



# ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

Albuquerque AGA Monthly Newsletter

February 2015

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## President's Message

Greetings,

After the past weekend of the big game, it seems that the sentiment is for running the ball to be the best plan of attack instead of making the pass... For an analogy that applies to our work and life, I'm not sure how efficient that is if you are limited on time and resources. We can't always be doing the running ourselves and trying to avoid passing to others who may be able to help. Most of the time, the best outcomes stem from plans that are executed well and all positions know the best role to play for success. (Of course, this is a very limited analogy that doesn't consider the time left to play or other variables!)

It brings to mind the continuous planning, strategizing, and we have been doing as a chapter this year to execute community service activities, certification opportunities and education events this year. Each player on our roster has been committed to achieving the goals we set before the year began. Our remaining chapter events of the year are aimed at continuing to help our members and communities reach their goals, through learning about compilation of financial statements at the February seminar and the CCR and non-attest services at our March luncheon, and aiding in clothing options for families looking for work and success through our clothing drive efforts in February and March.

The most major production of the year is also well under plan - the Professional Development Training Program has been published to show our lineup for this year's training! We have an exciting itinerary of speakers and sponsors that promises to provide an inspiring education destination! Looking forward to see you there!

*Heather Prudhomme, CPA, CGFM, CQMA*  
AGA Albuquerque President

## Welcome New Members!

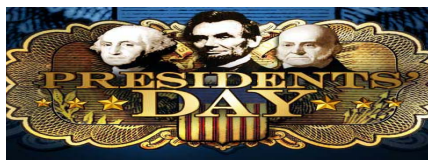
### January/February Members:

Mrs. Barbara G. Burns, CGFM—NM Retiree Health Care Authority  
Mr. Christopher J. Schmitz, REDW, LLC  
Ms. Brandi Harrison, NM Aging & Long-Term Care Service Department  
Mrs. Natalia Dominquez, City of Las Cruces  
Mrs. Victoria M. Hernandez, City of Las Cruces  
Mr. Victor C. Kraft, CliftonLarsonAllen  
Mrs. Josie Z. Medina, City of Las Cruces  
Mr. Gilbert V. Rodriguez, City of Las Cruces



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groups/AGAABQ/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AGAABQ/)



## A Message From Our AGA National President William Miller, CGFM, CIA



This year started off with a blast to the top. In January, we held our annual Federal Financial Systems Summit and it was very well received by the attendees. We had more than 400 participate in person; and provided a live-streaming option, of which more than 300 took advantage. This is one of the member service and member values we have been working on, to make AGA even more accessible to its members. This technology brings AGA right to our members who cannot travel to the events we hold. I am proud of our staff and the innovation that is going on in this part of our organization. We can do more as we make the necessary investment to modernize and acquire the tools needed to maximize the potential of this delivery mode.

Members may ask, "What am I getting for my money?" AGA is an intricate organization based on member representation and national management and initiative. Both are intertwined to make AGA the premier organization it has become over the years. The backgrounds of our members allow the organization to be representative of every level of government and to interchange ideas, problems and needs throughout the government. This unique collaboration of skills and knowledge allows AGA to be a player on the government scene. AGA has been able to conduct 36 research projects to address key questions and issues in government. The value to the member is knowing their organization is relevant, respected and able to help improve government through its programs. The organization is highly respected on the national scene; members can take pride in their contribution, helping build AGA to the level it has attained. Our national training events cannot happen without the support and attendance by our members. The chapter events I have attended have been equally impressive and directed toward the needs of their respective members.

The members receive exceptional value for their dollar through our training events. AGA awards 100,000 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) each year. CPE is required for anyone who is certified and suggested for those who are not yet certified. AGA offers registration discounts to members for our training events, offers 14 hours free CPE per year, and provides \$650 cumulative savings for the major national training events. These programs are truly impressive and all told provide more than a 500% return on investment for your AGA member dollars.

AGA's Certified Government Financial Management program has more than 9,000 individuals and provides a comprehensive training program for candidates. Three exams provide extensive coverage of government financial management at all levels and prepare the candidate for a career in public service.

## **AGA National President William Miller, CGFM, CIA - *Continued***

A major member value deals with personal interaction and relationships. I have said in previous articles that the nexus between AGA and the members' current employment is the opportunity for leadership. There are many opportunities at the chapter and several layers of National leadership for members to participate in. This opportunity is terrific for the member. Taking on leadership at the chapter level prepares the member for higher levels within AGA and gives a perspective that transfers to their immediate job. The people the member works with outside their organization, and within AGA, they may never have met. No one knows where their career could lead down the road. Have they plateaued? How long does one wait for the next promotion? What can the member learn to help career development? AGA is a leader in developing leadership skills just by the organizational makeup and opportunities.

AGA has fared far better than many professional organizations during the economic downturn and reduced federal budgets. We continue to examine and implement cost savings opportunities. We are subject to the similar challenges as other professional organizations in terms of increasing costs, (including facilities and meeting expenses) as well as the trending down of corporate sponsor dollars based on market conditions, mergers and acquisitions. We know we can continue to capitalize on our success, increase our virtual footprint, and begin to generate new and innovative revenue streams – but we also know this will require resources in a resource-constrained environment. Therefore, the National Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer are evaluating all revenue sources including our dues (which have not changed since 2003), and our revenue mix (and related risks) to ensure we continue to be the thought and value leaders to our members in the future.

With this wonderful New Year underway, I look forward to AGA continuing its progress and reputation as a national leader in government.



William D. Miller, CGFM, CIA  
2014–2015 AGA National President



## January Luncheon - Fraud Considerations Recap

Janet McHard, CPA, CFE, MAFF, CFF was our speaker for January on the topic of Fraud. Janet has been a past popular speaker for AGA on this topic. Her firm, McHard Accounting Consulting LLC, specializes in fraud investigations and related engagements.

The old fraud professional standards found in SAS 99 for audits of financial statements has been recodified under the audit clarity standards as AU-C 240, effective for audits of financial statements for the periods ending on or after December 15, 2012 (effective now). Janet presented on AU-C 240 and gave a valuable overview on the following:


- Characteristics of fraud
- Auditor's responsibilities for fraud
- Types of fraud
- Fraud risk factors aka red flags
- Importance of professional skepticism
- Management override of controls
- Journal entries and revenue recognition
- Attitudes and rationalization








Janet had a nice personal touch discussing her animal humane adoptions as the meeting beneficiary for this month was Animal Humane New Mexico. Go Animal Humane!

The food served at our meeting place Pappadeaux restaurant was excellent. It was good to hear from the specialist on fraud, Janet McHard, and gain CPE on an important topic.

- Marty Mathisen, CPA, CGFM  
Newsletter Editor






**AGA March Meeting**

**March 18, 2015**  
**11:30am - 1:00pm**  
**At**  
**Pappadeaux**

**More Info Will Be Emailed  
To You Soon!**



## Membership Renewal Season



Dear Members,

Thank you for your support of AGA! We understand how you choose to spend your money is a critical decision and we encourage you to continue to invest in yourself and your career by renewing today. AGA is your organization, providing an extraordinary return on investment in terms of training, knowledge management, resources and networking.

### Renew your membership and CGFM online today:

Login with your **User Name** at [www.agacgfm.com](http://www.agacgfm.com)

Enter your password, typically **first initial last name** (no space).

Select the "Proceed to Checkout" button at the bottom of the invoice to renew online

### Important CGFM renewal information:

To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFM's are required to:

Pay the CGFM annual renewal fee by March 31

Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) in government financial management topics or related technical subjects within each designated two-year cycle

Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed

More information on CGFM renewal, CPE requirements, inactive status and retired status may be found at: [Maintaining CGFM Certification](#).

**By submitting your renewal payment, you affirm your agreement and compliance with AGA's Code of Ethics. CGFM's further agree to meet the above CPE requirements.**

We look forward to your continued membership!

## The NM Area AGA PDT - Connect. Engage. Discover. *Your Passport to an Unforgettable Training Experience*

**March 30 - April 1, 2015 at the Hotel Cascada in Albuquerque, NM**

### 2015 Format:



**Monday - CGFM Day - 6 hours of CPE**

Chapter-led intensive training over all three tests.

**Test 1:** 9:00am - 10:15am | **Test 2:** 10:30am - 12:00noon & 1:00pm - 2:30pm | **Test 3:** 2:45pm - 4:00pm

\$60 for members | \$85 for non-members | Lunch is included

### Tuesday & Wednesday - PDT - 17 hours of CPE

Federal, State & Local topics offered during each break-out session

**Topics include:** Federal Government Procurement Process; Green Book - *Federal Internal Controls* by a GAO Rep; Federal Financial Reporting; Federal Contracting - Do's and Don'ts; GASB 67/68; GASB Exposure Draft Update; Grants Management - Best Practices; representatives from the NM State Auditor's Office, State Treasurer's Office, and DFA; Federal Controls Compliance for Effective Grants Management; YellowBook Ethics; Fraud, Financial Statements; and the OmniCircular.

\$250 for members | \$300 for non-members | 1-day option available

Room rates: \$83/night, call 505.888.3311 w/ code AGA NM by March 6, 2015

Register at: <http://aganmpdt.eventzilla.net> | [www.agaabq.org](http://www.agaabq.org)

Questions to: Marla Gorena [mgorena@acgsw.com](mailto:mgorena@acgsw.com) or 505.883.2727





## Requirements to Maintain the CGFM Certification

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. In addition, to continue using the CGFM designation after their name, CGFMs must be in an active status.

Requirements for maintaining the CGFM certification in an active status are as follows:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year;
- Complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education every two years in government financial management or related technical subjects (within the designated two-year CPE cycle); and
- Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

The 80 CPE hours must be completed within the CGFM's two-year CPE cycle. The first CPE cycle starts on Jan. 1 of the year following the one when the CGFM designation was earned. For example, if the CGFM was awarded any time in 2008, the first CPE cycle starts on Jan. 1, 2009 and ends on Dec. 31, 2010. See [Calendar of CPE cycles](#) on the AGA National website, [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) for a schedule of CPE cycles.

The CPE requirements apply to all active CGFMs, whether employed or not, and whether employed full- or part-time by a government or other organization. Active CGFMs must complete a minimum of 80 CPE hours every two years to maintain their CGFM certification. While there is no minimum number of hours required to be earned each year, CGFMs are encouraged to earn CPE hours throughout their two-year cycle.

CGFMs do not need to submit supporting documentation of the CPE hours at the time of renewal. The payment itself serves as the CGFM's affirmation of his or her compliance with the CPE requirements. CGFMs are required to maintain supporting documentation on CPE hours earned for a minimum of three years and provide it to AGA upon request. The CPE documentation requirements are available at [www.agacgfm.com](http://www.agacgfm.com). This documentation may be requested by AGA as part of the annual audit of a random sample of CGFMs.

If a CGFM fails to meet the requirements to maintain the CGFM in an active status, the CGFM becomes inactive.

### CPE Program and Activities that Qualify

**QUESTION:** What CPE programs and activities qualify for CPE hours for the CGFM certifications?

- A. Group programs such as: Internal training programs (courses, seminars and workshops) NOTE: Programs conducted by the employer of the individual must provide for an instructor or course leader. There should be formal instructional and training material. On-the-job training does not qualify.
  - The portion of a financial management organization staff meeting in which a structured educational program with learning objective is used to provide staff with knowledge regarding approved topics and subjects. Informal discussions of current events in the financial management profession do not qualify for CPE hours.
  - Accredited university and college courses (credit and noncredit)
  - Education and development programs presented at conferences, conventions, meetings, seminars and workshops of professional organizations.
  - Web-based seminars and structured programs of study.
  - Audio conferences
- B. Individual study programs such as:
  - Web based courses
  - Correspondence courses, individual study guides and workbooks

**INTERPRETATION:** The programs and activities qualify provided they are in and subjects as discussed in following program hours, provided and subjects as:

- Courses given through internet webcasts, televised presentations, DVD, CD-ROM, audio cassette tapes, videotapes and computer programs.

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## Requirements to Maintain the CGFM Certification - *continued*

C. Other professional activities, subject to limitations. Further detail provided at [www.agacgfm.com](http://www.agacgfm.com).

- Serving as a speaker, instructor or discussion leader at group programs that qualify for CPE hours.
- Develop courses or the course materials for programs that qualify for CPE hours.
- Publishing articles and books on topics and subjects that qualify for CPE hours and that contribute directly to the author's professional proficiency. For example writing an article published in *The Journal of Government Financial Management*.
- Participation in the question and writing workshop for the CGFM Examinations.

### CPE Topics and Subjects that Qualify

**QUESTION:** What topics and subjects qualify for CPE hours for the CGFM certification?

**INTERPRETATION:** The CGFM is initially responsible for determining whether a topic or subject qualifies as acceptable CPE. CPE programs include a wide variety of topics and subjects that may contribute to maintaining or enhancing the professional proficiency of some CGFMs, but not others. Determining what topics and subjects are appropriate for individual CGFMs to satisfy the CPE requirement is a matter of professional judgment. Among the considerations in exercising that judgment are CGFM's experience, the government financial management area(s) in which they work and the responsibilities they assume in performing government financial management functions.

To help one determine whether the course would qualify for CPE, the CGFM should answer "yes" to all of the following questions:

- Is the information covered in this course applicable to government financial management?
- Does this course contribute to my professional proficiency as a CGFM?
- Does this course provide information that directly benefits me in my job as a government financial manager or enhance my overall knowledge of government financial management?

### Maintaining CPE Documentation

**INTERPRETATION:** CGFMs are required to maintain supporting documentation on CPE hours earned for a minimum of three years and provide it to AGA upon request. The CGFM's records must include the following information for each CPE program or activity attended or completed:

- The sponsorship organization (for example, AGA National Office, a local AGA chapter)
- The title of the program, including subject matter, field of study or a brief description of its contents
- The dates attended for group programs or dates completed for individual study programs
- The number of CPE hours earned; and
- Evidence of attendance or completion. This might include the following:
  - A certificate of attendance, a CPE form or other evidence of completion of CPE from CPE provider for group and individual study programs.
  - A grade report received for a university or college credit course.
  - A letter from the program sponsor, documenting the CPE course presented and/or developed.
  - A copy of the published book, article, or materials that names the writer author or contributor, a written statement from the writer supporting the number of CPE hours claimed, and the name and contact information of the publisher, if applicable.
  - An official report from the employer that has the employer's name and lists all of the required information (employee's name, sponsoring organization, title of the program, completion date and number of CPE hours earned).





## MISSION STATEMENT

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

[www.agaabq.org](http://www.agaabq.org)

## AGA CORE VALUES

Service, Accountability,  
Integrity, Leadership

AGA National website  
[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).



## AGA Chapter Executive Committee (CEC)

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**Make achieving the CGFM your goal for this program year!**

The first **two** AGA Albuquerque Chapter Members who send in a notice of CGFM award between now and May 31, 2015 (final test must not have been taken prior to September 1, 2014) will receive recognition in our newsletter and \$500 from the AGA Albuquerque Chapter. For more details or to apply for the award please contact James Hartogensis, CPA, CGFM at [jhartocpa@msn.com](mailto:jhartocpa@msn.com).

