



The Ozarks Ledger



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From Nathan's Desk

We are excited to bring to you the 2020 Fall Seminar in-person with a live virtual option. We want you to have the decision to attend in-person at the White River Conference Center or join us virtually on GoToWebinar. We have a terrific audience engagement application for you to use from your phone or computer during the seminar to answer polling questions for CPE, ask questions, and chat with other attendees. Our seminar will be one full day on October 20th, plus a virtual-only half day TBD, to provide 12 CPE total.

AGA members can attend AGA's virtual 2020 Technology and Transformation summit free of charge, and receive 8 CPE! Now is a great time to renew your membership by registering for the Fall Seminar or on the web [here](#).

We are dedicated to offering webinars and virtual training events during this pandemic, and to helping you achieve your goals.

Best,

Nathan Ziegler, CPA



Ozark Chapter Events

Chapter Webinar - September 17

- GASB Lease Implementation Updates: Where Do We Go From Here?

Fall Seminar - October 20

- Virtual-only half day TBD

November Chapter Webinar - TBD

Chapter Meeting - January 21

- Tentative in Person, TBD

Chapter Meeting - February 21

- Tentative in Person, TBD

Spring Seminar - March 25

Chapter Meeting - April 15

- Tentative in Person, TBD

Tour - May 20, TBD

National Events

Webinar - September 2

- Professional Development
- Free for Members

Webinar - September 9

- Communications

Virtual Event - September 23-24

- Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training 2020

Virtual Event - November 18

- Technology & Transformation Summit (TTS)



September Chapter Webinar GASB Lease Implementation Updates: Where Do We Go From Here?

- Thursday, September 17, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
- 1 CPE Credit Available
- [Click here](#) to register for the September Webinar.
- Free for members, \$10 for non-members.

September Virtual Event Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training 2020

- September 23 - 24
- 14 CPEs Available
- [Click here](#) to register for the September Virtual Event.

Fall Professional Development Training White River Conference Center

- Tuesday, October 20 7:30 - 5:00 pm
- Virtual-only half day TBD
- One-and-a-half Days for the price of one! 12 CPE
- \$200 registration fee, \$30 additional for CGFM renewal (if applicable). 2020-2021 AGA Membership dues included
- The deadline is October 9, 2020. [Click here](#) to register for the Fall Seminar. *No need to re-register if you registered for the March seminar.*

We now accept Paypal!

News from National/NCC Rep

Hello, everyone!

It's September, and students are back in school now... Well, sort of.... Did you know that AGA wants to help college students with education and training? AGA's National office has five great ways to involve and reward students:

1. Currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students are invited to compete in a virtual Government Finance Case Challenge; each member of the winning team receives a \$1,000 award - INCLUDING their professor advisor! Deadline to register teams is 12 PM ET on September 18, 2020.
2. Full-time college students can attend the National Leadership Training (NLT 2021) , and registration scholarship applications are being accepted now! The submission deadline is 12 PM ET on November 13, 2020.
3. Are you pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in Accounting, Economics, Finance, IT or Public Administration? In the spring, be sure to check out the academic scholarships for both full-time and part-time college students offered by the National AGA office.
4. Full-time college students can receive a free electronic AGA membership. In addition to the great benefits listed above, student members can access AGA's Job Board to find government finance positions posted throughout the United States.
5. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is the only certification that demonstrates competency in government financial management at the federal, state and local levels of government. Earning the CGFM is a great way for students to set themselves apart when it comes time to join the workforce! AGA offers a discounted application fee for student members. Your local Ozarks Chapter of AGA also offers a CGFM scholarship. Once you pass all three exams, the chapter reimburses you for your CGFM application and testing fees. Contact Daphne Pevahouse for more details.

I'll update you next month with more news from National.

Greg Drake, 2019-2021 Ozarks Chapter NCC Representative

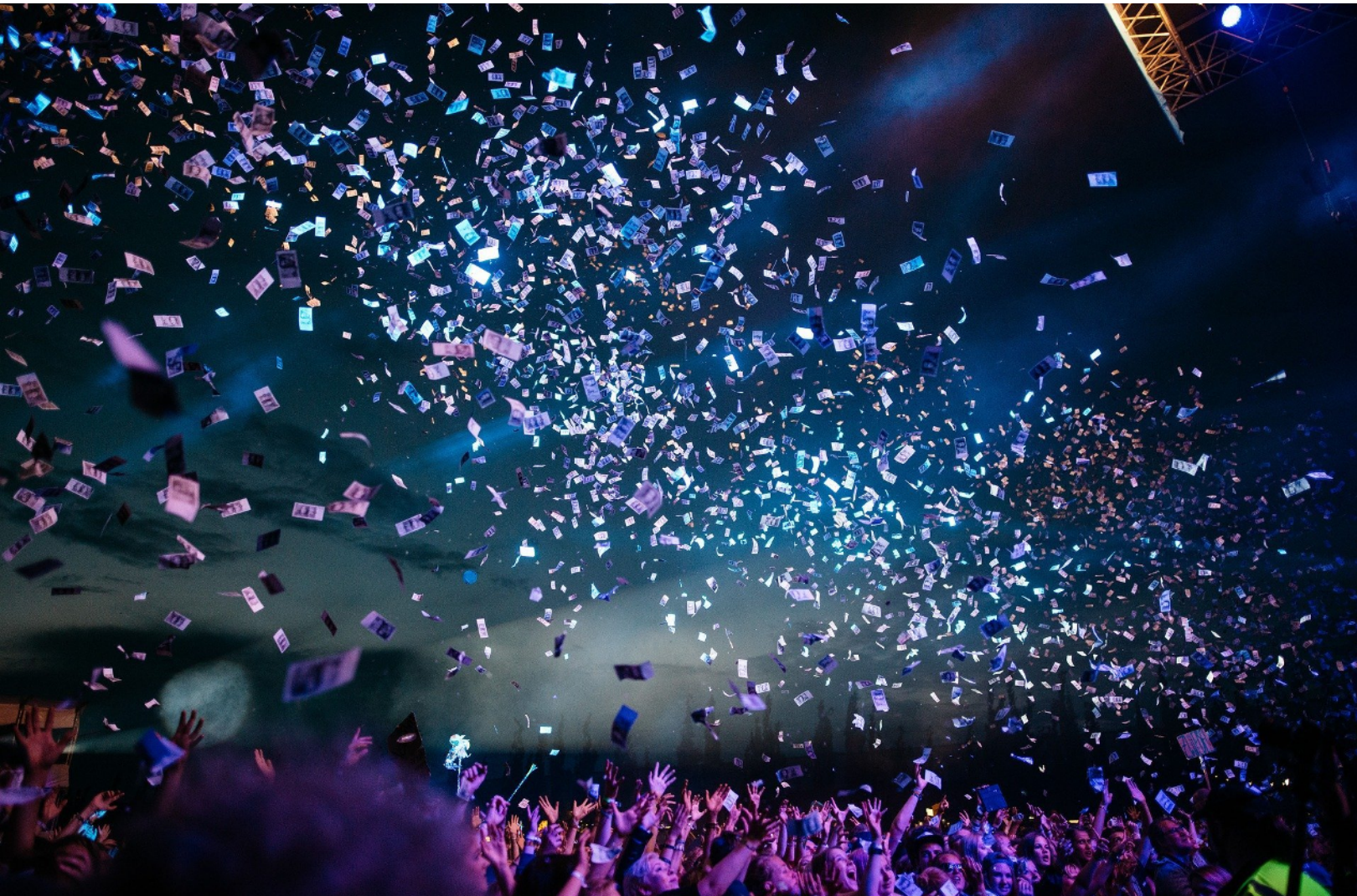


Random Financial Fact:

Missouri is ranked #7 nationally based on the state highway miles. MoDOT has budgeted \$3.2 billion on the FY2021 budget which will be used to maintain 33,832 highway miles and 10,397 bridges. Think of all the fall road trip opportunities!

See the MO Fast Facts page for more interesting facts!

September 2020 is AGA's 70th Anniversary!



During 2020, COVID-19 has reminded many businesses and governmental agencies that it is important to continually be open to new challenges that may be faced. AGA was first founded on September 14,

1950, so we can only imagine the changes that will be faced in the next 10 years!

Please see **AGA 2020: A Look Ahead to the Next 10 Years** for a look at the future plans of AGA!

Everyone, meet Monica Robinson



This month, we would like to introduce Monica Robinson. She was born in Daytona Beach, Florida, but grew up in Colorado. Monica went back to school in 2010 to Liberty University Online.

Monica has worked for the City of Marshfield for almost 7 years. and has been a member of AGA for four years.

My favorite part of working for the City is that I am working for the community that I live in and am raising my children. My favorite way to pass time is to hang out with my daughters. I also hike, garden, read books, and Crossfit.

Strictly Business:

What was your first job?

My first official job was selling newspaper subscriptions door-to-door at 13 years old.

A Little More Personal:

What's your biggest pet peeve?

One of my biggest pet peeves is when people don't say goodbye when they are done talking on the phone, they just hang up.

What's a thing most people don't know about you?

I am the Treasurer for the Marshfield Community Theatre. I would love to be able to get on the stage and be a part of a performance, but that would be way out of my comfort zone.

Just for Fun:

What's one item you can't leave your home without?

I have to bring water to drink wherever I go.

Ted^xPresidio Video:

Creating Ethical Cultures in Business

Brooke Deterline



Anniversaries, Milestones & Achievements

- AGA was founded in September 1950!
 - 70 years
- Susan Fritzlen, National COO
 - 25 years

Job Opportunities

- **Kansas Turnpike Authority**
 - **Director of Finance/CFO**
- **Springfield Public Schools**
 - **Technician - Payroll**
- **City of Republic, MO**
 - **Utility Billing Supervisor**
- **Taney County Health Department**
 - **Accountant**
- Email Melody Ownby with any governmental accounting opportunities in the Ozarks

Quote of the Month

"When you start to do the things that you truly love, it wouldn't matter whether it is Monday or Friday; you would be so excited to wake up each morning to work on your passions."

- Edmond Mbiaka

Why did you choose the CGFM?

Kat Gill

Q: What prompted you to begin the process of obtaining your CGFM?

A: Being new to government, I felt I needed to immerse myself into understanding how government works. I didn't want another Master's program. I wanted a deeper dive into the world of government. When I started my career with the City of Springfield, someone had mentioned the CGFM certification. I looked into the certification and believed that was the program that would develop my knowledge base.

Q: How has it helped your confidence?

A: Most of the time I at least sound like I know what I am talking about. Just Kidding. In truth it helped me to connect the dots with the various forms of government, local, state and federal. I was able to put together the big picture. And, as an added bonus, any time a section focused on local government I was able to apply it real world. Not only did I gain a certification, I actually learned while doing it.

Q: How do you feel it has helped you in performing your job duties?

A: A degree builds a foundation, a very broad foundation in a lot of ways. I believe strongly in working towards certifications in whatever field you choose to work in. Not only is it an avenue that allows you to network with your peers, but it does, as it has me, provide you an educational path to grow and develop a comfortableness with the

skills needed to work in government finance.

Q: How has networking with other CGFM holders helped you?

A: Networking is probably the ONLY way I do my job well. I don't have all the answers. But, it is amazing to have a network of people to ask questions of a particular topic you are struggling with. And you get to return the favor to others. Everyone wins when we all work together.

Q: What did you find helpful in studying for the CGFM Certification?

A: Having a study partner!! Having a study partner!! Having a study partner!! I was so motivated to begin studying. But the certification is a marathon, not a sprint. There were times I didn't feel like studying and then my partner, Daphne, would tell me she was ahead of me on something and my competitive nature took over. I couldn't let her beat me!! (She did by the way). But when she crossed that finished line, and every time she passed it continued to encourage me that I had it, I could do it. She kept me encouraged and kept me on track!!

Q: What would you suggest to candidates to help them pass the exams?

A: Apply what you learn as you are studying, it helps it stick. Actually soak in the material, write out notes, and find a mentor or study partner. It can seem overwhelming at times but stick with it. It can be done. And then you get some cool letters after your name!

Q: What resources did you use to help prepare?

A: I purchased the study guides and the practice tests. The guides did a really good job of preparing me. But, I was so hyped up over one of the tests that my study partner and I discussed going to one of the prep

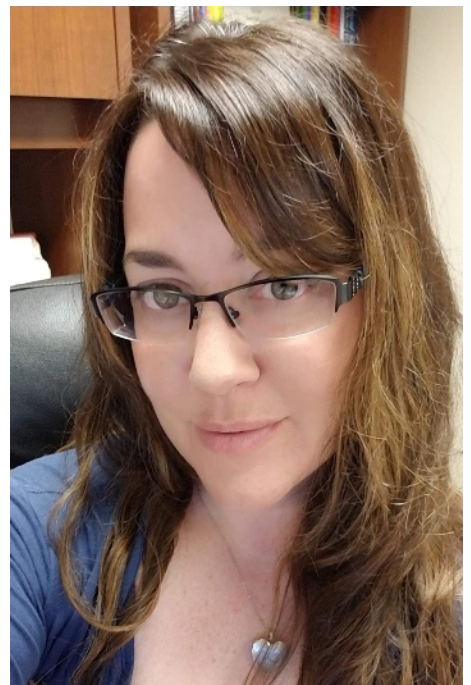
classes in Washington DC that Management Concepts put on. We made that happen. It was probably the most memorable time. But when we were at our table on one of the class days, I heard all these others say they were struggling with the local government piece because it was "too complicated." At that point, I knew my study partner and I had this test in the bag. We worked in the "too complicated" field already.

Q: Did you know that Ozarks Chapter will reimburse you for the application and exams once all exams have been passed if your employer has not paid for them?

A: I did, but this was after I had already started the process. I started the process and was willing to pay for it out of my pocket because it was so worth it!

Q: How long did it take you from when you started the application process to complete the certification process?

A: From the time I received the approval to sit for the exam - it took 18 months. After I passed the first exam, it took me 9 months.





AGA wants to partner with you.



GET MORE INFORMATION TODAY!

Contact Daphne to see how the AGA Ozarks Chapter can support you! - dpevahouse@neoshomo.org

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