

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Philadelphia Chapter

MAY 2024

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Thriving Together: Your Vibrant Gateway to Government Financial Management Excellence with AGA Philadelphia!

Welcome esteemed AGA members! As leaders in shaping financial strategies and upholding fiscal integrity in government agencies, you are the cornerstone of AGA Philadelphia. Thank you for being essential to our community, where excellence in government financial management begins and thrives!

Student Membership Opportunities: Join AGA for *FREE* as a Full-Time Student! (PG. 7)



**UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS!
DON'T MISS OUT!
(PG. 9)**

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01/15

AGA PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

LAYNA HOLMES-BUTLER
CGFM, CPA

Layna Holmes-Butler is an accomplished accounting and audit professional with a strong focus on delivering comprehensive solutions to individuals and businesses. Her expertise encompasses a wide range of services, including agreed-upon procedures, financial statement preparation following GAAP standards, general ledger management, accounts receivable and payable, and fixed asset accounting. Layna also specializes in conducting compliance audits in alignment with Government Auditing Standards (the Yellow Book) and relevant laws and regulations.

Throughout her career, Layna has worked with major clients such as The Mercadien Group, J. Miller & Associates, and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Her dedication to excellence and adherence to industry standards make her a valuable asset to the accounting and auditing community.



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AGA Philadelphia Chapter: 2024 Chapter Leadership

Chapter President: Layna Holmes-Butler

Chapter Treasurer: Layna Holmes-Butler

National Council of Chapters Representative: Kyle Smith

ACE Reporting: Teri Lewis

Membership: Clarence Johnson

Social Media: Kyle Smith

Webmaster: Kyle Smith



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JOIN US

JOIN THE PHILADELPHIA AGA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP BOARD!

Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community? Here's your chance! The Philadelphia Chapter is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Leadership Board. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student seeking valuable internship experience, we welcome you to be part of our dynamic team.



Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.



www.agacgfm.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, EMAIL US AT AGAPHILADELPHIA@GMAIL.COM

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CGFM®

Certification



What is a CGFM?

The CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) credential, awarded by AGA, showcases expertise in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across different government levels. It's a respected certification that highlights specialized knowledge and experience essential for effective government financial management. CGFM opens doors to new career prospects and sets you apart as a distinguished professional in the field.

CGFM Certification Benefits:

1. Enhanced marketability across government sectors.
2. Networking opportunities with fellow government financial managers.
3. Boosted confidence in your role.
4. Potential for employer incentives like raises, promotions, and bonuses.
5. Increased value as an employee, both in reality and perception.
6. Support for ongoing education to stay updated with the latest developments and technologies.

Use this link to learn more about CGFM memberships!

www.agacgfm.org

How Do I Become a CGFM?

1. Fill out an online application and agree to AGA's Code of Ethics.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
3. Pass three CGFM examinations.
4. Gain at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.



For any additional questions, please contact the Office of Professional Certification: 800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931) or cgfm@agacgfm.org

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Don't Forget: Join or Renew Your AGA Membership!



Benefits:

- **Connect, Collaborate, & Network:**
 - Expand your network, participate in our online mentoring program!
 - Volunteer to serve on AGA committees and boards,
 - Find a position or look for qualified candidates on AGA's Job Board
 - Join the conversation on LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook.
- **Continuous Learning:**
 - Participate in educational events — learn from and meet the experts.
 - Save money with registration discounts on national and chapter training events.
 - Sign up for four (4) complimentary members-only webinars.
 - Attend the Transformation & Technology Summit for FREE!
 - Attend the Women's Forum for FREE!
 - Leverage discounts on CGFM renewal and application fees.
- **Stay Informed & Find Solutions:**
 - Access online tools, developed by government experts to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration.
 - Stay up to date through the quarterly Journal of Government Financial Management.
 - Learn about and share best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
 - Get the latest innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.

**JOIN
NOW**

Don't Hesitate!
Register Now!

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06/15

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Philadelphia Chapter

Student Membership Opportunities



Why AGA?

Considering a career in government financial management? Want to meet government professionals in the federal, state, or local government levels?

Join AGA for FREE! Student membership in AGA provides you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections and discover your future career while positively impacting your community and country.

APPLY NOW



Scholarships

Academic scholarships, National Collegiate Leadership Scholarship, Government Finance Case Challenge, Datathon



Career Coaching & Professional Community

Mentoring Programs & Local Chapters



Tools & Resources

'Accountability Talks' Podcast & Guest Speakers



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ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS



PODCAST
Show



Discover '**Accountability Talks**,' a podcast delving into the government accountability community. Hear from thought leaders, gain career insights, and join our vibrant community!

[Click here to listen!](#)

About the Host



Meet **Paul Marshall, CPA, CGFM, CIA, CICA, PMP, VP at MIL Corporation and dedicated AGA member with 20+ years in government accountability.** He champions best practices in audits, financial reporting, and more, serving on AGA boards at local and national levels.

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Upcoming Webinars & Events

You Do Not Want to Miss Out!

SAVE THE DATE



WEBINAR



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Embark on a journey of professional growth and excellence with AGA's upcoming events and webinars. Dive into our exclusive professional development sessions designed to elevate your skills and knowledge in government financial management. Our one-hour virtual presentations, inspired by AGA's renowned "Professional Polish in the Public Sector" course, are crafted to empower AGA members like you.

Explore insightful strategies and gain practical insights that will enhance your capabilities and help you succeed in the dynamic realm of government financial management. Whether you're looking to sharpen your skills, stay updated with industry trends, or connect with fellow professionals, our events offer a pathway to professional excellence.

In addition to our professional development sessions, we have a lineup of both Chapter and National events that provide valuable networking opportunities and insights into industry best practices. Don't miss this chance to unlock your full potential and propel your career forward. Join us for these enriching sessions and discover the keys to success in the public sector.

National Events

Discovering Possibilities: Professional Development Training (PDT) 2024



**DON'T
MISS OUT**

Denver Professional Development Training (PDT)

Sunday through Wednesday, July 14-17, 2024

Join AGA's 2024 Professional Development Training on July 14-17 in Denver for three and a half days of insights from top government financial management professionals and industry experts. With over 3,000 attendees, this event offers educational sessions to enhance leadership, improve performance in cost-constrained environments, and address shared challenges. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and network with peers!

Three Reasons You Should Attend:

- **Earn up to 24 NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits.** Increase your overall body of knowledge and improve your job effectiveness through new skills and techniques.
- **Stay on the cutting edge.** Top-notch speakers from federal, state, and local government, academia, and the private sector will keep you on top of your game with key information and educational experiences.
- **Network and connect.** Engage with industry experts and government financial management colleagues who face similar issues. Exchange ideas to bring back to your organization and build the profession.

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REGISTRATION

**AGA's Premier
Training & Networking Event**
July 14-17, 2024 | Denver
24 CPEs

Registration & Fees:
**Early Bird Deadline -
June 14, 2024**

	Online	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

Click Here to Register Now!

***Join AGA Now to Save
\$200!***

National Events



In-Person 2024 ERM Workshop

Thursday, June 6, 2024

8:30 AM. – 3:45 PM ET

**Ronald Reagan Building and
International Trade Center –
Pavilion Room**

5.5 CPEs | \$160 per Person

This in-person ERM workshop offers practical insights from ERM leaders through presentations and facilitated table discussions. Participants move from academic discussions to practical "how-to" explanations and examples, benefiting from small groups for hands-on work and Q&A opportunities.

[**Click Here to Review the
Agenda!**](#)

[**Click Here to Register
Now!**](#)



Webinar: FY2024 CEAR Preparer Training

Thursday, June 20, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM ET
2 CPEs | Free for AGA Members

Join us on June 20 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM ET for an informative session on preparing an award-winning Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) or Agency Financial Report (AFR). Earn 2 CPEs in Governmental Accounting while learning from experts **Diane Dudley**, CGFM, CPA, AGA CEAR Lead Reviewer; **Ann Ebberts**, CEO, AGA; and **Andrew Lewis**, CGFM, CPA, PMP, AGA CEAR Chair. This overview-level training will cover updated FY2024 guidance and best practices for clear, comprehensive program and financial reporting. No prerequisites or preparation are required. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your reporting skills and stay current with the latest guidelines.

[**Click Here to Register Now!**](#)

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National Events



How to Find "Happy"

June 24, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM ET

\$30 per Person

A captivating webinar led by Kimberly Jones, designed to guide you through moments when happiness feels elusive. Join us for an entertaining journey filled with humor, personal stories, and practical step-by-step instructions that will help you gain a fresh perspective on both your personal and professional lives. Discover valuable insights and strategies to make finding your 'happy' easier and more achievable. This session promises to uplift and inspire, offering tools to navigate challenges with positivity and embrace joy in all aspects of life. Don't miss this opportunity to embark on a journey towards a happier and more fulfilling existence!

[Register Here!](#)

Deadline to Register or Cancel is June 22, 2024

Important Details:

- **Registration and payment:** Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 2 days before the class start date. Space is limited. Payment is required by credit card at the time of registration. POs are not accepted.
- **Cancellation deadline:** The cancellation deadline for each session is 2 days before the start date. If the registrant does not attend the presentation, AGA will not issue credit toward any future training.
- **Login instructions and connectivity:** All sessions will be taught via Zoom. Upon registration, participants will receive a separate email with Zoom link information.
- **CPE credit:** During the opening remarks of each presentation, AGA will explain how you can receive your CPE certificate. In compliance with NASBA, AGA employs an attendance monitoring system. You MUST be able to view the PowerPoint slides on a device to verify your attendance.

CPE Information

Program level: Basic

Delivery method: Group internet-based (virtual)

Course prerequisite: None

Advance prep: None

CPE credit: 1 (per session)

Field of study: Personal Development

Learning Objectives:

- Increase your personal and professional confidence.
- Learn to let go of the past, center yourself and find happiness from within
- Recognize the importance of making and implementing a success plan to achieve your goals.
- Learn that criticism is often a form of love that can help you grow personally and professionally.

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Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

Save the Date for AGA's future Professional Development Training (PDT) events!



Denver, Colorado

July 14-17, 2024

Sheraton Denver
Downtown Hotel



Nashville, Tennessee

July 27-30, 2025

Gaylord Opryland Hotel



Dallas, Texas

July 26-29, 2026

Gaylord Texan Hotel



Chicago, Illinois

July 18-21, 2027

Hyatt Regency Chicago

AGA's Premier Training & Networking Event

July 14-17, 2024 | Denver
24 CPEs

Registration & Fees:

**Early Bird Deadline -
June 14, 2024**

	Online	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
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Register Now!

Join AGA Now to Save \$200!

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Happy Father's Day to all our wonderful AGA Philadelphia members who are celebrating this special day! Your love, strength, and dedication as fathers are truly inspiring, and we hope your day is filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with your loved ones.

To those among us who may be grieving the loss of a father, or who find Father's Day difficult for any reason, please know that you are not alone. We understand that this day can bring a mix of emotions, and we want you to know that we are here to offer our support and understanding. May you find comfort in the memories you hold dear and in the love that surrounds you from friends and family. ***You are valued and cherished members of our community, and we are here for you, today and always.***

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Premier Group is a Proud Sponsor of the AGA Philadelphia Chapter!

Premier Group is a full-service CPA firm founded by Joye Sistrunk in 2005, embodying a passion for numbers, community purpose, integrity, and a mission of trust.

At Premier Group, we are dedicated to serving a diverse range of clients, including government agencies, federal contractors, nonprofits, and mid-sized businesses. Our commitment to excellence, teamwork, and collaboration ensures that every client receives personalized attention and the highest quality of service. Partner with us to experience the difference that passion, purpose, and integrity can make in achieving your financial goals.

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Our Services Include:

Audit and Assurance Services: Thorough examination and verification of financial records, assuring stakeholders.

Financial Budgeting and Forecasting: Expert analysis and planning to help clients make informed financial decisions for the future.

Risk Management: Identification, assessment, and mitigation of risks to safeguard financial assets and operations.

Litigation Support: Professional assistance in legal matters involving financial disputes, providing expert testimony and analysis.

Tax Advice and Preparation: Strategic tax planning, compliance, and preparation services to minimize tax burdens and optimize financial outcomes.