2015 were 98 percent good to excellent.
- More than 98 percent of attendees will recommend this training to their colleagues.

Here is what some 2015 attendees had to say about the training:

"Excellent conference. Very well organized. Topics were very relevant for understanding and improving leadership skills. Opportunities for net working were excellent." —LP Fealing, CGFM, CPA, CGA

"The AGA NLT Conference is a must attend for any financial professional! The information received is invaluable. You leave refreshed, motivated and with the tools to succeed. I am looking forward to the NLT 2016." —Angela Johnston, Financial Specialist N.C. Office of the State Controller

Can't travel to Washington? NLT offers virtual attendance — from your home or office — so you don't have to miss out on this important leadership training event. Virtual attendance also offers up to 14 hours of CPE.

Chapter Events Recap—2015 to 2016 Program Year to Date

MPGC members join the Northern Virginia chapter for the Annual Joint Chapter Dinner Meeting on 11/18/2015.



MPGC members welcomed Deborah Stover- Springer, Esq., of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to our January dinner meeting. Ms. Stover- Springer discussed “Effective Writing Techniques for Communicating with Busy Government Leaders.”



MPGC members welcomed Rob Dwyer (center) and Mike Pontiakos (left) of KPMG to our dinner meeting on February 10th. Mr. Pontiakos and Mr. Dwyer discussed “FITARA: What You Need to Know.”



9/27/2016 DMV Picnic!



CGFM

WHAT IS CGFM?

Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

To earn the CGFM, individuals must apply for the CGFM program and meet the following requirements:

Ethics — read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics

Education — have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university

Examinations — pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations

Experience — have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management

Not yet a CGFM?

CGFM Examination: Applicants must take and pass three comprehensive examinations to become a CGFM:

- **Course 1:** Governmental Environment
- **Course 2:** Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
- **Course 3:** Governmental Financial Management and Control

Visit the [AGA National CGFM website](#) for more details.

If you are considering taking the CGFM exams in 2016, why not sign up for AGA's Intensive Review Course with CGFM examinations included – it's a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course (IRC), offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Arlington, Va., on March 2-3, 2016. 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 non-members

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

Do you know someone who wants to earn their CGFM?

Consider reaching out to colleagues who are not members but may be interested in certification. This may be a good opportunity to re-engage members with a CGFM study group!

Details on the program are available here: www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/springpromo2015

Questions about CGFM? Contact: agacgfm@agacgfm.org

Additional information related to the CGFM, including (1) Reasons to become certified, (2) How to apply, (3) Testing locations, and (4) CGFM Proclamations, can be found on the Maryland AGA website at <http://www.marylandaga.com/cgfm/index.cfm>. For additional questions or information about the CGFM, please contact Montgomery/Prince George's County CGFM Co-Chairs: Thomas Birchall (tbirchall@kpmg.com) and Gabrielle Chapman (gabriellechapman@kpmg.com).

Membership

Membership in AGA has many [benefits](#), including education and networking opportunities, awards and scholarship programs, discounts for training, exclusive CPE opportunities, and access to our [resources](#). Members join a local [chapter](#) through which they gain additional networking, leadership and education experiences.

Please join us for a **Membership Happy Hour on Thursday, March 3, 2016!**

Come out and learn about the AGA and network with other members. Guests are encouraged. Buffet will be served.

Where: Famous Dave's - 880 Capital Center Boulevard, Largo, MD 20774. (Right off the Largo Town Center Metro Stop)

Time: 6pm - 8pm

To RSVP, contact Natalie Samuel at nsamuel@deloitte.com or Kathleen Sobieralski at kathleen.sobieralski@umuc.edu or Jonathan C. DeBoer at Jonathan.DeBoer@claconnect.com. **Please RSVP by 2/26/16.**

Awards and Recognition

Awards

AGA honors members for service both to the association and to the government financial management profession. We bestow awards based on peer nomination to those who have exemplified principles of leadership, transparency and financial stewardship.

Scholarships

AGA grants scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing finance careers in an effort to grow the government financial management community and support current and future practitioners from the beginning of their careers.

Nominations

AGA offers a variety of **leadership** positions at the chapter, regional and national levels. Learn more about our leadership structure and how you can get involved.

Recognition

AGA celebrates the commitment and determination shown by members reaching several **membership milestones**. Lifetime Membership is conferred to individuals who have remained paid members for at least 40 consecutive years. The commitment and determination shown by these individuals has made AGA the strong, vital organization it is today. As a token of their achievement, each of these individuals was presented with a Lifetime Member certificate. As Lifetime Members, these individuals no longer pay AGA membership or chapter dues.

Go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Awards-Recognition.aspx> to learn more about the individual programs.

AGA National Events and Updates

2016 CFO-CIO Summit (4 CPEs)



May 13, 2016
Washington Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC

Join the AGA and AFFIRM in Washington for this free* 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.

*Complimentary for individuals who work for government. Private-sector participation is available via [sponsorship](#). Are you a small business?

Contact AGA for special sponsorship pricing.

CGFM Intensive Review Course (up to 18 CPEs)

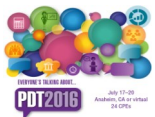


March 2-3, 2016
Arlington, VA

Sign up for AGA's Intensive Review Course with CGFM Examinations *included* – it's a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The class will run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course is only \$375 for AGA Members and \$425 for Non-Members and offers up to 18 CPE hours.

2016 Professional Development Training (up to 24 CPEs)



July 17-20, 2016
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA (or attend virtually!)

AGA's annual PDT brings together the top officials in federal, state and local government, as well as from academia and the private sector for three and a half days of valuable training and networking. The PDT provides up to 24 CPEs from leading speakers from the federal, state, local, academia and the private sector, and is a place to connect with others in the industry to exchange ideas and best practices.

Throughout the training, AGA will recognize individuals that have made outstanding contributions to AGA and to the government financial management profession it serves.

For more information, and to register, visit: <https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT-2016.aspx>

2016 Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training (up to 14 CPEs)



September 20-21, 2016
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C.

Each year, the Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training provides the 'latest and greatest' developments in the government finance profession. The agenda includes a range of timely and valuable information including: fraud detection, data analytics, improper payments and risks with government payment cards. For more information, visit: <http://www.agacgfm.org/Fraud-2016.aspx>

Early Careers Events



Wizards Game

Please join the MPG Chapter on Wednesday, March 23rd for the **Wizards VS Hawks** game!

Only **40 tickets** are available and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. Last year, tickets sold out within 2 days so don't wait. Click [HERE](#) to get your tickets today!

Date: Wednesday, March 23rd at 7pm at the Verizon Center

Cost: Members \$20, Non-Members and Guests \$30

Other Details: Seats are located in section 432. Last day to purchase is March 15th.

E-mail earlycareers@marylandaga.com with questions.

Technical Updates Corner

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB)



1/27/2016—FASAB Issues Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards 48, Opening Balances for Inventory, Operating Materials and Supplies, and Stockpile Materials

"SFFAS 48 is intended to provide an alternative valuation method for the adoption of GAAP when historical records and systems do not provide a basis for valuation of opening balances in accordance with SFFAS 3, Accounting for Inventory and Related Property, which has thus far been a challenge faced by DoD.

SFFAS 48 allows a reporting entity to apply an alternative valuation method in establishing opening balances for inventory, operating materials and supplies (OM&S), and stockpile materials. The alternative valuation method is available only when presenting information following GAAP either (1) for the first-time or (2) after a period during which existing systems could not provide the information necessary for producing such GAAP-based financial statements without use of the alternative valuation method. The application of SFFAS 48 based on the second condition is available once per reporting entity. SFFAS 48 is effective for periods beginning after September 30, 2016, and early implementation is encouraged.

SFFAS 48 is available at <http://fasab.gov/accountingstandards/authoritative-source-of-gaap/accounting-standards/fasab-handbook/>.

01/19/2016—AAPC ISSUES STATEMENT OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING TECHNICAL RELEASE 16 Implementation Guidance for Internal Use Software

The Chairperson of the Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee (AAPC), Wendy Payne, announced today the issuance of Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Technical Release 16 (TR 16), Implementation Guidance for Internal Use Software. The guide was developed by the Internal Use Software working group with representatives from 10 agencies and two private firms. Ms. Payne said that "without the assistance of our volunteers this much needed guidance would not be available. The group's work is a commendable example of cross agency collaboration."

The implementation guidance in TR 16 assists reporting entities in implementing Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 10, Accounting for Internal Use Software. Since FASAB issued SFFAS 10 in 1998, software development practices have changed dramatically and reporting entities have experienced challenges applying the standards given the new terminology and techniques that have evolved.

The TR provides: a. Definitions and guidance regarding recognition, measurement, and disclosure requirements; b. New challenges brought by changes in IUS development practices since the issuance of SFFAS 10; and c. Management's role in applying SFFAS 10.

The technical release is available at <http://www.fasab.gov/about/aapc/technicalreleases/>.

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