

# Newsletter

VOLUME 2020, NUMBER 6

July 2020

## President's Message

By: Priscilla Suggs

Hello Austin AGA,

I hope this email finds you in a spirit of hope and gratitude. This is my final President's Message as I transition into the role of past president for the Austin Chapter of AGA. I'm excited to support the future team!

It has been about 125 days since the slow closure of restaurants, events and stores and life as we knew it. The dependencies of world communities have been shut down by coronavirus and access to healthcare, food and shelter are exposing just how fragile life is in 2020. Education and work has become heavily reliant on remote access and technologies. Income and location divides people and affects the risk of exposure that American workers face daily.

While the transition to working from home full time may have been bumpy, the Austin AGA experienced some milestones!

- The National AGA organization announced that our chapter has been awarded the PDT 2020 Chapter Communications Award for Group C!
- We hosted our first online presentation with APD Detective Tyler Link in April and closed out the program year in May coordinating with the Dallas Chapter of AGA on their Professional Development Training (PDT) with a session on Failure by Clint Tuttle.
- We're hosting our board meetings using virtual platforms to conduct business and catch up with one another!

While times are uncertain, I wish you safety and wellness as we journey through the seasons in 2020. Find joy in small treasures – coffee, a walk, golf (socially distant, lol), a zoom game night with friends or a good meal with those you love. It has been my pleasure supporting the Austin AGA in my role as President this program year.

All the best,

Your President,

*Priscilla Suggs*



### In this issue:

- Final President's Message from Priscilla Suggs
- AGA Austin Chapter 2020 Awards
- Member Spotlight: Elba Morales
- AGA Social Distancing

### NOTABLE and quotable



“AGA gives back based on how much you invest in it. If all you are doing is collecting your CPE certificates that is all it will be. But if you get involved, get on some committees, meet new people, etc., it will be a great way to enhance your career.”

Eric W. Rasmussen, CPA, CMA  
Partner, KPMG LLP, Montgomery/PG, and DC chapters  
member, RVP, and CPAG Auditing and Accounting  
Committee chair

# Membership News

By: Aria Negahban



The Chapter reported 132 active members as of June, and would also like to acknowledge the following individual who is celebrating his AGA membership milestone:

## 40 Years:

- Dr. Michael H. Granof, PhD

We would also like to welcome our newest member who joined in May:

- Dr. Deborah Pendarvis

All of us here at the Austin Chapter extend a warm welcome, and look forward to meeting you at the next event!

Sign up to be a member at  
[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

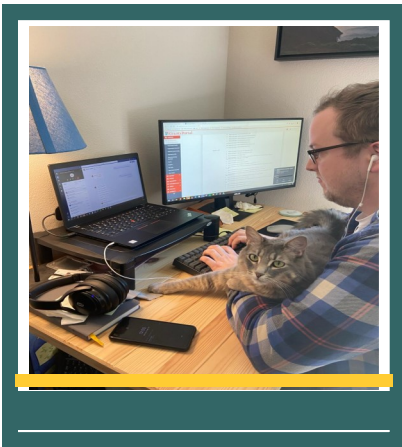
Government - \$100/year

Private Sector - \$160/year

Young Professional - \$45/ year

Student – FREE Electronic Membership!

Retired—\$35/year



## Send us your Social Distancing Pictures!!



Many of you are doing your part and social distancing.

AGA Austin misses you and wants to see your pics!! Send them to [austinaga1@gmail.com](mailto:austinaga1@gmail.com). Keep a lookout for them on our linked in page!



# Award and Recognitions

By: Bhakti Patel

## The AGA Austin Chapter is winning awards!!



The AGA Austin Chapter has been awarded (count them) **FOUR** national awards for the 2020 chapter year. Thanks to the amazing leadership of our 2020 Chapter President, Priscilla Suggs, the entire Chapter Executive Committee and the support and hard work of all of our members, we were able to

come out in the lead for the following awards:

- **2020 Chapter Education Award** ★
- **2020 Chapter Communications Award** ★
- **2020 Chapter Bronze Designation** ★
- **2020 Membership Award** ★

The Chapter Education Award formally recognizes AGA Chapters that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to providing educational programs to their members and other accountability professionals. This is the first year the Austin Chapter has received this award. Check out our letter from the AGA National President on the next page! Special thanks for our Education Chair, Patti Roano for all her hard work!

The Chapter Communications Award recognizes AGA chapters that create exceptional newsletters, websites and social media content. The goal of the award is to recognize outstanding chapter communication of chapter events, offerings and news as well as AGA programs, services and events with their members. The Austin Chapter has secured this award for the second year in a row! Shout out to Aria Negahban, Membership Committee Chair, and Elba Morales, Secretary for keeping up our social media accounts; Eddie Chan, webmaster for our amazing Chapter website; and Bhakti Patel, Communications Chair, for these fabulous newsletters!

The Chapter Bronze Designation is a result of the AGA's Chapter Recognition Program, the objective of which is to support, encourage and promote AGA's mission, and to provide flexible guidelines for

a well-rounded chapter. Each chapter receives points for certain goals such as leadership, education and professional development, communication and membership. The Austin Chapter's 2020 goal was 12,000 points and we closed out the year with 14,602 points, securing our third consecutive bronze designation! Special thanks to Priscilla Suggs, Chapter President, for her leadership this year.

The Austin Chapter received the Chapter Membership Award for having the highest overall growth in Group C. Group C consists of all chapters with a membership count of 100 to 149 members. The Austin Chapter increased its membership by 12% in 2020, nabbing us the top spot in this category! Thanks to Aria Negahban, Membership Chair, for providing the leadership to group our Chapter.

These awards would not have been possible without the support of the entire membership and the Chapter supporters. On the behalf of the Chapter Executive Committee, we want to thank all of the members for helping us achieve this goal!

## Congratulations to Aria Negahban, Project Management Professional! ★

The AGA Austin Chapter CEC would like to congratulate Aria Negahban, Chapter Membership Chair, in passing the Project Management Professional exam last month. CIO magazine ranked the PMP as the top project management certification because it proves you have the specific skills and



experience employers seek. The exam is broken into five sections: project initiation, planning, execution, monitoring and closing. Currently, the exam includes 200 multiple choice questions that cover a wide range of subjects, including code of ethics issues and conflict resolution. Join us in congratulating Aria for this amazing accomplishment!

# Award and Recognitions

(...continued)



June 3, 2020

Ms. Priscilla Suggs  
Audit Manager  
HHS Comm-Texas OIG- Audit  
701 West 51st Street  
Austin, TX 78751



Dear Pricilla:

Each year, AGA recognizes financial management professionals and chapters whose visionary leadership, outstanding accomplishments and exceptional service have significantly advanced our profession, strengthened our Association and improved our communities. This year, on behalf of the AGA National Awards Committee, I am pleased to inform you that the Austin Chapter has been selected as a recipient of the **2020 Chapter Education Award**.

Congratulations on receiving this special honor which formally recognizes AGA chapters that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to providing educational programs to their members and other accountability professionals.

We wish we could celebrate your achievement with you in person. Instead, we will celebrate all National award winners during this year's virtual PDT, and your award will be shipped to you directly.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence and to *a proactive approach to the future of our profession* – my theme for the 2019--2020 year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernest Almonte".

Ernest Almonte, CGFM, CPA, CFE  
National President, 2019-2020

cc: Ann M. Ebberts, MS, PMP, Chief Executive Officer, AGA  
Kelly Stefanko, CGFM, CPA, Chair, AGA National Awards Committee

# Past and Upcoming Events

By: Bhakti Patel

Normal changed for the world overnight and the Austin AGA Chapter, like the rest of the world, had to adapt quickly. The Chapter Executive Committee met and discussed how they could continue to bring educational events to its members and supporters in light of social distancing mandates throughout the City. The CEC acted quickly and were able to convert the scheduled monthly luncheon into webcasts without skipping a beat.

We welcomed Detective Tyler Link at our first ever webcast in April. Detective Link discussed current financial crime trends and how employees and members from the community can all work together to combat fraud. He kept an audience of 70 people engaged by discussing real life case studies and examples that have plagued the Austin community. Detective Tyler Link has served with the Austin Police Department for approximately 8 years. He is currently a Detective assigned to the White Collar Crime Unit. He was previously worked in various roles such as west and northeast Austin patrol, as well as the downtown entertainment district. Detective Link also currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Austin Police Retirement System.



May's webcast featured Clint Tuttle virtually presenting his topic: Failure is not an Option to an audience of 72 people, an all time record for a Chapter CPE event! Mr. Tuttle grew up in a used-to-be small town in the piney woods of

East Texas and went to UT McCombs for undergrad. After 9 years with Accenture, he did part-time marketing consulting while teaching part-time at UT as an Adjunct. After 1 semester, he fell in love with teaching and has been doing it full-time for 9 years where he loves teaching about technology, agile, and having a growth mindset. Mr. Tuttle is married and lives in Austin and enjoys hiking, making silly parodies about tech on YouTube, and talking about failure.

## Upcoming trainings, meetings & events:

- August 6, 2020** FY 2019 Certificate of Excellence and Accountability Awards Ceremony | Livestream 0 CPE ([www.agacqfm.com](http://www.agacqfm.com))
- September 2, 2020** Personnel/Human Resources | Webinar 1 CPE \*FREE for AGA Members! ([www.agacqfm.com](http://www.agacqfm.com))
- September 9, 2020** Communications | Webinar 2 CPEs ([www.agacqfm.com](http://www.agacqfm.com))
- September 23-24, 2020** Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training | Virtual 14 CPEs ([www.agacqfm.com](http://www.agacqfm.com))
- October 7, 2020** Internal Control/ Improper Payments | Webinar 2 CPEs ([www.agacqfm.com](http://www.agacqfm.com))
- November 4, 2020** Ethics | Webinar 2 CPEs ([www.agacqfm.com](http://www.agacqfm.com))
- November 18, 2020** Technology & Transformation Summit | Virtual 8 CPEs \*Free for AGA Members ([www.agacqfm.com](http://www.agacqfm.com))

*Do you know a dynamic speaker? Nominate them to speak at a monthly luncheon. Email [priscilla.suggs@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:priscilla.suggs@hhsc.state.tx.us)*

# Community Service

By: Bhakti Patel

Information obtained from <https://www.givepulse.com>



**Please check with the organization prior to attending for any cancellations.**

## Online Back to School Party



Friday, August 21st, 2020 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm (CT)



For most families, going back to school is an exciting (and often stressful) event. Who will my teacher be? Will my friends be in my class? Will I make the team? What will I wear on the first day? Do I have all my supplies?

The start of the 2020 school year is already going to be different. It will almost certainly come with a new level of anxiety, uncertainty, fear, and grief for children and parents alike.

This online fundraising event will provide practical ideas and encouragement in a FUN setting to help families navigate the uncertainty of the school year while asking for corporate and individual support for children and families who need a deeper level of mental health care.

Location: <https://give.austinchildguidance.org/event/>

## First Saturday Plant Walk



Saturday, September 5th, 2020 from 9:00am to 11:00am (CT)



Every First Saturday from 9am to 11am we walk among the plants and point out what is growing, what can be harvested, how to use the medicinal herbs and invite you to be part of the Food Forest family. It's a

perfect time for people who have never visited to come and check it out, or for people who have come many times to take home a bag of medicinal herbs and plants to make tea with or add to their meals at home.

First Saturdays are a perfect time to connect with the earth, find relief and relaxation from the mechanical world and be taken in by the diverse kaleidoscope of our natural and social systems. We want you to find yourselves inside of something larger, feel the mind-blowing delight from discovering something new about the systems of our earth, and be humbled by the grace and interconnection of it all. An earthen mandala will be generated from your unique expression as it joins with the whole.

We invite you to bring a dish or drinks to share (and it's not necessary, whatever shows up is what shows up!). You'll also want to bring a hat, sunscreen, a bottle and plenty of water.

See you at the next First Saturday Plant Walk!

Location: 25-1/2 Waller Street, Austin, TX 78702



**Are you involved in a charitable organization? Have you had an amazing volunteer experience? Tell us about it!! Email us at [communications@agaustin.org](mailto:communications@agaustin.org)**

# Member Spotlight

By: Bhakti Patel

## Meet your Austin Chapter Secretary: Elba Morales



Elba joined KPMG's Austin Office as an associate with the State and Local Government Finance Transformation team this past April. Prior to joining the KPMG team, she spent two years as a consultant with CohnReznick LLP largely supporting government clients' implementation and execution of FEMA's Federal Grant Programs, including Hazard Mitigation (HM) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM). In 2018, Elba received a Master of Public Service and Administration from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. Her experience at the Bush School founded her passion for Government Financial Accountability and Management and it is what inspired her to join the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Austin, Texas



Chapter. She has spent two years as the Secretary of the Board.

Elba loves to spend time with her two dogs, Cleo and Blue and her two year old Tabby cat, Chisme. She likes to watch movies, read books and spend her time catching up with her friends, and family in Nicaragua. Elba loves to meet and connect with people from all over the world. She likes to learn about their cultures and share hers as well! While in quarantine she has picked up new hobbies: cycling, reading and yoga. At times she attempts to do DIY crafting projects, but often finds herself distracted!



# Treasurer's Report

By: David Vasquez

As of March 31, 2020

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>	<b>3/1/2020</b>	<b>\$2,981.72</b>
<i>Funds Received:</i>		
3/4/2020 ACH - ERS - February Luncheon		\$184.00
3/14/2020 ACH - March 12, 2020 Luncheon Payments		\$503.62
3/19/2020 ACH - April Luncheon - Will issue refund		\$32.71
3/1/2020 Dividend through 3/1/2020		\$0.25
<b>Total Funds Received</b>		<b>\$720.58</b>
<b>Funds Available</b>		<b>\$3,702.30</b>
<i>Funds Expended:</i>		
Date	Check No./Credit Card.	
3/13/2020	Bank Card March Luncheon	\$716.04
<b>Total Funds Expended</b>		<b>\$716.04</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>3/31/2020</b>	<b>\$2,986.26</b>
<b>Check Register Reconciliation:</b>		
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>3/31/2020</b>	<b>\$2,986.26</b>
<i>Outstanding Checks:</i>		
Date	Check No.	Description
<b>Total Outstanding Checks</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>Outstanding Deposits:</i>		
Date	Description	
<b>Total Outstanding Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Adjusted Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>3/31/2020</b>	<b>\$2,986.26</b>
<b>Total Chapter Funds Available Per Check Register</b>	<b>3/31/2020</b>	<b>\$2,986.26</b>
<i>Cash On Hand:</i>		
	CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
	Luncheon Bank	\$40.00



# Treasurer's Report

By: David Vasquez

As of April 30, 2020

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>	<b>4/1/2020</b>	<b>\$2,986.26</b>
<i>Funds Received:</i>		
4/23/2020 ACH AGA		\$309.58
4/1/2020 Dividend through	4/1/2020	\$0.26
<b>Total Funds Received</b>		<b>\$309.84</b>
<b>Funds Available</b>		<b>\$3,296.10</b>
<i>Funds Expended:</i>		
Date	Check No./Credit Card.	
<b>Total Funds Expended</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>4/30/2020</b>	<b>\$3,296.10</b>
<b>Check Register Reconciliation:</b>		
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>4/30/2020</b>	<b>\$3,296.10</b>
<i>Outstanding Checks:</i>		
Date	Check No.	Description
<b>Total Outstanding Checks</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>Outstanding Deposits:</i>		
	Date	Description
<b>Total Outstanding Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Adjusted Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>4/30/2020</b>	<b>\$3,296.10</b>
<b>Total Chapter Funds Available Per Check Register</b>	<b>4/30/2020</b>	<b>\$3,296.10</b>
<i>Cash On Hand:</i>		
	CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
	Luncheon Bank	\$40.00

# Treasurer's Report

By: David Vasquez

As of May 31, 2020

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>	<b>5/1/2020</b>	<b>\$3,296.10</b>
<i>Funds Received:</i>		
5/14/2020 ACH - Two Donations - Fees		\$33.38
5/15/2020 ACH - One Donations - Fees		\$14.26
5/1/2020 Dividend through 5/1/2020		\$0.26
<b>Total Funds Received</b>		<b>\$47.90</b>
<b>Funds Available</b>		<b>\$3,344.00</b>
<i>Funds Expended:</i>		
Date	Check No./Credit Card.	
<b>Total Funds Expended</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>5/31/2020</b>	<b>\$3,344.00</b>
<b>Check Register Reconciliation:</b>		
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>5/31/2020</b>	<b>\$3,344.00</b>
<i>Outstanding Checks:</i>		
Date	Check No.	Description
<b>Total Outstanding Checks</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>Outstanding Deposits:</i>		
Date	Description	
<b>Total Outstanding Deposits</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Adjusted Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>5/31/2020</b>	<b>\$3,344.00</b>
<b>Total Chapter Funds Available Per Check Register</b>	<b>5/31/2020</b>	<b>\$3,344.00</b>
<i>Cash On Hand:</i>		
	CU Min Savings Balance	\$5.00
	Luncheon Bank	\$40.00

# Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

By: Elba Morales

**March 19, 2020 | 12:00 pm**

**Priscilla Suggs called the meeting to order. CEC Members present:** Aria Negahban, Elba Morales, Priscilla Suggs, LaTosha Goard, Bhakti Patel, Kieran Coe, Richard Kukucka, and Sharita Jefferson

**Approve Agenda** – The agenda was approved as presented.

## **Monthly Luncheons**

Debrief of February Luncheon

Plans for next month – March

Speaker Update (Detective Tyler Link willing to engage in Web Ex if it works)

Web Ex Pilot (Aria and Elba) - all have voted YES

Aria is trying to set up zoom and see if that works

## **Recruitment**

Luncheon attendance – adding new emails to distribution lists

Patti email all prior luncheon sign-in sheets to Aria to update distribution list

talked about going digital for sign in sheets

Chapter Membership Recruitment

**Status of monthly newsletter** – March Newsletter- Bhakti asked some questions about pictures, almost ready

Send in pics of the work from home, funny pictures

It's been moved; once that is confirmed, let's update the posts and LinkedIn

## **SLM/Lead! 2020 – April 2020**

Rescheduled to July 18, 2020

## **Annual budget**

Sponsorship letter – on/hold; Priscilla will resume in May depending on corona social distancing updates

## **Sponsorship Status**

CohnReznick, Deloitte, Grant Thornton, CLA

## **Networking Event Update**

IIA – Aria sent notice on date change to June 18, 2020

Flyer – Aria new flyer with registration details

## **University Initiative – on hold**

UT student cancelled for March luncheon

## **Social Media**

Board please continue sharing posts!! -- we all will be sharing WFH posts

Newsletter and the next luncheon info Web Ex works.

# Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

(...continued)

## Committee Reports

Past President (Kieran)

Treasurer (Dave)

Secretary (Elba)

Communications Committee (Bhakti)

Membership (Aria)

Professional Certifications Committee (Patti)

Education/ Programs Committee (Vacant)

Community Service Committee (Vacant)

Webmaster (Eddie)

Research (Debi)

Historian (Sharita)

Early Careers (LaTosha)

Bylaws - VACANT

**Adjournment** –The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

The next meeting is to be on April 16, 2020 via conference line at 12 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elba Morales*

Elba Morales

AGA Austin Secretary

# Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

(...continued)

April 19, 2020 | 12:00 pm

**Priscilla Suggs called the meeting to order. CEC Members present:** Aria Negahban, Elba Morales, Priscilla Suggs, Eddie Chan, LaTosha Goard, Bhakti Patel, Richard Kukucka, and Sharita Jefferson

**Approve Agenda** – The agenda was approved as presented.

## Monthly Luncheons

Debrief of April Webex - what a success! 80 people registered

Plans for next month – May-

- suggested donation to help cover costs

- Voting initiated by Priscilla, and Eddie second it

- Microsoft teams can do polls

  - Aria and Eddie seconded; we will do a trial run to make sure it works

  - Aria will confirm with the May speaker

Announcement: Elba will do a draft: Clint Tuttle Ted talk

- Eddie can include some of the language in the website

Discussed access to the G-MAIL account

- Discussed security concerns and keeping the webmail as it is the domain for the website

- Elba will get a list about undeliverable emails

## Recruitment

Luncheon attendance – adding emails to distribution lists in Gmail/ Eddie will look into it

## Status of monthly newsletter

May Newsletter - Bhakti sent a meeting invite

## Conferences

Lead 2020! Rescheduled, details Aria/Elba

PDT might be virtual if in shelter in place by July

## Elections

Let's start thinking about what options there are and if anyone is thinking of stepping down

## Networking Event Update

IIA, ISACA, and NABA – confirmations of participation?

Cover 3 Menu options selected – which options won?

Charity Drive – iron out details (food drive, bring a can free drink?)

Flyer – who is creative, Aria please delegate to someone to create. (share old flyers)

- Richard is working on it and will work with Aria

- Look for options for fundraising

## University Initiative – on hold

UT student signed up for March fraud luncheon

## Social Media

Aria great job on LinkedIn posts!

Board please continue sharing posts!!

# Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

(...continued)

## Committee Reports

Past President (Kieran)  
Treasurer (Dave)  
Secretary (Elba)  
Communications Committee (Bhakti)  
Membership (Aria)  
Professional Certifications Committee (Patti)  
Education/ Programs Committee (Vacant)  
Community Service Committee (Vacant)  
Webmaster (Eddie)  
Research (Debi)  
Historian (Sharita)  
Early Careers (LaTosha)  
Bylaws - VACANT

**Adjournment** –The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

The next meeting is to be on May 21, 2020 via conference line at 12 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elba Morales*

Elba Morales  
AGA Austin Secretary

# Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

(...continued)

May 21, 2020 | 12:00 pm

**Priscilla Suggs called the meeting to order. CEC Members present:** Aria Negahban, Elba Morales, Priscilla Suggs, Eddie Chan, Bhakti Patel, Richard Kukucka, and Kieran Coe, and Sharita Jefferson

## Officers and Positions Officer Line-Up 2020-2021

Strategic meeting usually occurs in June

sit down and go thru the bylaws

Go through the budget

Virtual meeting Option

Elections and Voting (Vote on Call or Host a Separate Vote)

Double check with the board members that are not on a call

check with Lorna to see if she is interested in the Community Chair

An email will be sent out in order to confirm the new officers

Luncheon to inauguration potentially in the September meeting

	2019-2020	2020-2021
President	Priscilla Suggs	Aria Negahban
Past President	Kieran Coe	Priscilla Suggs
President - Elect	Vacant	
Treasurer	David Vasquez	David Vasquez
Secretary	Elba Morales	Elba Morales
Education Committee Chair	Patti Roano	Patti Roano
Membership Committee Chair	Aria Negahban	Richard Kukucka
Communications Chair	Bhakti Patel	Bhakti Patel
Webmaster	Eddie Chan	Eddie Chan
Research Committee Chair	Debi Weyer	Debi Weyer
Early Careers Committee Chair	Latosha Goard	Latosha Goard
Chapter Historian	Sharita Jefferson	Sharita Jefferson
Professional Certifications Chair	n/a	Kieran Coe

## Monthly Luncheons

Debrief of May Go To Meeting

Reach out to potential speakers this in June, July for next program year

Priscilla has an email template to utilize to ask speakers

Recruitment

Luncheon attendance

Status Update on Communications – Gmail (working/not working)

## Status of monthly newsletter

May Newsletter – is this still happening?

include the cancellation of the networking event

Bhakti will get this out

## Networking Event Update

# Chapter Executive Committee Minutes

(...continued)

Tentative Date June 18, however we need to vote as a board on whether or not to plan for it.  
we are looking to cancel  
explore a fall event based on evolving COVID 19  
Cover 3 Menu options have been selected  
Charity Drive – iron out details (food drive, bring a can free drink?)  
Flyer – who is creative, Aria please delegate to someone to create. (share old flyers)

## University Initiative – on hold

### Social Media

Aria, great job on LinkedIn posts!  
Board please continue sharing posts!

### Chapter Recognition Points

Are due in June  
Bhakti will remind us of the due date and other calendar reminders!

### Committee Reports

Past President (Kieran)  
Treasurer (Dave)  
Secretary (Elba)  
Communications Committee (Bhakti)  
Membership (Aria)  
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Community Service Committee (Vacant)  
Webmaster (Eddie)  
Research (Debi)  
Historian (Sharita)  
Early Careers (LaTosha)  
Bylaws - VACANT

**Adjournment** –The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elba Morales*

Elba Morales  
AGA Austin Secretary



# Industry News

Submitted by: Debi Weyer

## Budget in the Language of Accounting

Governments that issue financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) are required to present budgetary comparisons for their general funds and for any major special revenue funds for which there are legally enacted budgets, either as part of either basic financial statements or required supplementary information. However, the presentation of these mandatory budgetary comparisons is permitted to be at the same high level of aggregation as the governmental funds statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, which means that they generally do not provide enough detail to demonstrate that a government has fully complied with its legally adopted budget.

Therefore, those governments that issue a comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) are required to include, as supplementary information, budgetary comparison statements that present actual expenditures for the year on the government's budgetary basis, compared to its final amended budget, and detailed down to the legal level of budgetary control for (1) the general fund and any major special revenue funds for which the mandatory budgetary comparisons are not presented at the legal level of budgetary control, plus (2) all other governmental funds with appropriated budgets. These supplementary budgetary comparisons are, not infrequently, a source of reporting deficiencies seen in CAFRs that are submitted to GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award program, especially with regard to

properly identifying the legal level of budgetary control.

Unlike the mandatory comparisons, supplementary budgetary comparisons are not required to present the original adopted budget, nor to reconcile actual results to GAAP.<sup>3</sup> However, supplementary budgetary comparisons must be presented in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance at the legal level of budgetary control, whereas presentation by function or program is sufficient for the mandatory budgetary comparison.

### **ACTUAL RESULTS PRESENTED ON THE BUDGETARY BASIS**

Again, the key purpose of the supplementary budgetary comparison reporting is to demonstrate compliance with legally adopted budgets, for which actual expenditures need to be measured and presented in the same manner as the budget is presented. Differences arise when the basis of budgeting (budgetary basis) differs from the basis of accounting prescribed by GAAP.

For governmental funds, GAAP require reporting using the modified accrual basis of accounting. If a government instead budgets for its general fund on a cash basis, the differences in the timing of recognition of transactions between the two are referred to as basis differences. Continuing this example, the actual results that were reported in the fund financial statements using the modified accrual basis would need to be restated so disbursements that were accrued as expendi-

# Industry News

(...continued)

tures in the prior period are added back to the current period, when they would be properly recognized on a cash basis. Likewise, those expenditures for which disbursements were not made as of year-end, but which were accrued in the current period (because they were expected to be paid soon enough after the end of the year to be deemed uses of currently available resources) would need to be subtracted out, as they will be recognized as cash disbursements in the following period.

The three other types of differences between modified accrual and budgets that must also be addressed when presenting actual results on a budgetary basis are entity differences, perspective differences, and timing differences.

**Entity Differences.** These differences arise because (1) the appropriated budget includes organizations, programs, activities, or functions that are not within the financial reporting entity as defined by GAAP, or (2) the appropriated budget excludes organizations, programs, activities, or functions that are part of the financial reporting entity.

**Perspective Differences.** These differences arise because the fund structure used for budgeting differs from the fund structure used for GAAP financial reporting.

**Timing Differences.** These are differences between the basis of budgeting and GAAP that occur when the period used for budgeting differs from the period used for GAAP reporting (a special revenue fund that uses a grant-year budget rather than a fiscal-year budget).

## FINAL AMENDED BUDGET

The final amended budget is the original adopted budget adjusted by all reserves, transfers, allocations, supplemental appropriations, and other legally authorized legislative and executive changes applicable to the fiscal year, whenever signed into law or otherwise legally authorized. This includes amendments that are made to the close of the fiscal year.

## LEGAL LEVEL OF BUDGETARY CONTROL

The legal level of budgetary control is the lowest level at which a government's management may not reallocate resources without special approval of the governing body, and these limits most often are described in terms of the levels shown in Exhibit 1.

### Exhibit 1: Legal Levels of Budgetary Control

<u>Legal Level of Budgetary Control</u>	<u>Example</u>
Fund	General Fund
Function	Public Safety
Department	Fire
Activity	Prevention
Object	Personal Services
	— Salaries and Wages
Sub-object	Regular Employees

For example, it may be permissible for managers to reassign resources among the activities within the fire department without going back to the legislative body for permission, provided that the fire department's appropriation is not overspent in total. In that case, the legal level of budgetary control would be described as the departmental level.

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Alternatively, if management is only permitted to reassign fire department resources within certain limits that are applied at a lower (activity) level, it would be the lower level that would constitute the legal level of control. For example, assume that in addition to requiring legislative permission to overspend the fire department's appropriation in total, management would also need legislative approval to increase or decrease any of the department's activities' budgets (e.g., fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical services) by 5 percent or more of that activity's budget. In that case, the legal level of budgetary control would be described as the activity level, even though management has some flexibility at that level.

As a practical matter, if a government's legal level of budgetary control is very low (object or sub-object), supplementary budgetary comparisons may simply be too voluminous to include in a CAFR. In such exceptional cases, the government may instead both (1) issue a separate budgetary report that demonstrates compliance at the legal level of budgetary control, and (2) reference that report in the notes to the financial statements. Even then, supplementary budgetary comparisons would still have to be presented within the CAFR, but only at the level of detail used for the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances. Of course, those governmental funds included in mandatory budgetary comparisons would have already been presented at that level.

By: Michele Mark Levine

*Have you or a colleague published an article and would like it published in the next newsletter? Email it to [austinaga1@gmail.com](mailto:austinaga1@gmail.com)*



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# Other News

## Meet your 2020 - 2021 Chapter Executive Committee

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***Interested in joining the Chapter  
Executive Committee? Email us at:***

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# AGA Austin Chapter

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SEE YOU NEXT CHAPTER YEAR!

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The Chapter Executive Committee would like to thank all of the AGA Austin Chapter members and supporters for a great chapter year. From social distancing and the 'new normal' to winning four national awards, we had a terrific, yet *crazy* year.

Whether it be virtual or in-person, we look forward to seeing everyone in September. Have a great summer AGA Austin Chapter! Enjoy our beautiful city and be safe.

#### Follow us



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