

Chapter President's Message



Happy New Year! Welcome to the January issue of the Communique! I hope all of you enjoyed the holiday and hopefully some time off for rest and relaxation with family and friends.

During December, we had a well attended workshop that was held at the University of Maryland at Shady Grove. We were joined by some of the top federal financial management professionals in Government and private industry who instructed topics such as Cyber Security, FASAB Update, and Data Act.

On January 13th, we welcomed Deborah Stover- Springer, Esq., of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to the monthly dinner meeting and she discussed "Effective Writing Techniques for Communicating with Busy Government Leaders." Our Early Careers team held a successful happy hour event t Bowlmor Rockville bowling on January 14th. The team of bowlers included some of our chapters Directors and members. We had a good time competing and interacting with professionals from the Government and private industry. Finally, we had as successful Capital Area Food Bank PG Community Event which included numerous volunteers to help distribute fresh produce to lower income families.

The month also included the following webinars and events:

- > Wed., Jan 13, Audio Conference – Evidence Based Policy Making-Making the Right Decisions to Improve Programs
- > Wed., Jan 27, GASB 68

Please check the website frequently for updates on educational and social events for our chapter. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our events, or would like to become involved, please contact me by email at president@marylandaga.com.

- **Marlon Perry, Chapter President**

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Upcoming Chapter Events

January 13| January Dinner Meeting (1 CPE)

Presentation: Deborah Stover- Springer, Esq., of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation will discuss “Effective Writing Techniques for Communicating with Busy Government Leaders.”

Time: 6:30—8:30 PM, Reception 6:00—6:30PM

Location: Hilton Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

Cost: \$35 per person for non-government employees, \$20 for state, local, and federal government employees., and \$15 for students (credit card payment required).

Registration: <http://www.marylandaga.com/events/meetings.cfm>

January 13| *FREE* AGA Audio Conference: “Evidence Based Policy Making – Making the Right Decisions to Improve Programs.” (2 CPEs)

Sponsored for our chapter's members by corporate partners CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 11710 Beltsville Drive, Ste. 300, Calverton, MD 20705

RSVP: Contact Katrina Lynch @ Katrina.Lynch@claconnect.com or 301-931-2050.

January 14| Early Careers Bowling Event

Time: 6:00—8:00PM

Location: Bowlmor Lanes, 15720 Shady Grove Rd., Gaithersburg, MD.

Cost: Free (spots are limited and are on a first-come, first serve basis).

RSVP: earlycareers@marylandaga.com

January 16| Capital Area Food Bank PG Community Event

We are calling for volunteers for a great community service day event at their PG Community location in Landover, MD where the AGA DC chapter will distribute free fresh produce to lower income families. Please note that this is an outdoors “farmers market” event within a parking lot setting.

Time: 8:30AM—12:30PM

Location: 3600 Bright Seat Rd., Landover, MD 2075

RSVP: Janet Morgan, AGA DC Chapter @ janet.morgan@ussd.dhs.gov by January 11th, if you would like to volunteer.

January 27| *FREE* AGA Audio Conference: “GASB 68.” (2 CPEs)

Sponsored for our chapter's members by corporate partners CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 11710 Beltsville Drive, Ste. 300, Calverton, MD 20705

RSVP: Contact Katrina Lynch @ Katrina.Lynch@claconnect.com or 301-931-2050.

February 10| February Dinner Meeting (1 CPE)

Presentation: Tony Scardino, US Patent and Trademark Office, will present “CFO Challenges”

Time: 6:30—8:30 PM, Reception 6:00—6:30PM

Location: Hilton Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

Cost: \$35 per person for non-government employees, \$20 for state, local, and federal government employees., and \$15 for students (credit card payment required).

Registration: <http://www.marylandaga.com/events/meetings.cfm>

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30/31

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	1	2	3	4	5

Special Events—National Leadership Training (DC)



National Leadership Training
2016 | February 23–24 | 14 CPE
Washington or virtual

Date: February 23—24, 2016

Time: 8:00 AM—4:35 PM

Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, DC

CPE: Up to 14 CPE credits available

This is the event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find solutions to shared challenges, network with your peers, and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. This training offers up to 14 hours of CPE.

Who Should Attend:

- Senior-Level Managers and Executives
- CEOs and Presidents
- Accountants, Auditors
- CPAs, CGFMs

What to Expect:

- The overall experience, satisfaction, and rating for NLT 2015 were 98 percent good to excellent.
- More than 98 percent of attendees will recommend this training to their colleagues.

Here is what some 2015 attendees had to say about the training:

"Excellent conference. Very well organized. Topics were very relevant for understanding and improving leadership skills. Opportunities for net working were excellent." —LP Fealing, CGFM, CPA, CGA

"The AGA NLT Conference is a must attend for any financial professional! The information received is invaluable. You leave refreshed, motivated and with the tools to succeed. I am looking forward to the NLT 2016." —Angela Johnston, Financial Specialist N.C. Office of the State Controller

Can't travel to Washington? NLT offers virtual attendance — from your home or office — so you don't have to miss out on this important leadership training event. Virtual attendance also offers up to 14 hours of CPE.

CGFM

WHAT IS CGFM?

Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

To earn the CGFM, individuals must apply for the CGFM program and meet the following requirements:

[Ethics](#) — read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics

[Education](#) — have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university

[Examinations](#) — pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations

[Experience](#) — have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management

Not yet a CGFM?

CGFM Examination: Applicants must take and pass three comprehensive examinations to become a CGFM:

- **Course 1:** Governmental Environment
- **Course 2:** Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
- **Course 3:** Governmental Financial Management and Control

Visit the [AGA National CGFM website](#) for more details.

If you are considering taking the CGFM exams in 2016, why not sign up for AGA's Intensive Review Course with CGFM examinations included – it's a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course (IRC), offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Arlington, Va., on March 2-3, 2016. The class will run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is as follows:

\$375 for AGA members

\$425 for non-members

SPECIAL BONUS: The CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees — a \$375 savings!

Do you know someone who wants to earn their CGFM?

Consider reaching out to colleagues who are not members but may be interested in certification. This may be a good opportunity to re-engage members with a CGFM study group!

Details on the program are available here: www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/springpromo2015

Questions about CGFM? Contact: agacgfm@agacgfm.org

Additional information related to the CGFM, including (1) Reasons to become certified, (2) How to apply, (3) Testing locations, and (4) CGFM Proclamations, can be found on the Maryland AGA website at <http://www.marylandaga.com/cgfm/index.cfm>. For additional questions or information about the CGFM, please contact Montgomery/Prince George's County CGFM Co-Chairs: Thomas Birchall (tbirchall@kpmg.com) and Gabrielle Chapman (gabriellechapman@kpmg.com).

Membership

Membership in AGA has many **benefits**, including education and networking opportunities, awards and scholarship programs, discounts for training, exclusive CPE opportunities, and access to our **resources**. Members join a local **chapter** through which they gain additional networking, leadership and education experiences.

On behalf of our Chapter, we would like to welcome our newest members! We are excited about your decision to join our Chapter. Don't forget, your first dinner meeting as a new member is on us! To register, contact meetings@marylandaga.com and tell us that you are a new member! If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Co-Directors at membership@marylandaga.com, or our Early Career Co-Directors at earlycareers@marylandaga.com.

Awards and Recognition

Awards

AGA honors members for service both to the association and to the government financial management profession. We bestow awards based on peer nomination to those who have exemplified principles of leadership, transparency and financial stewardship.

Scholarships

AGA grants scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing finance careers in an effort to grow the government financial management community and support current and future practitioners from the beginning of their careers.

Nominations

AGA offers a variety of **leadership** positions at the chapter, regional and national levels. Learn more about our leadership structure and how you can get involved.

Recognition

AGA celebrates the commitment and determination shown by members reaching several **membership milestones**. Lifetime Membership is conferred to individuals who have remained paid members for at least 40 consecutive years. The commitment and determination shown by these individuals has made AGA the strong, vital organization it is today. As a token of their achievement, each of these individuals was presented with a Lifetime Member certificate. As Lifetime Members, these individuals no longer pay AGA membership or chapter dues.

Go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Awards-Recognition.aspx> to learn more about the individual programs.

AGA National Events and Updates

2016 CFO-CIO Summit (4 CPEs)



May 13, 2016
Washington Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC

Join the AGA and AFFIRM in Washington for this free* educational event and listen to an insightful dialogue on the intersection of policies and management issues that impact CFOs and CIOs and how they are working together to improve efficiency and transparency, reduce risk and strengthen their workforce.

*Complimentary for individuals who work for government. Private-sector participation is available via [sponsorship](#). Are you a small business?

Contact AGA for special sponsorship pricing.

CGFM Intensive Review Course (up to 18 CPEs)



March 2-3, 2016
Arlington, VA

Sign up for AGA's Intensive Review Course with CGFM Examinations *included* – it's a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The class will run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course is only \$375 for AGA Members and \$425 for Non-Members and offers up to 18 CPE hours.

2016 Professional Development Training (up to 24 CPEs)



July 17-20, 2016
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA (or attend virtually!)

AGA's annual PDT brings together the top officials in federal, state and local government, as well as from academia and the private section for three and a half days of valuable training and networking. The PDT provides up to 24 CPEs from leading speakers from the federal, state, local, academia and the private sector, and is a place to connect with others in the industry to exchange ideas and best practices.

Throughout the training, AGA will recognize individuals that have made outstanding contributions to AGA and to the government financial management profession it serves.

For more information, and to register, visit: <https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT-2016.aspx>

2016 Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training (up to 14 CPEs)



September 20-21, 2016
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C.

Each year, the Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training provides the 'latest and greatest' developments in the government finance profession. The agenda includes a range of timely and valuable information including: fraud detection, data analytics, improper payments and risks with government payment cards. For more information, visit: <http://www.agacgfm.org/Fraud-2016.aspx>

Early Careers Events



Early Careers Bowling Event

Please join us for an evening of bowling at Bowlmor Lanes, 15720 Shady Grove Rd., Gaithersburg, MD on January 14th from 6:00—8:00 PM.

Free, including the cost of shoes and lane fees. Please RSVP to earlycareers@marylandaga.com. Spots are limited and are on a first-come, first serve basis)



Wizards Game

Please save the date to join us for the Wizards vs. Hawks game on **Wednesday, March 23, 2016**. Check back soon for more details and registration information.

Technical Updates Corner

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB)



12/22/2015—FASAB Proposes Guidance for Establishing Opening Balances for General Property, Plant, and Equipment

In response to a Department of Defense (DoD) request for guidance on establishing opening balances for general property, plant, and equipment (PP&E), the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) is seeking input on a proposed Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS). The proposal would allow a reporting entity to apply alternative methods in establishing opening balances for general PP&E. “The Board is seeking less costly alternatives for DoD to establish opening balances. A cost-effective means to adopt GAAP may facilitate needed progress,” according to Chairman Allen. “We considered the costs and benefits and concluded that establishing a sound financial management system is of primary importance.”

The alternative methods include (1) use of deemed cost to establish opening balances of general PP&E, (2) selecting between deemed cost and prospective capitalization of internal use software, and (3) exclusion of land from opening balances with disclosure of acreage information. The alternative methods are available only when presenting information following generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) either (1) for the first-time or (2) after a period during which existing systems could not provide the information necessary for producing such GAAP- based financial statements without use of the alternative valuation method. The application of this Statement based on the second condition is available to each reporting entity only once per line item addressed in this Statement. The exposure draft requests comments by February 4, 2016. Respondents are encouraged to provide the reasons for their positions. The exposure draft in PDF format and the specific question raised in Word format are available at the FASAB website <http://fasab.gov/board-activities/documents-for-comment/exposure-drafts-anddocuments-for-comment/>.

01/19/2016—AAPC ISSUES STATEMENT OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING TECHNICAL RELEASE 16 Implementation Guidance for Internal Use Software

The Chairperson of the Accounting and Auditing Policy Committee (AAPC), Wendy Payne, announced today the issuance of Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Technical Release 16 (TR 16), Implementation Guidance for Internal Use Software. The guide was developed by the Internal Use Software working group with representatives from 10 agencies and two private firms. Ms. Payne said that “without the assistance of our volunteers this much needed guidance would not be available. The group’s work is a commendable example of cross agency collaboration.”

The implementation guidance in TR 16 assists reporting entities in implementing Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 10, Accounting for Internal Use Software. Since FASAB issued SFFAS 10 in 1998, software development practices have changed dramatically and reporting entities have experienced challenges applying the standards given the new terminology and techniques that have evolved.

The TR provides: a. Definitions and guidance regarding recognition, measurement, and disclosure requirements; b. New challenges brought by changes in IUS development practices since the issuance of SFFAS 10; and c. Management’s role in applying SFFAS 10.

The technical release is available at <http://www.fasab.gov/about/aapc/technicalreleases/>.

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