



Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. I would like to begin this January President's Message with a note of thanks to you for your support of the Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter this program year. We experienced quite a few surprises and curveballs along the way, but through the dedication of our board members and volunteers, our programs and events were successful and ran smoothly. I am truly pleased with the team that I have been blessed with this year. Because of their efforts and time, the first half of this program year was a success. Please thank our leadership team for their service and contributions in helping make sure chapter events are an enjoyable experience for all who participate.

We are pleased to announce Jason Marsico will be kicking off the new year as our January dinner meeting speaker. Mr. Marsico, U.S. Department of the Treasury, will present "Re-imagining the Citizen's Guide: Making Federal Finance Accessible to the Public." I look forward to seeing you on January 9th. Coming this month, watch for information regarding Membership and Young Professionals networking events.

Looking back at December, we had a well attended Winter workshop that was held at the Government Accountability Office in DC. We were joined by some of the top federal financial management professionals in Government and private industry who instructed on topics such as GAO's Fraud Risk Management Framework, FASAB Update, OMB Update, and Regulatory Ethics and Behavioral Ethics. Thank you to all who participated! We are excited to offer another workshop this year. Stay tuned for more details on how to register for our Spring workshop.

With each new year, some people set New Years Resolutions that they plan to accomplish during the year. While New Years Resolutions seem great, less than 10% of people actually accomplish what they set out to do. Given the start of the new year, I want to take this opportunity to share why I prefer to set SMART goals instead of resolutions. Have you heard of the SMART methodology? SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound. For example, one of my 2019 SMART Professional goals is to improve my skillset by taking two training courses for federal financial management; one by June 30, 2019, and the other by December 31, 2019. When I use this method, I find it helps me stay motivated and allows me to track my progress during the year because my goals are not vague. I encourage you to take some time today and think about the goals (spiritual, professional, financial, physical, social, etc.) that you want to accomplish this year. Once you've figured out at least one SMART goal that you are going to focus on this year, write it down! Greg S. Reid once said, "A dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by action makes your dreams come true." There is so much power in writing down your goals.

As you develop your 2019 SMART goals, please keep in mind that AGA has many ways to help you achieve your professional goals this year. Whether it is by attending a chapter dinner meeting, workshop, social outing or obtaining chapter loaned CGFM study guide materials, our events and programs can help you expand your technical knowledge and your network. If you would like more information about the benefits of joining AGA, please reach out to me at president@marylandaga.com. I am always happy to discuss ways you can get involved and how you can meet your professional goals with AGA.

Again, Happy New Year! Wishing you great success in achieving your dreams and goals!

Erica N. Williams
Chapter President

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Chapter News

Welcome to the January edition of the Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter newsletter for the 2018—2019 program year. If you are new to the Chapter or it's been a while since you've looked through the newsletter, check out the following sections:

- The Member Benefits section, which includes a listing of the discounts, sponsored events, scholarships, and free or discounted CPE that is available to you as AGA and MPGC Chapter members.
- Expansion of the Technical Updates Corner, which includes summaries of recent FASAB, FASB, GASB, GAO, and OMB Updates.
- The Chapter Calendar and the National Events sections include listings of both the current and next month's events to give you more advance notice of upcoming events.
- Board Meeting Minutes and Chapter Financial Statements will be added when available to make Chapter and Board activities more transparent.
- Expanded social media— please visit us on Facebook @[AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/AGAMontgomeryPrinceGeorgeCountyChapter).

Also, we welcome your feedback! If there are any features or content that you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact me at newsletter@marylandaga.com.

- Michelle Merritt, Newsletter Editor

Chapter Event Retrospective—Winter Workshop



The MPGC Winter Workshop was held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at the Government Accountability Office at 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC. Speakers included David Cotton of Cotton & Company LLP (upper right; Ross Simms, Monica Valentine, and Grace Wu of FASAB (upper left); and Heather Pajak and Nicole Waldeck of OMB (bottom left).



Upcoming Chapter Events

January 09 | **Free Webinar (2 CPEs)**

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Topic: “Grants Management”

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 6406 Ivy Lane, Suite 200, Greenbelt, MD 20070

Registration: Please contact Doris Parker at Doris.Parker@claconnect.com or (301)931-2050

January 09 | **January Dinner Meeting (1 CPE)**

Time: 6:00—8:00 PM

Presentation: Jason Marsico, U.S. Department of Treasury, “Reimagining the Citizen’s Guide: Making Federal Finance Accessible to the Public”

Location: Carolina Kitchen Bar & Grill, 6501 American Blvd., Hyattsville, MD 20782 **(please note this is a new location for this meeting)**

Registration: <https://marylandaga.123signup.com/event/registration/hkxflb>

February 06 | **Free Webinar (2 CPEs)**

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Topic: “GASB Update”

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 6406 Ivy Lane, Suite 200, Greenbelt, MD 20070

Registration: Please contact Doris Parker at Doris.Parker@claconnect.com or (301)931-2050

February 20 | **February Dinner Meeting (1 CPE)**

Time: 6:00—8:00 PM

Presentation: TBD

Location: Silver Spring Civic Building at Veteran’s Plaza—Colesville Room, 1 Veteran’s Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Registration: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/MontgomeryPrinceGeorges/Training-Events/Dinner-Meetings.aspx>

Upcoming Events—March

March 06 | **Free Webinar (2 CPEs)**

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Topic: “Finance”

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 6406 Ivy Lane, Suite 200, Greenbelt, MD 20070

Registration: Please contact Doris Parker at Doris.Parker@claconnect.com or (301)931-2050

March 13 | **March Dinner Meeting (1 CPE)**

Time: 6:00—8:00 PM

Presentation: TBD

Location: Silver Spring Civic Building at Veteran’s Plaza—Colesville Room, 1 Veteran’s Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Registration: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/MontgomeryPrinceGeorges/Training-Events/Dinner-Meetings.aspx>

March 27 | **Free Webinar (2 CPEs)**

Time: 2:00—3:50 PM

Topic: “Cybersecurity”

Location: CliftonLarsonAllen, 6406 Ivy Lane, Suite 200, Greenbelt, MD 20070

Registration: Please contact Doris Parker at Doris.Parker@claconnect.com or (301)931-2050

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	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	30	31	1	2

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	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	1	2



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.

The CGFM certification can help you to:

- Increase and showcase your knowledge
- Distinguish yourself
- Enhance your marketability
- Advance your career

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

Details on the program are available here: - <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/CGFM-Benefits.aspx>

Questions about CGFM? Contact: agacgfm@agacgfm.org

Not yet a CGFM or do you know someone who wants to earn their 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](https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/About-CGFM.aspx) at <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/About-CGFM.aspx> for more details.

If you are considering taking the CGFM exams in 2018, 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 April 1-2 \(see p. 7\)](#). The class will run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is as follows:

- \$350 for AGA members (reflects a \$25 celebration discount to mark the CGFM program's 25th Anniversary in 2019),
- \$400 for non-members (reflects the \$25 celebration discount)

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

Consider reaching out to colleagues who are not members but might be interested in certification.

Announcements:

The Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter would like to congratulate [Mr. Philip Nam](#), for earning his CGFM in August!

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](#), some of which are offered at no charge or at a discounted rate for members. Members join a local [chapter](#), through which they gain additional networking, leadership and education experiences.

Membership Benefits—Local Chapters:

- **FREE* AGA Webinars**—up to 2 CPEs for participation in each sponsored presentation.
- **Monthly Luncheons or Dinner Meetings**—earn 1 CPE for attending
- **Workshops** featuring relevant and timely topics such as Cybersecurity, FASAB Updates, Internal Control Requirements, and Ethics.
- **Networking Opportunities and Member gatherings** such as happy hours and sporting events.

Membership Benefits—AGA National:

- **Community**—Networking through 100 AGA Chapters, Member and Vendor Directories, Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities, Awards and Scholarships
- **Professional Development, Training, and Career Resources**—complimentary webinars, discounted online CPE courses, member rates for national training events, discounted CGFM renewal fees, group training courses, Online Job Bank.
- **Research and Publications**—subscription to the *Journal of Government Financial Management*, the *Topics* bi-weekly newsletter, and Research and Executive Reports.
- **Free Tools**, including tips to Prevent Fraud, Reduce Improper Payments, Improve Outcomes, Mitigate Risk, and Enhance Collaboration.
- **Participation in Good Government Initiatives**—Input to standards-setting bodies, intergovernmental partnerships, and the Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR) program.



Unlimited Online CPE Courses from Becker Professional Education

Becker Professional Education, one of our chapter's esteemed corporate sponsors, and our chapter have joined forces to offer you an incredible new member benefit - discounts on online Continuing Professional Education (CPE) courses.

Becker Professional Education offers a wide variety of CPE courses, including courses that qualify for your CGFM or CPA CPE requirements. The cost for an On Demand subscription is \$299 per year for unlimited CPE courses. **Use Promo Code AGACPE100 to receive 10% off your total.**

A catalog of the courses available through Becker Professional Education can be found at <http://www.becker.com/cpe/courses/course-catalog>.

To view of sample demonstration of the online courses that Becker Professional Education has to offer, please visit <http://www.becker.com/accounting/cpe/courses/preview-a-course.cfm>.

New Members

The MPGC Chapter would like to welcome the following new members:

Mr. Eric Conrad

Ms. Fatima Douglas

Mr. Bruce Ivory

Mrs. Katherine McGuinness

Mr. Qing Yan

Dual Chapter Members: Mr. Bruce Ivory (MPGC and Washington, DC Chapters)

Ms. Gillian Cadogan (Roanoke, VA and MPGC Chapters)

Ms. Corinda Davis (Washington, DC and MPGC Chapters)

Awards and Recognition

Award Season is underway! Nominate an individual or chapter for one of AGA's Awards of Distinction by March 31. Winners will be recognized at the 2019 PDT Conference in New Orleans, LA in July. For more information regarding awards, go to:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Awards-Recognition.aspx>

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.

Submit an Article to the AGA Journal

The *Journal* team seeks original content to add to and create conversation about important topics in government financial management. To submit, email journal@agacgfm.org.

Process: AGA's Journal Editorial Board chooses themes for issues that it believes the government financial management community will find compelling, relevant and timely. However, we solicit and accept high-quality, thoughtful articles on a wide range of government financial management topics and October publish articles that do not relate directly to the themes. The Journal will accept material that provides practical insights into any aspect of government financial management. Authors are encouraged to submit articles for review. The Journal Editorial Board is particularly interested in articles from practitioners.

Deadlines:

- **Summer 2019:** March 1—Thriving in a Risky Environment
- **Fall 2019:** June 1—A Winning Workforce
- **Winter 2019-2020:** September 1—To be determined
- **Spring 2020:** December 1—Emerging Financial Management Practices

To be eligible for consideration, submitted material must be:

- no more than 2,500 words;
- original work that has not been previously published; submitted to the editor at journal@agacgfm.org;
- using endnote rather than footnote format;
- accompanied by a 50-word (or fewer) abstract and concise author biographies;
- accompanied (when applicable) by no more than four charts or graphs, which should be submitted as raw data; and
- accompanied (when applicable) by concise sidebars.

AGA National Events and Updates

Financial Systems Summit (up to 6 CPEs)



January 10
Washington, DC or virtual attendance

Cost: Free for government employee AGA Members, \$100 for non-member government employees

The Financial Systems Summit (FSS) unites federal financial managers and private-sector executives to discuss the near-term and future prospects of federal financial management systems in a budget-constrained environment. The summit will provide new insights into the burgeoning federal financial systems modernization strategy over the coming decade — and beyond.

For more information, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/FSS/FSS-Home.aspx>

National Leadership Training (up to 14 CPEs)



February 27-28
Washington, DC or virtual attendance

Cost: Early Bird (by Feb. 1) - AGA Member: \$525 online, \$550 email/mail; Non-Member: \$700 online, \$725 email/mail

National Leadership Training (NLT) is the essential 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 new solutions to challenges, network with peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. This training offers up to 14 CPE hours.

For more information, go to <https://www.agacgfm.org/NLT/NLT-Home.aspx>

CGFM Intensive Review Course (up to 18 CPEs)



April 1—2
Arlington, VA

AGA's Intensive Review Course (IRC) with CGFM examinations *included* is a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

What is the IRC? It is a special, limited enrollment opportunity for individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM examinations and want extra reinforcement of the material. It is a review of the main topics covered on the CGFM examinations, led by a knowledgeable instructor.

The class will run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is as follows: \$350 for AGA members; \$400 for non-members. The CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees — a \$375 savings!

For more information, go to: <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM>

Professional Development Training (up to 24 CPEs)



July 21—24
New Orleans, LA or virtual attendance

Attend the AGA's premier training and networking event. This event features top-notch speakers from federal, state, and local governments; academia; and the private sectors who will share their findings and provide educational experiences to augment your knowledge and enhance your skills. Network and connect with industry experts and financial management colleagues and exchange ideas to bring back to your organization.

Cost: AGA member by June 21 (early-bird registration): \$875 online/\$900 email & mail

Non-Member by June 21 (early-bird): \$1,075 online/\$1,100 email & mail. For more information, go to www.agacgfm.org.

AGA Webinars—January/February—see details on p. 3

January 09—2:00-3:50 p.m.—*Grants Management*—2 CPEs

February 06—2:00-3:50 p.m.—*GASB Update*—2 CPEs

Technical Updates Corner—FASAB and GASB

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB)

October 15, 2018—FASAB Issues an Exposure Draft on *Materiality*

The Board is proposing concepts regarding the application of materiality in the federal financial reporting environment. This concepts statement would (1) provide materiality concepts, (2) specify the scope of materiality, and (3) list factors to consider when applying materiality.

Respondents are encouraged to respond to the specific questions contained in the exposure draft and provide the reasons for their positions. **Comments to the exposure draft are due by January 23, 2019.** The exposure draft in PDF format and the specific questions raised in Word format are available at the FASAB website (<http://www.fasab.gov/documents-for-comment/>).

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

September 24, 2018—OMB Announces Cloud Smart Proposal

OMB has released its first cloud policy update in seven years, offering a path forward for agencies to migrate to a safe and secure cloud network. This new strategy is intended to support agencies in order to achieve additional savings, security, and will deliver faster services. Cloud Smart applies best practices from both the federal government and the private sector, ensuring agencies have capability to leverage leading solutions to better serve agency mission, drive improved citizen services and increase cyber security.

The 2018 Federal Cloud Computing Strategy is available online at <https://cloud.cio.gov>.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)

November 27, 2018—GASB Proposes New Implementation Guidance to Assist Stakeholders with Application of its Pronouncements

The [Exposure Draft, Implementation Guidance Update—2019](#), proposes new questions and answers to address application of the Board's standards on cash flows reporting, postemployment benefits, derivative instruments, irrevocable split-interest agreements, tax abatement disclosures, and other topics. The Exposure Draft also proposes amendments to previously issued implementation guidance.

The Exposure Draft is available on the GASB website, www.gasb.org. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposal and provide comments by **January 31, 2019**.

December 18, 2018—FAF Trustees Reappoint GASAC Chair, Announce New Members and Reappointments

The Board of Trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) announced the reappointment of Robert W. Scott as chair of the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC). The FAF Trustees also appointed 11 new members and reappointed 7 members to the GASAC.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC) advises the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) on strategic and technical issues, project priorities, and other matters that affect standards setting. The GASAC provides the GASB with diverse perspectives from individuals with varied governmental and professional backgrounds. The new GASAC members will serve two-year terms beginning 1/1/2019 and are eligible to be reappointed for up to two additional consecutive terms.

MPGC Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

- The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. on 11/14/18 by President Erica Williams.
- Erica welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the call over to Mat Wenzel, Secretary, to perform the roll call.
- Erica opened with an update on the planned budget and asked membership and young professionals about ways to cut their budget. Christine informed Erica of the reserves and that we might not need to cut any budget.
- Erica informed the board of the joint dinner meeting with the NOVA chapter coming up and also mentioned that the Tuesday after Thanksgiving has a planned event scheduled for Manna Foods.
- Erica asked the board for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2018 board meeting. Freda Jackson moved to approve the minutes and Wilson Kayo seconded. No one opposed the minutes.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET/WORK PLANS:

Treasurer – No updates to report

Accountability – No updates to report

Awards – Lauren informed the board that the contract for the awards dinner on May 8, 2019 was signed for Gordon Biersch and the National President will speak.

- Anu and Lauren informed the board that they are looking at ways to cut down on costs and were looking into other options for awards.

Certifications – Wilson reminded board members about the program for those interested in passing the CGFM and informed the board that only 2 members had reached out thus far.

Community Service – Edith reminded everyone about the event on November 27th and that shirts were approximately \$200 for the event.

- Edith also asked the board if they knew of additional people looking to volunteer, specifically, high school students looking for community service hours.

Early Careers – No updates to report

Historian – Jeff informed the board that he will provide photos to Michelle for the last month's event and that photos for the 50th anniversary were on the shared drive.

- Jeff asked for a volunteer to help with photos at the winter workshop.

Meetings – No updates to report

Membership – No updates to report

Newsletter – October issue was published; November issue is in process.

Programs – No updates to report

Recognition – No updates to report

Social Media – No updates to report

Sponsorship – Freda informed the board that all sponsorships had been received and that the committee will meet in a couple weeks to go over lessons learned on the sponsorship process, such as the timeline and options for PayPal.

- Freda suggested sending out interest letters in January so other corporate sponsors could look to include in their budget.
- Freda informed the board that planning for the crab feast will begin in February.

Special Projects – Dawn mentioned that she is looking into the status of the bylaws project.

Webmaster – No updates to report

Regional Vice President – No updates to report

CLOSING COMMENTS

Erica closed the meeting at 12:30 pm.

Chapter Leadership

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Our Chapter wishes to thank our corporate sponsors:

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For information about becoming a sponsor, please contact Freda Jackson, Mat Wenzel, or Devante Phillip at:

sponsorship@marylandaga.com.

Sponsors