



Happy early St. Patrick's Day! Where has the time flown?

For those who don't know, March is Certified Government Financial Manager Proclamation Month! Check out our website for the City of Cleveland Proclamation.

We're off to pretty good start for the New Year ... A social in January at the Punch Bowl and we're already feverishly planning the annual AGA/ASMC PDT. Unfortunately, we were not able to retain the preferred venue at the alternate location. But, fortunately, we were able to contract with the City Club of Cleveland for Tuesday, April 28, keeping it close to our original date. We've expanded the day to 4:30 pm which will allow for the full 8 CPEs. Speakers are being contacted and the AGA National Treasurer, Andrew Lewis, has been confirmed. Registration is now open on our website, <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Cleveland-Chapter/Training-Events/PDT.aspx>. DFAS employees, please be sure to follow your internal procedures. We have also arranged for a social at the House of Blues Foundation Room following the PDT. Given our slightly extended PDT time, we shouldn't have any issues with getting into the House of Blues this year. More to come as we plan and details are finalized.

A few of the things we're currently working -

- Although February presented a few hiccups, we are working to set dates aside during March and other months for speaker opportunities. We do have a confirmation for a speaker from the City of Cleveland and working on the date. Other speaking engagements being pursued is a March luncheon at the Great Lakes Brewery with a representative from Ohio City Farm. We have also contacted the Lorain Community College and NASA Glenn Research Center for possible speakers.
- With the warming weather, we're looking to set up a community outreach type event to assist or support a local charity or organization.

March is the renewal month for AGA and Chapter membership. Please be sure to renew prior to the due date, March 31 and to include the Cleveland Chapter. Without the Chapter membership, you won't receive emails for any of the events, including social or community outreach. Both AGA and Chapter memberships are required to serve on the Chapter Board. When you renew, be sure to edit any personal information that may have changed in the past year. To ensure you are receiving the latest updates, you may want to consider using your personal email rather than your work email.

In July, AGA National will be hosting the [Road to PDT 2020](#) near Dallas, TX at the Gaylord Texan Hotel and convention Center. I know for many, you are limited on attendance due in part to training or travel dollars. Each year, AGA looks at ways to make this training more affordable and open to those who, otherwise, are not able to attend. Please be sure to check their website for helpful information on how to prepare a justification for the training (<https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT/Hotel-Travel.aspx>), and new hotel scholarships available to help defray the cost (<https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT/Registration.aspx>). Early bird registration ends June 19.

Do we have anyone interested in assisting others with individual tax returns??? We've discussed partnering with ASMC and participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. But to do this, we would need a couple of

dedicated volunteers. The program assists with the preparation of tax documents for people who generally make less than \$56,000 a year, have disabilities, or who struggle with English. We do have a volunteer for the coordinator role, but we still need 2-3 members (one possibly from ASMC) to assist. Volunteers would need to take training sometime between May-December this year. Assistance would be in 2021, usually on a few weekends for a couple of hours. Additional information can be found on their website, <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-tax-volunteers>. Please let me or John Kanya, Chapter President-Elect, president-elect@agacleveland.org, know if you are interested.

And lastly, for anyone interested in serving on the AGA Chapter Board or a committee, please send me an email, president@agacleveland.org, or reach out to any of the Chapter Board members listed on the website, <http://agacleveland.org>.

Remember, it is only through our member volunteers that our Chapter has success.

Sincerely,

Jana Sjoquist

AGA Cleveland Chapter President

Email: president@agacleveland.org