

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Philadelphia Chapter

**APRIL 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)**



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**01/17**

**UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS!  
DON'T MISS OUT!  
(PG. 10)**

# 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](http://www.agacgfm.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, EMAIL US AT [AGAPHILADELPHIA@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:cgfm@agacgfm.org)

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# WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS!



**Sharon Miller**  
**John R. Fullwood Jr.**

**Welcome to AGA Philadelphia!**  
**We are happy to have you as a**  
**part of our team!**

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# STUDENTS: JOIN AGA FOR FREE!

**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.

## AGA Benefits:



**Scholarships:** Academic scholarships, leadership development, hands-on experience in government finance, and data science competitions with cash prizes!

**Career Coaching & Professional Opportunity:** Career coaching, mentoring programs, and access to a professional community offering networking, real-world experience, and exciting opportunities!

**Tools & Resources:** Join AGA as a student for valuable tools and resources like the Accountability Talks podcast featuring government thought leaders, and access to guest speakers for insights into government careers!

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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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# NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING



**LEAD!24 offered loads of great takeaways! Chapter leaders connected, networked, and exchanged ideas for the coming program year. Now it's time to share this newfound knowledge with chapter members and other chapter leaders.**

**Resources from LEAD!24 are available on AGA's website under Chapter Resources.**



**Kim Jones delivered her Conflict Resolution Training, featuring a role play activity with AGA 2024-2025 National President-Elect Mark Mitchell.**



**During Area Breakouts, Chapter leaders shared ideas and resources with one another. Group photo of Area 6!**

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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.

# Chapter Events



## Fraud/Data Analytics Webinar Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 2:00 PM–3:00 PM ET Free for Members

Join us for an insightful webinar focusing on "Fraud/Data Analytics Grants: Protecting Programs, ensuring mission impact and reducing Fraud at the Federal, State, and Subrecipient Levels." **This webinar offers 2 CPEs in the field of Accounting – Governmental (ACCG).** The program will provide an overview of strategies to safeguard programs, ensure mission impact, and reduce fraud across different levels of government and subrecipient organizations. No prerequisites or advance preparation are required, making it accessible to all interested participants. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills in combating fraud and optimizing program impact!

**[Register Here!](#)**



11/17



**Join us for the AGA Philadelphia Chapter's important election on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.**

As a member, you will receive a virtual email invitation to participate in this democratic process, shaping the leadership that will guide our chapter forward. Stay tuned for detailed instructions on how to cast your vote and contribute to the selection of dedicated leaders who will represent your interests and drive our chapter's success. Your active participation in this election is crucial in ensuring our continued growth and impact within the AGA community.



## AGA Philadelphia In-Person Networking Event June 2024 | Date & Time TBD

Join us for an exciting in-person networking event in June 2024! Stay tuned for the date and place, to be announced soon. This event will feature engaging networking opportunities and delicious food to enjoy while connecting with fellow professionals in the field. Keep an eye out for updates on this event, including details on registration and location, as it promises to be a valuable experience for building professional connections and expanding your network.

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# National Events

## 2024 PERFORMANCE COUNTS SUMMIT

**Attention AGA members:** Free event for government employees! **Earn 4 CPEs.** Don't miss out!

 Wednesday, May 1, 2024

 11:50 AM-4:00 PM

 Virtual

Join us at the Performance Counts 2024 Summit for insights on driving performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking in government. Discover ongoing initiatives, impacts of adoption, collaboration between executives, and lessons for accelerated outcomes.



## Register to Attend the 2024 Performance Counts Summit, a Virtual Event!

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024,  
11:50 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET**

**Attend the half-day virtual Performance Counts Summit and learn about:**

- What current initiatives are underway to drive performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking across government.
- How are agencies adopting performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking practices and what are their impacts.
- How can performance improvement and audit and accountability executives work together to ensure a focus on performance and outcomes rather than just compliance.
- What lessons learned from performance improvement and evidence-based policymaking initiatives can agencies adopt to accelerate the achievement of important outcomes.

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**JOIN NOW**



**This event is free for AGA members who are employed by government, and you can earn 4 CPEs. Private-sector participation is available via sponsorship only.**

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**YOU  
GOT  
THIS**



## Increase Your Confidence, Enhance Your Career

**May 9, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM ET**  
**\$30 per Person**

A transformative webinar dedicated to enriching your professional life by boosting your self-confidence. Join us for an entertaining and insightful session where you'll discover practical strategies to develop a deeper appreciation for your abilities and qualities. Learn how increased confidence can positively impact your presentation skills, communication effectiveness, and overall interactions in the business environment. Gain valuable insights and actionable tips to project confidence, handle challenges with ease, and elevate your career trajectory. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and take your professional journey to new heights!

**[Register Here!](#)**

**Deadline to Register or Cancel is  
May 7, 2024**

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**13/17**



## **In-Person 2024 ERM Workshop**

**Thursday, June 6, 2024 | 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. ET**  
**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!](#)**

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# Hooray!



## 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.

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14/17

## 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
<b>AGA Members</b>		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
<b>Non-members</b>		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

**Register Now!**

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

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**Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful AGA Philadelphia members who are celebrating this special day! Your love, strength, and dedication as mothers 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 mother, or who find Mother'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.