

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Philadelphia Chapter



**DECEMBER 2024**

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## **Thriving Together: Your Vibrant Gateway to Government Financial Management Excellence with AGA Philadelphia!**

Welcome esteemed AGA members! As leaders in shaping financial strategies and upholding fiscal integrity in government agencies, you are the cornerstone of AGA Philadelphia. Thank you for being essential to our community, where excellence in government financial management begins and thrives!



## **[Donate to Toys for Tots and Spread Holiday Cheer!](#) (PG. 11)**



## **[Register for the Next National Leadership Training!](#) (PG.15)**

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# AGA PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

**LAYNA HOLMES-BUTLER**  
*CGFM, CPA*

**Layna Holmes-Butler is an accomplished accounting and audit professional with a strong focus on delivering comprehensive solutions to individuals and businesses.**

Her expertise encompasses a wide range of services, including agreed-upon procedures, financial statement preparation following GAAP standards, general ledger management, accounts receivable and payable, and fixed asset accounting. Layna also specializes in conducting compliance audits in alignment with Government Auditing Standards (the Yellow Book) and relevant laws and regulations.

**Throughout her career, Layna has worked with major clients such as The Mercadien Group, J. Miller & Associates, and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.** Her dedication to excellence and adherence to industry standards make her a valuable asset to the accounting and auditing community.



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**AGA Philadelphia  
Chapter: 2024  
Chapter  
Leadership**

**Chapter President:** Layna Holmes-Butler

**First Vice President:** Kyle Smith

**Chapter Treasurer:** Layna Holmes-Butler

**National Council of Chapters Representative:** Kyle Smith

**ACE Reporting:** Teri Lewis

**Membership:** Clarence Johnson

**Programs, Meeting, & Events Chair:** Stephanie Sowalsky

**Social Media/Webmaster:** Erin McAlinney



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# Join the AGA Philadelphia Chapter Leadership Board!

**Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community?** Here's your chance! The Philadelphia Chapter is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Leadership Board. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student seeking valuable internship experience, we welcome you to be part of our dynamic team.



**JOIN US**



## Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.



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

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# CGFM®

# Certification



## What is a CGFM?

The CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) credential, awarded by AGA, showcases expertise in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across different government levels. It's a respected certification that highlights specialized knowledge and experience essential for effective government financial management. CGFM opens doors to new career prospects and sets you apart as a distinguished professional in the field.

## CGFM Certification Benefits:

1. Enhanced marketability across government sectors.
2. Networking opportunities with fellow government financial managers.
3. Boosted confidence in your role.
4. Potential for employer incentives like raises, promotions, and bonuses.
5. Increased value as an employee, both in reality and perception.
6. Support for ongoing education to stay updated with the latest developments and technologies.

Use this link to learn more about CGFM memberships!

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

## How Do I Become a CGFM?

1. Fill out an online application and agree to AGA's Code of Ethics.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
3. Pass three CGFM examinations.
4. Gain at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.



For any additional questions, please contact the Office of Professional Certification: 800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931) or [cgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:cgfm@agacgfm.org)

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# Don't Forget: Join or Renew Your AGA Membership!

## Benefits:



- **Connect, Collaborate, & Network:**
  - Expand your network, participate in our online mentoring program!
  - Volunteer to serve on AGA committees and boards,
  - Find a position or look for qualified candidates on AGA's Job Board
  - Join the conversation on LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook.
- **Continuous Learning:**
  - Participate in educational events — learn from and meet the experts.
  - Save money with registration discounts on national and chapter training events.
  - Sign up for four (4) complimentary members-only webinars.
  - Attend the Transformation & Technology Summit for FREE!
  - Attend the Women's Forum for FREE!
  - Leverage discounts on CGFM renewal and application fees.
- **Stay Informed & Find Solutions:**
  - Access online tools, developed by government experts to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration.
  - Stay up to date through the quarterly Journal of Government Financial Management.
  - Learn about and share best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
  - Get the latest innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.

**JOIN  
NOW**



**Don't Hesitate!**  
**Register Now!**

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Philadelphia Chapter



# Student Membership Opportunities

## Why AGA?

Considering a career in government financial management? Want to meet government professionals in the federal, state, or local government levels?

**Join AGA for FREE!** Student membership in AGA provides you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections and discover your future career while positively impacting your community and country.

**APPLY NOW**



### Scholarships

Academic scholarships, National Collegiate Leadership Scholarship, Government Finance Case Challenge, Datathon



### Career Coaching & Professional Community

Mentoring Programs & Local Chapters



### Tools & Resources

'Accountability Talks' Podcast & Guest Speakers



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



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# ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS



PODCAST  
Show



Discover '**Accountability Talks**,' a podcast delving into the government accountability community. Hear from thought leaders, gain career insights, and join our vibrant community!

**[Click here to listen!](#)**

## About the Host



Meet **Paul Marshall, CPA, CGFM, CIA, CICA, PMP, VP at MIL Corporation and dedicated AGA member with 20+ years in government accountability.** He champions best practices in audits, financial reporting, and more, serving on AGA boards at local and national levels.

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# Upcoming Webinars & Events

*You Do Not Want to Miss Out!*



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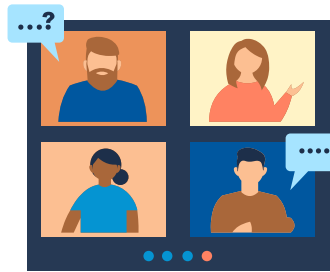
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# VIRTUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



Join us on Zoom for our virtual membership meetings to discuss the future of financial management and beyond! Let's connect, collaborate, and propel our profession forward together. Don't miss out! Mark your calendars and join the Zoom meeting for insightful discussions and networking opportunities. Links to meetings will be shared as the dates approach. See you there!

Wednesday, January 22, 2025  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

If you have any questions, please contact our Chapter President, Layna Holmes-Butler at [hlayna@hotmail.com](mailto:hlayna@hotmail.com)

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# Help Us Spread Holiday Cheer



## Donate to Toys for Tots!



The holiday season is a time for giving, and we're excited to help Toys for Tots bring joy, hope, and relief to families in need. This year has been particularly challenging for many, and together, we can make a difference.

### Here's how you can help:

We're collecting donations for Toys for Tots to ensure children in need wake up with gifts on Christmas morning. **The AGA Philadelphia Chapter will match all donations received, up to \$100, doubling the impact of your generosity!**

Once you donate, please fill out [this Jotform](#) so we can match your contribution.

**Deadline to Donate:** Friday, December 20

**[Click here to donate now!](#)**

Every contribution matters, and together we can tell parents, "Don't worry. We've got Christmas gifts covered."

Thank you for helping us bring joy to children and families this holiday season!

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Philadelphia  
Chapter



*Fall*



# *Happy Hour*

**Thank you to everyone who joined us for the AGA Philadelphia Chapter Fall Happy Hour!** It was a wonderful evening of networking, camaraderie, and shared insights among our members. We're grateful for the opportunity to connect and strengthen our community as we continue to support one another in advancing excellence in government accountability. Stay tuned for more exciting events!



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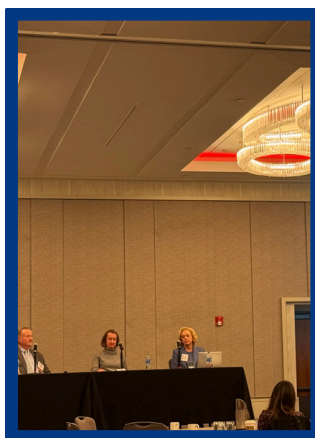


VICE PRESIDENT  
**KYLE  
SMITH**  
Attends Key  
**AGA Events!**



The AGA Philadelphia Chapter is thrilled to highlight the participation of our Vice President, Kyle Smith, in two significant events that furthered professional development and collaboration in government financial management.

First, Kyle attended the **AGA SBC Breakfast & Learn Event**, a session designed to bring government employees together for meaningful discussions and the exchange of valuable insights. This event provided a platform to explore pressing topics, network with peers, and enhance knowledge within the government finance community.



Additionally, Kyle participated in the **AGA CPAG Quarterly All Hands Meeting**, an in-person gathering focused on collaboration and innovation in addressing government financial management challenges. This meeting showcased the collective effort to advance key initiatives while strengthening connections among professionals dedicated to excellence in this field.

Kyle's engagement at these events underscores his commitment to our chapter's mission of fostering education, leadership, and collaboration within the AGA community. His active involvement not only strengthens our chapter's presence but also reinforces the value of staying connected and informed in today's ever-evolving financial landscape. We thank Kyle for his dedication and look forward to seeing more of his impactful contributions in the future.

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# National Events



## Webinar: AI

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**  
2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: IT

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

**Field of Study:** Information Technology (IT)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



## Webinar: Wakeup Wednesday Coffee Chat – FREE!

**Wednesday, January 9, 2025**  
8:00 – 9:00 AM ET | 1 CPE | FOS: PD

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required  
**Field of Study:** Personal Development (PD)

[Click Here to  
Register Now!](#)



## Webinar: GASB Update

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025**  
2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: AUDG

**Program Level:** Overview

**Prerequisite:** None

**Advance Preparation:** None required

**Field of Study:** Auditing – Governmental (AUDG)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

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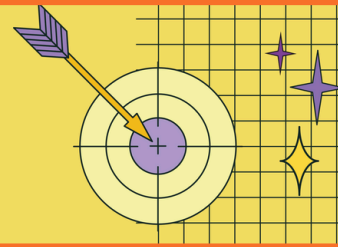
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# National Leadership Training 2025

February 19–20, 2025  
Washington, D.C. or Virtual



**Date:** February 19–20, 2025

**Location:** [Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center](#)  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

[Click Here To View The Full Agenda!](#)

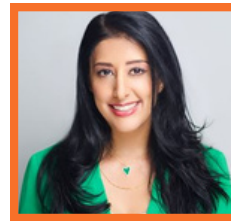
**Register to attend National Leadership Training 2025 on February 19–20, 2025, in Washington, D.C.,** and gain valuable insights from leading government financial management professionals and industry experts. Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your leadership skills and network with peers from across the industry.

## NLT 2025

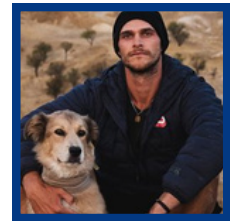
### Featured Speakers



**Damon Dunn**  
Former NFL player & Self-Made Entrepreneur. From Poverty to Founder of Multiple Successful Companies



**Neelu Kaur**  
Organizational Psychologist & Self-Advocacy Champion



**Tom Turcich**  
Author & 10th Person to Walk Around the World

**EARN UP TO 14 CPE HOURS!**

## Registration & Fees



	Online Registration	All Other
<b>AGA Members</b>		
Early Bird	\$550	\$575
Standard	\$650	\$675
<b>Non-members</b>		
Early Bird	\$725	\$750
Standard	\$825	\$850

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



### What NLT 2024 attendees are saying:



*"The AGA NLT cannot be beaten when attending in person. The people and connections made were truly inspiring and life enriching!"*

**-Helen M. Perraglio, CPA, CFO, Los Alamos County**

*"What I liked most about the AGA I had an opportunity to hear from other governmental workers and how they have learned to strive in the changing work environment."*

**-Christopher Cavett, Accounting Supervisor, Mississippi Dept of Human Services**

*"Once again, AGA exceeded my expectations for NLT. After last year's great presentations, I was expecting excellence, and I got more than that. The speakers were knowledgeable, relevant, and eloquent, and the technology was seamless. I'll be bringing back some great insights to my agency."*

**-Tami Abramowitz, Federal Student Aid office of the Department of Education**

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# Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

Save the Date for AGA's future Professional Development Training (PDT) events!



## Nashville, Tennessee

July 27-30, 2025

Gaylord Opryland Hotel



## Dallas, Texas

July 26-29, 2026

Gaylord Texan Hotel



## Chicago, Illinois

July 18-21, 2027

Hyatt Regency Chicago

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**Premier Group is a Proud Sponsor of the AGA Philadelphia Chapter!**

**Premier Group is a full-service CPA firm founded by Joye Sistrunk in 2005, embodying a passion for numbers, community purpose, integrity, and a mission of trust.**

**At Premier Group, we are dedicated to serving a diverse range of clients, including government agencies, federal contractors, nonprofits, and mid-sized businesses.** Our commitment to excellence, teamwork, and collaboration ensures that every client receives personalized attention and the highest quality of service. Partner with us to experience the difference that passion, purpose, and integrity can make in achieving your financial goals.  
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## **Our Services Include:**

**Audit and Assurance Services:** Thorough examination and verification of financial records, assuring stakeholders.

**Financial Budgeting and Forecasting:** Expert analysis and planning to help clients make informed financial decisions for the future.

**Risk Management:** Identification, assessment, and mitigation of risks to safeguard financial assets and operations.

**Litigation Support:** Professional assistance in legal matters involving financial disputes, providing expert testimony and analysis.

**Tax Advice and Preparation:** Strategic tax planning, compliance, and preparation services to minimize tax burdens and optimize financial outcomes.