



Monthly Newsletter



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President's Message



Hi Dallas Chapter!

I'm excited to be writing my first message of the 2020-2021 program year. The past program year was an exciting one for AGA Dallas because we hosted an in-person Fall Professional Development Training (PDT) and then in the Spring, our first-ever virtual PDT! The virtual event allowed us to partner with the Austin Chapter to offer 4.5 continuing professional education credits and support two local area food banks ([North Texas Food Bank](#) and [Tarrant Area Food Bank](#)), which each receiving over \$1,200 after the matching contribution from AGA National's Community Service Fund. Our Chapter was also involved in the AGA National PDT this past July, with various members serving on the planning committee or speaking at the event.

I want to welcome two new members to our Chapter Executive Committee (CEC): Tonyan L. Geans, our Membership Director, and Regina Stevenson, our Secretary. Now is an exciting time to be involved in AGA and the Dallas Chapter! As we look to the future, we're already planning our Fall PDT, which will be virtual. If you're interested in joining the leadership team, or are interested in helping us planned the virtual Fall PDT, please [reach out to me!](#)

Thanks,

John D. Rich, CGFM
AGA Dallas Chapter President

Connect with Us!



Upcoming Events

2020 Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training



Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training 2020

Date: September 23-24, 2020
 Time: 9:00am-5:00pm ET
 Location: Virtual
 CPEs/PDUs: 14 CPEs / 11 PDUs

2020 Technology & Transformation Summit (TTS)



Date: November 18, 2020
 Time: 9:00am-5:00pm ET
 Location: Virtual
 CPEs: 8 CPEs

Free to government employees who are AGA members

AGA National Webinars

[Register Online](#)

Communicate and Lead Through Intention, Interaction, and Influence (2 CPEs)

Date: September 9, 2020
 Time: 2:00-3:50pm ET

Internal Control/Improper Payments (2 CPEs)

Date: October 7, 2020
 Time: 2:00-3:50pm ET

Ethics (2 CPEs)

Date: November 4, 2020
 Time: 2:00-3:50pm ET

Internal Control (2 CPEs)

Date: December 9, 2020
 Time: 2:00-3:50pm ET

Uniform Guidance (2 CPEs)

Date: January 13, 2021
 Time: 2:00-3:50pm ET

GASB Update (2 CPEs)

Date: February 3, 2021
 Time: 2:00-3:50pm ET

Membership Spotlight

Welcome New Members!

- Mr. Stuart Buchan
- Mrs. VaMeshian R. Dove
- Mr. Salvador Talamo
- Ms. Misty D. Wagnon
- Mr. John T. Wilson, Jr.

Membership Anniversaries

- Mr. Marshal R. Wilke – 50 years
- Mr. Matthew Ryan Maddox – 5 years
- Mrs. Rachel Moreland – 1 year
- Mrs. Mae Nicholls – 1 year

The 2020-2021 program year is already underway. [Join or renew today!](#)

Meet Mr. Wilke, AGA Dallas Member and Past Chapter President

Mr. Wilke is celebrating his 50th AGA membership anniversary this month! We asked Mr. Wilke to share a little bit about his story, and what AGA means to him.



Has it been 50 years? The photo and certificate dated September 30, 1970 tell the story. My journey with the AGA began when I was with the State Department in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam. My colleagues assured me I needed to join the Federal Government Accountants Association ([as AGA was known then](#)) to advance my career. They were absolutely correct. Having served a year in Vietnam in 1967-68 as a Lieutenant in the Air Force Auditor General, going back to Saigon seemed a natural progression.

Returning stateside in 1971, I joined the United Nations Internal Audit Service and kept my AGA membership active while in New York. A newsletter announcement led me back to a Federal job in Atlanta with the Commerce Department. By 1977, I had transferred to Austin, where I spent a couple of years. Then once again, through AGA contacts, I got a Treasury job in Dallas, where I have been since.

Attending Dallas Chapter meetings became a routine. They were, and still are, times to hear from speakers of all sorts and learn new things that help you grow in your profession. As a CPA, CIA and CFE, the continuing education is a great benefit. Even more important, you meet people with whom you share interests and often gain new friends.

Over my years with the Dallas Chapter, I have been privileged to participate in many Chapter activities. Community service programs such as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), home repair projects for the disadvantaged, and food drives are most rewarding. During my time as Chapter President in 1989-90, we received the Silver and Gold Chapter Recognition and Newsletter Awards. I am also proud of the Exceptional Service Award I received in 2009, for my work on the [Chapter history](#).

Any time you have a chance, recruit a new member.

Marshal R. Wilke
AGA Lifetime Member and Past Chapter President



AGA Student Membership



Do you know any students pursuing a career in government financial management?

AGA offers a FREE electronic membership to students enrolled full-time at an accredited higher education institution and not gainfully employed.

[Learn more](#) about AGA Student Membership.

Volunteers of the Year Recipients

Congratulations to AGA Volunteers of the Year! The Volunteer of the Year Award is a National honor recognizing distinguished contributions to the development and enhancement of an AGA Chapter. The recipients of the award embody the spirit of volunteerism.



Carla B. Flores, AGA Dallas Chapter Communications Director, is one of this year's recipients. Carla led our Chapter's communication strategy, including redesigning [our newsletter](#) and [website](#),

and increasing our [social media](#) presence. She designed and prepared the Chapter's first interactive [Citizen Centric Report \(CCR\)](#), and spearheaded the Chapter's efforts to produce our first virtual PDT; planning and troubleshooting all technical aspects of the virtual event.

[Meet the rest of this year's recipients](#) and read about the contributions they made to their respective Chapters!

WHAT AGA MEANS TO ME

“ AGA is the opportunity to give back to the profession, gain leadership experience, and network and learn from others. ”



-Melinda DeCorte, CGFM

Recap of Past Events

AGA Dallas Chapter Earned Gold Chapter Recognition Program Award

AGA honored various Chapters throughout the AGA PDT held virtually this past July for their leadership, promotion of government accountability, and service to AGA.

The AGA Dallas Chapter earned the Gold Chapter Recognition Program Award for the 2019-2020 program year.

Chapter Recognition Program: Gold Level (17,001 - 19,500 credits)

- Dallas
- Maine
- St. Louis
- Topeka



AGA Dallas CEC Members Participate in AGA PDT Panels

Two of our very own Chapter CEC members spoke during this year's AGA PDT.



Melinda DeCorte, NCC Representative and NGB Area 3 Chapter Director, participated in the panel titled Doing the Right Thing Especially When It Is Not Easy, where attendees examined

several ethical decision-making models that can help guide you to the best conclusions in difficult situations.



John Rich, President, participated in the panel titled Where's Waldo-How to Work Without Being at Work, where attendees learned the managerial, cultural and financial tools that can be

used to improve motivation, engagement and retention among its professionals in the era of telework and automation.

Did you attend the PDT, but missed these sessions? Be on the lookout for the session recordings from AGA!



AGA Accountability Talks Episode 50: Data Visualization

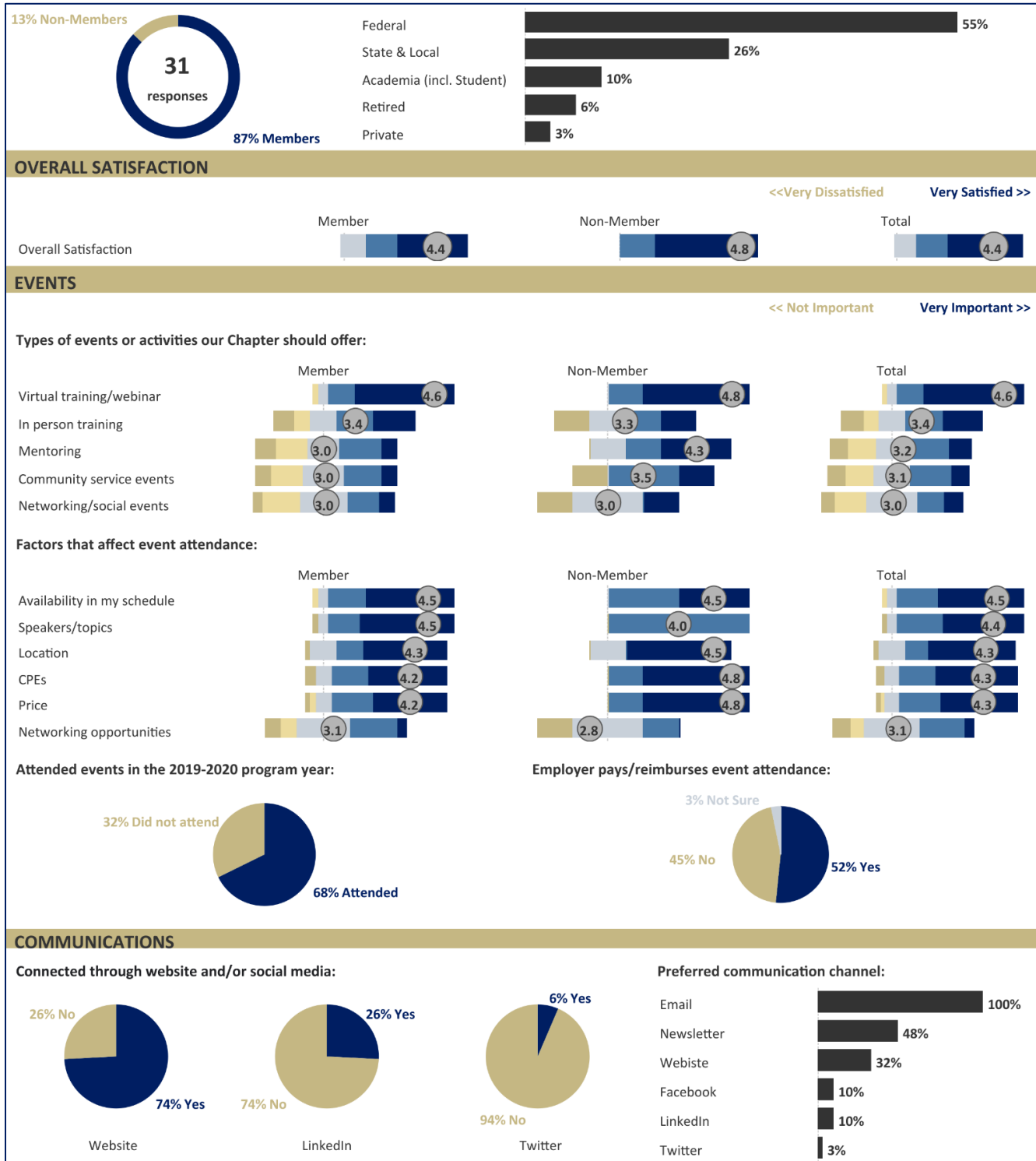
Have you listened to AGA's Accountability Talks podcast yet? Episodes feature topics such as OMB Circular A-123 Appendix C, FASAB, data analytics, interviews with AGA leadership and more!

In Episode 50, Data Visualization, host Paul Marshall chatted with our Chapter's own Carla B. Flores, Communications Director, about data visualization and financial dashboards. They talked about the benefits of data visualization, how to best gather requirements for a visualization, and some great resources to spark ideas!

[Listen now!](#)

2020 Survey Results

This past June, we reached out to our members and non-members and asked for input to help us plan for this program year. Below are the results from the survey. In alignment with the survey results, our CEC is busy at work planning our next virtual PDT, which will take place in the Fall.



If you have any questions about the survey results, please contact [Carla B. Flores](#), Communications Director.

AGA National Updates

Council for the Advancement of Women

The AGA Council for the Advancement of Women is comprised of members who act on behalf of the association to manage gender diversity initiatives and progress. The Council will create strategic accountability for results, promote governance and oversight of gender diversity efforts and integrate gender diversity into strategy and programming.

All AGA members are welcome to participate as we discuss gender diversity and explore ways toward progress.

[Learn more](#) about the Council for the Advancement of Women.

Fall 2020 Government Finance Case Challenge

AGA invites currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students to compete in a virtual Government Finance Case Challenge! Over two and a half weeks, student teams analyze data for an AGA-specified U.S. state, city or county government and develop a [CCR](#) for that location. This experience challenges students' critical thinking and raises their awareness of what data government financial managers make available to the public.

The Winning team members and professor each receive a \$1,000 scholarship! **Deadline for team registrations is Friday, Sept. 18, at 12:00 p.m. ET.**

[Learn more](#) about the Government Finance Case Challenge.

2020 Blue Book is Out

The new edition of the Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting (GAAFR, or the "Blue Book") is out. Stay up to date on the latest accounting rules, written in simple language, and how to implement them properly. [Click here](#) to read more about what's included.

Calling All Innovators!

Do you have a great idea that could help government organizations solve complex problems or issues? Are you passionate about promoting accountability, transparency and innovation in the public sector? If so, we invite you to share your ideas through the Innovation Challenge at AGA's 2020 TTS. Three winners will present their solutions during the event. **Applications are due Sept. 15.**

[Learn more](#) about the Innovation Challenge.



Access AGA's COVID-19 Resource Exchange

NCC Representative Corner

Dallas Chapter members,

Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving as the representative for the Dallas Chapter for the AGA's National Council of Chapters (NCC) and as the Chapter Director for Area 3 on AGA's National Governing Board (NGB).

The NCC is ramping up our second year. Our inaugural year allowed NCC representatives to connect across geographic boundaries, learn from and support one another, and accomplish several initiatives in support of AGA's mission and strategic priorities.

Continuing the momentum established during our inaugural year, I am pleased to announce a specific area of collaboration that will yield great benefit to the Dallas Chapter. The Dallas and Oklahoma City Chapters have partnered to purchase a subscription to GoToWebinar. Through this subscription, both Chapters will have access to provide virtual events to our collective membership. This expands our opportunity to provide high quality continuing professional education to our members and non-member event attendees, while leveraging resources and speakers across both Chapters.

In addition, we are coordinating with other Chapters, such as the Austin Chapter here in Texas, and the Ozarks Chapter in Springfield, MO, to plan and host joint virtual events. We even had interest from the Shenandoah Valley Chapter in collaborating and possibly joining our group subscription to GoToWebinar. As you can see, the

NCC has been instrumental in connecting AGA Chapters across the country and it is paying dividends for us here in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex.

Another key initiative during this program year for each Chapter, including the Dallas Chapter, is to implement the Achievements in Chapter Excellence (ACE) program. As communicated in previous newsletters, ACE replaces the former Chapter Recognition Program. The objective of ACE is to support, encourage and promote AGA's mission, and to provide flexible guidelines to help the development of a well-rounded Chapter. The NCC and AGA National Office want to recognize Chapters for their accomplishments while also supporting Chapters that are continuing to develop. The Dallas Chapter is underway in identifying our goals for the program year and is looking forward to participating in ACE. We believe our collaboration with other Chapters, both within Texas and across the country, will further the Dallas Chapter's participation in ACE and that of the Chapters with which we are collaborating with.

I look forward to providing you with additional updates from our next NCC meeting in the October newsletter.

Melinda J. DeCorte, CGFM, CPA
Dallas NCC Representative and
NGB Area 3 Chapter Director

CGFM Online Proctored Exams

Did you know? You can take your CGFM exams conveniently from home through OnVUE online proctoring. A live proctor will monitor you through the webcam on your workstation to provide a secure exam experience. Watch the short video on the [AGA online proctoring page](#) to see how convenient it is to test from home or work. Be sure to run the system test before you sign in to register for an online proctored exam.

[Learn more](#) about the Online Proctored Exams.

2020-2021 Chapter Executive Committee

[John D. Rich, CGFM](#)

President

Vacant

President-Elect

[Shino Knowles](#)

Treasurer

[Regina M. Stevenson, CGFM](#)

Secretary

[Tonyan L. Geans](#)

Membership Director

[Carla B. Flores, CGFM](#)

Communications Director

Vacant

Programs Director

Vacant

Certification Director

[Melinda J. DeCorte, CGFM, CPA](#)

Dallas NCC Representative and NGB Area 3 Chapter Director

Volunteering with AGA is a great way to give back to the profession, and further your own career. If you would like to hear more about our volunteer opportunities for this program year, please contact [John Rich](#), AGA Dallas Chapter President.

Connect with Us!

 <https://www.agacgfm.org/dallas>

 agadallasChapter@gmail.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/AGADallasChapter>

 <https://twitter.com/AGADallas>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/agadallas/>

Corporate Partners

Our Chapter would like to thank our corporate partners. We have partnered with these organizations to further the educational and networking opportunities we provide to our members. Click on the logos below to learn more about our Corporate Sponsors.

Gold Partner

BKD
CPAs & Advisors

Bronze Partner

Becker+

For information about becoming a corporate partner, please contact [Carla B. Flores](#), Communications Director.