

AGA 2nd Quarter Newsletter



President's Message

Indianapolis AGA Chapter Members,

Although you wouldn't know it by looking outside recently in central Indiana, Spring is upon us! It is a time of renewed grass growth and of flowers blooming. If you're seeking an opportunity for individual growth and blooming, join us at the upcoming ASMC/AGA Joint Professional Development Conference on May 2nd. With a theme of Sound Health - Organizational and Individual,

you're sure to obtain knowledge and practical ways to start the blooming process for yourself or your organization. The change in venue to The Wellington Fishers Banquet and Conference Center will allow us to host more attendees than ever before! We look forward to seeing many of you in attendance at this all-day event.

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President's Message [Continued from Page 1]

Looking a little further down the road, we've been working hard behind-the-scenes to have a smooth transition to the new AGA leadership for the 2018-2019 program year. The new leadership team will look to build on many of the things we accomplished this year, to include the ever-so-valuable survey, and to deliver even better value to you next year. As always, your voice and participation are much appreciated so please keep sharing your thoughts. Please consider joining our leadership team by becoming a committee chair or co-chair for the 2018-2019 year. An email with available positions and an overview will be coming to your inbox soon!

I look forward to seeing many of you on May 2nd and at other upcoming events outlined on our website at <u>https://</u> www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Indianapolis/Home.aspx!

Shawn McCracken President Indianapolis AGA Chapter

Is it Spring, yet?





Newsletter News

Greetings from your Newsletter Crew! Below is the publication date for the next edition of the AGA Newsletter. If you have article ideas or information you would like included in the News-



letter, please let us know.

Next Quarterly Newsletter: Publication in mid-June submission deadline June 1, 2018

Questions about Sponsorship?

AGA Corporate Sponsors support the Chapter for an entire year.

We currently have four sponsorship echelons ranging from Bronze to Platinum, each with increasing support levels and engagement opportunities. All Sponsors receive advertising space on our website and in our Chapter Newsletter which publishes four editions per year, with distribution to over 200 members.

Several other benefits are offered depending on your giving level, including complimentary access to our Holiday Party, Awards Banquet, & monthly luncheons for employees from your company. Speak with an AGA Corporate Sponsorship representative for more details.

Contact Elizabeth Christian at: elizabeth.a.christian6.civ @mail.mil or www.againdy.com

Thank You to Our Sponsors! PLATINUM

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and





Children's Bureau, Inc.—Easter Basket Project

This gathering marked our 9th year conducting the Easter Basket project which occurred over a two-day period, beginning on March 12, 2018 and concluding on March 23, 2018. Hats off to the Bureau and ASMC/AGA volunteers for their flexibility in rescheduling their time to accommodate this basket-making event from Saturday, March 24 to March 23, due to the forecasted 4-8 inch snow storm which was on the way for Saturday morning.

Altogether, 12 volunteers assembled 50 baskets, filled with all things children enjoy. ASMC volunteers included: CPT. Reyes, Debra Hooker, Jimmy Bivens, Vickie Johnson, Fay Whitney, Belinda Balz, Susan Fuller, Jeri Jackson, and Sandy Arnold. AGA volunteers who joined us were Jackie Freeman, LaTunya Body, and Catrina Thompson. Shoppers for this event were Belinda Balz and Sandy Arnold. Our 'Thanks' go out to Elizabeth Comer, Terri Caraballo, Jimmy Bivens, Belinda Balz, and Vickie Johnson for their generous donations. ASMC members volunteered 26 hours and AGA members volunteered 7.5 hours, totaling 33.5 hours.

'Thank You' to Margaret of the Bureau for setting up the conference room and providing photography services. Thank You, CPT. Reyes, ASMC Indy Chapter President, for your participation, photography, and comments about 'the awesome job everyone did.' I personally appreciate everyone's support of this project! For more action photos of this event, visit the website at www.asmconline.org.

Article by Sandy Arnold – ASMC Indy Chapter – community services co-chair



Upcoming

Webinars

Cybersecurity (2 CPEs) Mar. 28, 2018

Ethics (2 CPEs) April 11, 2018

DATA Act (2 CPEs) April 25, 2018

Polishing Your Presentation Skills (2 CPEs) May 9, 2018

Fraud/Data Analytics (2 CPEs) May 16, 2018

Leadership (2 CPEs) June 13, 2018

Lessons Learned From a State and Local Government Accounting Leader

Originally published on the AGA Journal of Government Financial Management, Winter 2017-18, Vol 66, No. 4

By Carol M. Jessup, Ph.D., CPA, CFE

When I first met this leader in 1981, we were both young accountants employed in Illinois state government, less than a year apart in age, and having obtained bachelor's degrees in accounting from different Illinois public universities. This leader, "DRB," was at that time already a CPA; I was pursuing the CPA designation and had passed three parts of the exam. The circumstance of our first meeting was a job interview. Because of my embarrassment at not successfully passing the CPA exam on the first attempt, nothing on my resume indicated pursuit of the CPA designation as a goal. Employed with a different state agency as a grant accountant, I had heard that under the leadership of Roland Burris, then comptroller of the state of Illinois, the initiative for Illinois to adopt generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) was being undertaken through forming a small GAAP project team. I applied for a position. DRB was the assistant director of the project; my interview was with him and the director.

Being nervous, I didn't make a good impression. The director soon excused himself to take a phone call....

... to read the rest of this article, please access the AGA Journal at https://www.agacgfm.org/home.aspx. Log in and click on 'Resources' and then 'Read the Latest Issue.

Recent Chapter Events

Gleaner's Food Bank Volunteer Event

On Jan 27, 2018, 4 AGA Members and 6 family/friends volunteered at Gleaner's Good Bank from 12:15-3:00 pm. During their time, they packaged 12,000 pounds of meat for shipment to various locations across Indiana. Attendees reported the experience as fun,



rewards, educational and they were appreciative for the opportunity to help make a difference in their community.



Wreaths Across America

Article by: Catherine Henshaw

Our AGA chapter is proud to support Wreaths Across America (WAA) each year. On National Wreaths Across America Day each December, volunteers place wreaths on individual veterans' graves throughout the U.S. with ceremonies at

sea and at each of the national cemeteries on foreign soil.

WAA is a non-profit organization formed in 2007 as an extension of The Arlington Wreath Project, with over 1,400 participating locations in all 50 states and 24 national veteran cemeteries on foreign soil. What began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, decorated by volunteers and laid at the graves of fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery has now become a national organization focused on the mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

For 2017, our chapter donated 30 wreaths to WAA. AGA Member and Community Service Committee co-chairperson Catherine Henshaw attended the December 16th memorial service at Crown Hill Cemetery followed by joining other volunteers in laying wreaths on veterans' graves. The memorial service included prayer and remembrances, all branches



throughout the U.S. with ceremonies at soil.
extension of The locations in all 50



of the military and keynote remarks by Senator Joe Donnelly.

This year, Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, December 15, 2018. Please mark your calendar to help us honor our veterans. Learn more about Wreaths Across America at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. Welcome New Indianapolis AGA Chapter Members!!

Ms. Emily Blake Mr. Will Butler Ms. Edmie Castillo Reyes Mr. Michael L. Lafuze Miss Stevie Lynch Mrs. Sharon Patton Mr. Robert Sokol Mr. Brian L. Willis Mr. W. Michael Woods

AGA Fun Night @ Main Event

As a part of the Indianapolis AGA's Chapter of providing family -centric events, a Family Fun Night was held that the Main Event entertainment complex. 12 Chapter members and their families enjoyed an evening of bowling, laser tag, food and fun!



Save the Date!!

Spring 2018 ASMC/AGA Joint Professional Development Conference The Wellington Fishers Banquet and Conference Center May 2, 2018 7:30am - 4:30pm

AGA and ASMC will be hosting a Joint Professional Development Conference on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at The Wellington Conference Center in Fishers. Cost is \$100 per person. 8 CPEs will be available. Please contact your training coordinator to register. Registration is no later than April 2, 2018.

For questions or concerns, please contact AGA POC- Tara Crabtree, 212-8988, or ASMC POC- Truda Gregory, 212-5634.

Scholarship Opportunities

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, economics, finance, information systems/technology or public administration? If so, consider applying for an AGA academic scholarship today! The deadline for receipt of applications is April 16, 2018.

This year AGA will award: Rising college freshman, Current undergraduates, Graduate Students, Community Service

For further details please contact Tynishia Weatherspoon @tynishia.r.weatherspoon.civ@mail.mil

On January 25, 2018, AGA hosted 29 guests at a meet-andFeaturing Guest Speaker: Ms. Ann Ebberts, AGA CEO

An Evening with Ms. Ann Ebberts

greet event with the current AGA CEO, Ms. Ann Ebberts. Attendees were treated to pizza and appetizers at Jockamo's Pizza located within historic Fort Ben. Ms. Ebberts discussed AGA initiatives, priorities, research and how current governance changes will impact the organization.

Ms. Ebberts took on the role of AGA CEO in October 2014, bringing over 30 years of management consulting experience with the federal government. Starting her career with the Navy shipbuilding and communications engineering programs, she spent the last 26 years of her career at Booz Allen Hamilton before retiring as the Vice President in the Financial Services group.



While the main purpose of the event was to give members a chance to meet Mrs. Ebberts, as her questions and hear her current position and future

aspirations for AGA, attendees were also provided with an opportunity to network with other Indianapolis AGA members.



AGA at the Speedway—VIP Grounds Tour

On March 17, 2018, Indianapolis AGA Members participated in a VIP Grounds Tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Discount tickets were made available to all members, with 26



tickets being sold (14 to AGA members, 12 to friends and family).

Guests were treated to a tour of the Pagoda, Media Center, Winner's Circle and the 500 Museum. They were also given a chance to take a picture while 'kissing the bricks' at the finish line of the track. The purpose of the event was to engage current members, provide outreach to potential members, and have a little fun.

AGA March Brown Bag Luncheon: Leadership Panel

By: Drew Williams, ESS Compliance

I had the pleasure and opportunity to attend the AGA March 15th Brown Bag Luncheon: Leadership Panel forum. I was impressed with the program and enjoyed listening to the knowledge and wisdom shared by the senior DFAS leadership comprising the panel: Mrs. Edna Knight, Mr. Greg Schmalfeldt, Mr. Tony Hull-inger, Ms. Rosie Tinsley, and Mr. Mike Leist. The panelists shared many of their personal and most valuable leadership tools and management wisdom on topics of personal growth and professional success within DFAS management.



Some of the management tools and techniques mentioned by the panel included:

• The importance of adding continuing education to enhance competency and credibility to one's skill set during their DFAS career.

• The importance and value of taking courses in Project Management Principles, and using PMP theory to grow and develop one's leadership skills

• Knowing the environment that you manage: your organization's mission, values, and goals.

• Understanding how your team's goals and values fit into the broader DFAS Mission.

• The importance for the manager to know and understand the software and systems used by the organization to accomplish its missions.

The panel addressed considerations that should be taken when transitioning from one organization to another:

- Learn as much as possible about the new organization's mission, staff, and customers served by the team; learn the expectations of the team and others that you serve internally and externally, as well as the expectations of your boss and never let him/her down by repeating the same mistakes twice.
- Get to know people from your team that are knowledgeable and can share their experience, skills, and knowledge with you to quicken your competency and effectiveness.
- Network with the executive assistants of upper management and foster a good dialogue with them.
- Take time to relax and balance your work life and family life, and make a commitment to maintain a healthy, physically fit lifestyle.
- Consider the value of adding a new mentor to help you through the demands of your new work environment.

The panel mentioned several important personal skills that managers must have to be effective leaders:

- Practice good listening and communication skills with team members and customers.
- Be respectful and tactful with staff and customers.
- Be quick to recognize and praise the contributions and successes of team members.
- Be good observers and quick to learn from the experiences and mistakes of other managers.

The panel provided two suggested book lists that provide guidance on professional and personal development. The book lists are available to anyone... if interested, contact Cara Scott at <u>cara.m.scott.civ@mail.mil</u>.

AGA/ASMC Luncheons

January 2018: "Current Real Estate Market Conditions and programs available for military and veterans" -Gene Tumbarello (Speaker)

February 2018: "Millennials: Why We Need Them and Can't Live Without Them" - Greg Bitz (Speaker)

CGFM® Certification Information

What is CGFM?



Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) is a professional certification awarded by AGA, demonstrating competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

What are the initial requirements?

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

CGFM Practice Questions:

1. Under the AGA Code of Ethics, which of the following activities require

employer approval?

(1) 1 07

- (A) completing tax returns for remuneration
- (B) making deposits for a church
- (C) volunteering to serve as treasurer for a professional organization
- (D) quoting tax regulations as advice for a friend

2. The general ledger management function of a federal agency's financial system

- (A) must be approved by the Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination.
- (B) is promulgated by FASAB.
- (C) must be in full compliance with the U.S. Standard General Ledger.
- (D) is defined by the CFO Act of 1990.

3. The U.S. Standard General Ledger will be used to record financial events for federal agencies, and common data elements shall be used throughout a federal agency for collection, storage and retrieval of financial information records according to OMB circular number

(A) A-07.	
(B) A-122.	3: C
(C) A-127.	ז: כ
(D) A-133.	I: V

CGFM® Certification Information... continued

AGA Indy hosted the CGFM On Site Training in late April/early May. It was attended by 23 individuals and the training covered all 3 CGFM modules. AGA Indianapolis paid for a portion of each member's registration cost as a way to give back to our chapter members and support an AGA initiative. Because of this training, 4 individuals joined our chapter.

These three comprehensive courses benefit both Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFMR) candidates studying for the examinations and those who wish to advance their knowledge of government financial management in general. Designed from the content outlines of the CGFM examinations, the courses provide in-depth coverage of government financial management topics at all levels of government. Each course provides high-quality, NASBA-approved, continuing professional education (CPE). A total of 48 CPEs was awarded and also counted toward DoD FM Certification.

The Modules covered the following topics:

Module 1: Governmental Environment

This module looks at the organization and structure of government, public accountability, ethics in government, the governmental financing process and other legal and environmental aspects of government.

Module 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting

This course looks at the general principles of governmental financial accounting and performance reporting, and budgeting, as well as the unique aspects of both federal and state and local financial accounting

Module 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control

This course looks at internal and management control, auditing, performance measurement and reporting, financial and managerial analysis and techniques, concepts and controls.

For more information on the CGFM, preparation, or to check out an CGFM Module, please contact Dan Neumann at daniel.b.neumann2.civ@mail.mil or 317-416-8961.

(You may also visit <u>https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/About-CGFM.aspx</u>)

Article by: Dan Neumann

Maintaining CGFM Certification

To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. In addition, to continue using the CGFM designation after their name, CGFMs must be in an active status.

Active Status

To maintain the CGFM certification in an active status, CGFMs are required to:

- Pay the CGFM renewal fee by the due date every year.
- Complete at least 80 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects (within the designated two-year cycle).
- · Maintain and, if requested by AGA, provide detailed information on CPE hours completed.

By submitting their annual renewal payment, CGFMs affirm that they have and will continue to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and that they have fulfilled the minimum CPE Requirements.



GOLD Sponsorship:



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How Leaders Can Create Policies That Actually Work

(Originally published on the AGA Journal of Government Financial Management, Winter 2017-18, Vol 66, No. 4, written by Alan G. Robinson Ph.D., Dean M. Schroeder, Ph.D., and Louise Ostberg, MBA)



Few things define the quality of leaders in government more, or have a greater impact on their constituents' lives, than the nature and effectiveness of the policies they create. Unfortunately, leaders often lack the policymaking tools, techniques and training needed to make certain policies accomplish their intended goals efficiently. As Otto von Bismarck, Germany's first chancellor, observed, "Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made." He was referring to the wheeling and dealing, backroom horse trading and compromise that typically take place as laws are created. The process is not pretty, and is frequently based more on politics and ideology than facts and reason. As a result, policies can have significant unintended consequences, with effects very different than envisioned. MindLab, an innovation unit within the Danish government, is changing how policies are created in Denmark. Its novel approach shatters long-standing norms and promises to

make policies more effective and easier to implement. MindLab's experience provides important policymaking lessons for leaders at all levels of government.

Background

In 2002, the Danish permanent secretary (the highest nonpolitical administrator) of the then Ministry of Business Affairs spoke at the Copenhagen Business School. During his talk he emphasized that one of the ministry's primary missions was to help Danish businesses be more innovative. Afterward, several business professors

asked him what the ministry was doing to make itself more innovative. As a direct result of this challenge, the ministry set up MindLab as its internal innovation unit.

MindLab's work and approaches have evolved significantly since its founding. Initially, it focused on shaking up the way government went about its normal work. As Mikkel Rasmussen, MindLab's first manager, put it, the approach taken was the equivalent of "throwing a hand grenade at the bureaucracy."...



... to read the rest of this article, please access the AGA Journal at https://www.agacgfm.org/ home.aspx. Log in and click on 'Resources' and then 'Read the Latest Issue.

AGA COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS FOR 2017-2018

FIRST QUARTER

PDC item for silent auction
IPS #105 - School Supply Drive
'Day of Caring' - partner w/ASMC
Feds Feed Families – Brandywine Creek Farm
Wellness Walk/Food Pantry donation

Wreaths Across America

SECOND QUARTER

October 2017 October 2017 November 22-23, 2017 November 30, 2017 December 15, 2017 December 2017

THIRD QUARTER

January 2018	Service Event at Food Bank (Gleaners, etc)
February 28, 2018	Valentine's cards for soldiers overseas
March 24, 2018	Children's Bureau Easter Basket Project - Pa

FOURTH QUARTER

April 7, 2018 May 5, 2018 Wheeler Mission Easter Food Drive at Marsh supermarket Mutt Strutt

Partner w/ASMC

Salvation Army Coats for Kids distribution - partner w/ASMC

Mozel Sanders Thanksgiving Dinner Project - partner w/ASMC

Angel Tree gifts for children of IPS #105 selected families

Community Hospital East volunteer services

Variety of Holiday Cards for Soldiers overseas



CEC Meeting Minutes

AGA Indianapolis Chapter Executive Council

www.agacgfm.org/indianapolis

March 28, 2018 / Conference Room 340R-1

Attendees: Kim Smith, Candi Lorenzo, Lindsay Harris, Catherine Henshaw, Amanda Pierce, Virginia Smith-Milan, Katie Buck, Amy Hole, Brittney Jones, Catrina Thompson, Stephanie Ulba, Tara Crabtree, Michael Gaudet, Jackie Freeman, Dan Neumann, Stevie Lynch

ACTION ITEMS:

BOD (Nominating Committee) - respond back to Alana by April 3rd regarding nominees for 2018-2019 program year.

Submit Roles and Responsibility updates if not done already.

CRP (Virginia Smith-Milan): One point away from Platinum status – thanks for all your hard work! Many points still planned to be obtained during the next quarter.

Treasurer (Michael Gaudet): Tickets for the event at the track ended up at \$15 each vs. \$30 therefore Michael will take action to provide a cash reimbursement to all the folks that paid the higher amount.

Social Committee (Catrina Thompson/Demita Moore): Wine/canvas event upcoming. Room can seat up to 24 people for a private event. Tickets are \$25 with a discount offered. Looking to send out information this week. Joint event with wellness committee for a walk on the Monon and have ice cream at Brics. Year-end celebration at Top Golf – date to be determined (second week of June)

Education (Tara Crabtree/Stephanie Ulba)/Sponsorship (Elizabeth Christian): Working together to fit sponsors into agenda for PDC as speaking is part of their sponsorship. Meeting scheduled 3/29 to finalize shuffling of agenda.

Programs (Amy Hole): The April luncheon is scheduled for April 19 with Matt Cox speaking from the Missile Defense Agency. Amy looking for a replacement for the Programs Committee Chair.

Accountability/CGFM (Dan Neumann) -

22 people took the class and 2 have obtained the CGFM certification. Dan is attempting to continue pushing folks that attended to be proactive in sitting for the exams. Will provide another update later in the year to determine the return on investment of the course.

2 CGFM proclamations have been signed.

CGFM networking luncheon on April 10th. Jayme Boruff attended IU chapter meeting and talked to students from an Army perspective.

Wellness Committee (Brittney Jones): Biggest Loser challenge is wrapping up. Conversation surrounding a virtual run/walk with NAFE-WIN and ASMC that was more for soliciting and should not be sent out to members.

Secretary (Kim Smith): Finalizing the update to the Roles and Responsibilities document. If you have not provided updates, please do so as soon as possible so we can use the document to send out when soliciting for new committee chairs.

A task to review the Chapter Bylaws will be coming out soon so we can obtain 300 points in the 4th quarter. Please ensure you take time to review and provide feedback when asked.

Around the Horn. Catherine Henshaw/Jackie Freeman – Saturday, May 12 from 12:15-3:30 pm is the event for Gleaners. 4 spots remain. If interested, please email Catherine ASAP.

Mutt Strutt is April 28th starting at 11a for 2.5 mile work. Cost is \$25 for age 16 and up and \$10 for ages 15 and under.

Easter basket event went well. Jackie is considering relooking community service events moving forward because the attendance has been low.

Adjourn (12:50p)\

The next CEC Meeting has not been scheduled—Watch for the forthcoming Invite!

Newsletter Articles The deadline for submitting articles and updates for the June newsletter are due by June 1, 2018.

<u>Please email submissions to:</u> Desiree.R.Garcia6.civ@mail.mil Cara.M.Scott.civ@mail.mil



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FOR ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION VISIT: www.againdy.com webmaster@againdy.com

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