

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



THE SOUNDER Vol. 19 - 03 November 2019

President's Message

It's hard to believe we're down to one month left to go in 2019! We know we're entering the holiday season with its many celebrations, deadlines, and distractions, but we'd like to invite you to attend our last lunchtime event of the calendar year. Elena G. Huizar, from the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, will give a presentation: "I Didn't Know the Attorney General Did That," and she will also cover public records requests. We hope that you'll join us for this event from noon until 1:00pm on Wednesday, December 11th. For the half hour or so before all of our speaker events, we have a networking and social time where you can meet Seattle chapter board members and other chapter members in attendance. For this event, we are also holding toy and food drives, for Toys for Tots and Northwest Harvest, respectively. Please feel free to bring a toy, food, and/or funds for donation.

Earlier this month, we held our annual Emerald Awards event for



Sam Lord, Chapter President

the 2018-2019 program year. Every year, we're amazed at the accomplishments of those who are nominated, and this year was no exception. Our awards and awardees this year were:

The Emerald Award: Linda Calbom, former Managing Director of Field Operations, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)
Distinguished Mid-Career Professional Award: Eunjoo Greenhouse, Deputy Director, King County Finance and Business Division

Upcoming Training Event

Please join us for our next training event on Wednesday, December 11. We will also be hosting food and toy drives. See inside for more details.

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AGA Seattle Chapter's Monthly Meeting Schedule for Program Year 2019-2020

Save the dates for our monthly education events for program year 2019-2020! Please join us at these brown bag events and help us make this program year a success. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at the GAO Training Facility on the 37th floor of Columbia Center in downtown Seattle.

AGA Continuing Professional Education Calendar 2019-2020

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Elena G. Huizar, WA State Attorney General's Office, *I Didn't Know the Attorney General's Office Did That + Public Record Requests*

Tuesday, January 14, 2020, Valerie Moseley, CPA, Moseley & Associates, LLC, *Tax Update 2019*

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, Gina Steiner, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST), *Interactions between Tribes & Other Governments: Successes and Stumbling Blocks*

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, Mark Steranka, Moss Adams, *Internal and Performance Audit Programs: A Collaborative Approach to Success*

April 2020, *Governmental Accounting & Auditing Conference* co-sponsored with the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants, Location and CPE to be determined

May 2020, *Emerald Awards*, date TBD. Each year, the AGA Seattle Chapter recognizes leaders in government accountability. Come join us as we give our thanks to those who have done so much for our community.



Past Events for the 2019-2020 Program Year

Tuesday, September 10, Lisa DeLaVergne, Washington State Health Care Authority, *Medicaid Program Integrity & Fraud Prevention*

Tuesday, October 8, Lynn McKiernan Ngari, CGMS, CPA, King County Washington, *Grants Management*

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, Kate Reynolds, WA State Executive Ethics Board, *Government Ethics in Washington State*



THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

December 11, 2019

- Speaker** *Elena G. Huizar, Outreach Services Supervisor,
Consumer Protection Division, Washington State Office of
the Attorney General*
- Topic/Time** **“I Didn’t Know the Attorney General Did That” plus
Public Records Requests**

12:00 – 12:50 pm

Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and networking prior to the
presentation.
- Place** GAO Training Room
701 Fifth Ave., Floor 37
Seattle, WA 98104
- Cost** MEMBERS - \$0 AND NON-MEMBERS - \$0
- Lunch
Options** Bring your own lunch, or purchase a lunch at one of the food court
establishments on the ground floor of the building.
- RSVP
Required** Please RSVP to attend by **Friday, December 6, 2019** to Sandra
Starnes, at sandra@post.nsn.us.
- CPE** 1 CPE awarded

Note: We will be hosting a Toys for Tots toy drive as well as a Northwest Harvest food drive. Please feel free to donate toys, food, or funds at the event.

AGA Training Webinars

AGA National provides webinars throughout the year to make earning CPE hours easy. All of the webinars, unless denoted with a members-only icon, are open to anyone. They feature experts speaking on emerging issues to help you stay informed on topics including auditing, ethics, governmental accounting, internal controls and performance. [Group registration](#) options are available to those who would like to attend together in one location. Otherwise, [individuals](#) are able to register and attend from their own device.

AGA members enjoy multiple free learning opportunities throughout the year via AGA members-only webinars. Group registration is not available for members-only webinars. Learn more about [members-only webinar registration](#) and CPE credit.

Below is the webinar schedule through January 2020:

- ◆ December 11, 2019, 2–3:50 PM ET (2 CPE) – Internal Control
- ◆ January 8, 2020, 2–3:50 PM ET (2 CPE) – Uniform Guidance

Members-only webinars through the end of December 2019 are:

- ◆ December 5, 2019, 9–11 AM ET (2 CPE) – FY 2019 CEAR [Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting] Reviewer Training
- ◆ December 18, 2019, 1–2 PM ET (1 CPE) – Professional Development: Failing Forward

If you have questions about this training, you can send any questions to AGA at [email AGA](#).



Register Today for the 2020 Financial Systems Summit!

Did you know? As an AGA member working in government you can attend the 2020 **Financial Systems Summit** (FSS) *for free!* FSS will bring together government leaders and industry experts to discuss how to improve government services through systems modernization in a budget-constrained environment.

Sessions will include topics such as emerging technologies, organizational change management, cloud technologies, data analytics and cyber security. FSS 2020 will also include a special session featuring the three winners of the **FSS Innovation Challenge**.

Join AGA on January 9, 2020, in Washington, D.C., or stream the summit online at your home or office. Either way, your participation is on AGA! This training is worth up to 6 CPEs or 4.5 PDUs.

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Emerging Leader Award: Abigail Beatty, Performance and Strategy Analyst, King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

We celebrated their accomplishments with an awards ceremony, followed by refreshments and socializing. Each of the awardees received an award certificate and a free membership to AGA. We look forward to seeing them at upcoming AGA events!

On the topic of our annual awards, it is not too early to start nominating people in your workplaces (and beyond) for these awards. We will send a separate email with the general criteria for these awards, and it's worth noting that people do not have to be AGA members to be nominated. We love the chance to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of those with careers in government accounting, budgeting, finance, and accountability. Nominations for individuals at all levels of government—local, State, Federal, and tribal—are welcome.

Beyond nominations for our awards, if you have ideas and suggestions for the chapter in general, we would love to hear from you. This will be a recurring pitch, but if you've ever wanted to see what participation on a board is like, we have opportunities available ranging from our vacant President-Elect position, to roles as a co-chair or committee member on one of our many committees. You can get involved helping for the program year, or for a specific event. Lots of options!

Happy Holidays if we don't have a chance to get another newsletter out before the new year (and even if we do)! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events this month, and in 2020 and beyond!



Registration Now Open for NLT 2020

It's not too early to think about training opportunities for 2020! Register today for our annual [National Leadership Training](#) (NLT), happening Feb. 12–13, 2020, in Washington, D.C., or virtually. NLT is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. This training is worth up to 14 CPEs or 11 PDUs.

Chapter News

AGA Seattle Chapter Summary of November Training Event

by Katherine King, Chapter Treasurer and Accountability Chair

On November 12th, the AGA Seattle Chapter hosted our November training event and had the pleasure of welcoming Kate Reynolds, Executive Director of the Washington State Executive Ethics Board, to discuss ethics in the public services sector. Kate gave an informative overview of the Executive Ethics Board – who they are, what they do, and how they fit into the larger structure of the Washington State Government. She also provided some great (and humorous!) examples of investigations her office has been involved with and what often sparks these investigations. We had a robust discussion on what defines conflict of interest for public service employees and how her office helps state employees manage those conflicts so they don't end up in sticky situations. Did you know that some state employees are categorized as "section 4" employees and that they can't accept flowers from persons or agencies they contract with or may contract with? If you are a state employee, you probably already knew that, given that Kate's office offers classroom trainings to state agencies and their website contains online trainings and other materials. Kate's presentation really highlighted the fine lines of ethics we all walk as stewards of public resources.



AGA Seattle Chapter Board Members with Kate Reynolds after her November presentation. From left to right, Karen Murphy (Secretary); Katherine King (Treasurer); Kate Reynolds; Gabrielle Sivage (CGFM and Community Service Co-Chair); Sam Lord (President); and Tony Eayrs (Membership Chair).



NCC News

By Karyn Angulo

AGA's National Council of Chapters (NCC) representatives held our first conference call on Thursday, November 7. We covered a lot of topics, ranging from expectations for the NCC reps, outreach to young professionals, AGA's Professional Ethics Board, and sharing of chapter best practices, among others. NCC reps were also asked to complete surveys on possible revisions to the Chapter Recognition Program and to a new AGA elevator speech that will sum up who we are and what we do.

Our chapter is here to serve its members, so please let us know what we can do to improve our training and outreach or if you have any questions or concerns. Contact information for our board members is on p.11 of this newsletter.

Ceremony for Chapter Award Recipients for Program Year 2018-2019

The AGA Seattle Chapter recognized four individuals during an award ceremony held on Monday, November 18, in the King County building at 401 5th Avenue, in downtown Seattle. Chapter President Sam Lord hosted the event and made the presentations to the chapter's award recipients for program year 2018-2019.

In addition to the annual Emerald Award that recognizes outstanding leadership in the field of government accountability and service to the public, the chapter presented two other awards. The Distinguished Mid-Career Professional Award recognizes a local individual whose significant professional and community service accomplishments demonstrate commitment to the AGA values of service, accountability, integrity, and leadership; the Emerging Leader Award recognizes a local early career professional in government or public service for notable contributions toward excellence in government accountability. Karen Murphy, immediate past president, presented the fourth award, the Volunteer of the Year Award for exemplary volunteer service to the Chapter.

The recipients were as follows:

Emerald Award: Linda Calbom, recently retired Managing Director of Field Operations, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Distinguished Mid-Career Professional Award: Eunjoo Greenhouse, Deputy Director, King County Finance and Business Division

Emerging Leader Award: Abigail Beatty: Performance and Strategy Analyst, King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Volunteer of the Year: Sam Lord, Chapter President, Webmaster, and Young Professionals and Students Chair

Special thank yous to Michael Jacobson, chapter member and prior Emerald Award recipient, for providing the venue for this event; to Sam and Carolyn Lord for arranging for and procuring a variety of refreshments; and to Mary Ann Hardy, Karen Murphy, and Karyn Angulo for assisting with the set-up and tear-down of the event.



AGA Seattle Chapter 2018-2019 award recipients with their certificates. From left to right, Linda Calbom (Emerald Award), Eunjoo Greenhouse (Distinguished Mid-Career Professional Award), and Abigail Beatty (Emerging Leader Award).

Chapter Awards Ceremony



AGA Seattle Chapter President Sam Lord presents Linda Calbom with the Emerald Award. Linda also received the traditional green apple Jones Soda as part of this award.



Karen Murphy, Immediate Past President, presented Sam Lord with his certificate for Chapter Volunteer of the Year. Sam was selected as our awardee for the past program year for his multiple efforts in support of the chapter, including working closely with AGA National to completely revamp the chapter's website, monitoring and reporting on the chapter's progress in the Chapter Recognition Program, and expanding the chapter's outreach to area academic institutions and organizing participation at Career Fairs and other campus activities, discussing government accounting and accountability careers and promoting AGA.



Articles and Photos Wanted

We are always looking for articles to include in *THE SOUNDER*. Please submit items for inclusion and attribution. We also like to decorate the first page of The Sounder with a local photo each month.

If you have an article or picture to contribute, please send it to Karyn Angulo, Newsletter Editor, at newsletter.agaseattle@gmail.com.

When we use your photo, we will acknowledge you in our credits section.

Chapter Awards Ceremony



Emerald Award recipient Linda Calbom with two of her former colleagues from the U.S. Government Accountability Office. From left to right, Mary Ann Hardy (member and Past President), Linda Calbom, and Karyn Angulo (NCC Representative and Newsletter Editor).



Board members Karen Murphy, Sam Lord, and Karyn Angulo



Distinguished Mid-Career Professional Award recipient Eunjoo Greenhouse and Emerging Leader Award recipient Abigail Beatty with King County managers. From left to right, Ken Guy, Director, Finance and Business Operations Division, King County Department of Executive Services; Eunjoo Greenhouse; Abigail Beatty; Caroline Whalen, Director, King County Department of Executive Services; and Michael Jacobson, Deputy Director – Performance & Strategy, King County Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget.

Financial Condition as of October 31, 2019

Checking - .10% interest	\$ 3,501.87
Savings -.10% interest	<u>\$ 6,685.19</u>
Total Assets	\$ 10,187.06
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 10,187.06</u>
Liabilities & Members' Equity	\$ 10,187.06

Cash Flow Report, Month Ending October 2019

Beginning Cash Balances		\$ 10,198.45
Lunch Meals, Speaker Costs (incl. parking), & Name Tags	\$ 25.00	
Cash Expended		\$ 25.00
AGA Dues Received	\$ 13.33	
Interest Income	\$ 0.28	
Subtotal Cash Deposits		<u>\$ 13.61</u>
Net Cash Change		<u>\$ 11.39</u>
Ending Cash Balance		<u>\$ 10,187.06</u>



The Sounder

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WWW.AGASEATTLE.ORG

AGA serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

The purpose of the Association and the Chapter is to be an international, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of government financial management. The Association shall serve its members by providing or sponsoring appropriate educational programs, encouraging professional development, influencing governmental financial management policies and practices, and serving as an advocate for the profession. The Association shall serve government officials and the public by sponsoring efforts to ensure full and fair accountability for all public monies, and by providing a variety of pro bono services throughout the United States and its territories that support that end.

**AGA Seattle Chapter Board Members
 Program Year 2019-2020**

President, Webmaster, and Young Professionals and Students Chair
 Sam Lord, CPA, CGFM
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sam.lord@oig.hhs.gov

President-Elect
 Vacant

Treasurer and Accountability Chair
 Katherine King
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Secretary and Past President
 Karen Murphy
joujie@comcast.net

Education Chair
 Sandra Starnes, CPA, CGFM
 Port Gamble
 S'Klallam Tribe
sandra@pgst.nsn.us

CGFM and Community Service Co-Chairs
 Gabrielle Sivage, CGFM
 Seattle DOT
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 and
 Eddie Johnson
 U.S. EPA

Membership Chair
 Tony Eayrs
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NCC Representative, Newsletter Editor, and Historian
 Karyn Angulo
 U.S. GAO
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Board Members
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