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President's Message

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Happy Spring, Members!

The weather is warming and if the Groundhog is to be believed, Spring should be on its way. We had so many successful events surrounding the holiday season. Keeping with that spirit, there will be a multitude of opportunities for service, growth and comradery within our group in the coming months.

Our chapter's holiday season included the annual holiday luncheon co-sponsored with ASMC and the annual Angel Tree event. This year, our chapter sponsored 15 children from five families, providing gifts and other necessities to make their season memorable. In addition, we kicked off the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which provides free assistance to low income, elderly, limited English proficient, and disabled individuals who require aid in preparing their tax returns but cannot afford services of a tax professional.

Moving forward, our next big event occurs March 10th. The Early Careers and Social Committees will be hosting a joint social event focused on networking. The event will be held at Buffalo Wild Wings (10625 Pendleton Pike, Indianapolis, IN 46236) at 4:30 PM. There will be a mix of managers, seasoned AGA members and new AGA members present at the event. Appetizers will be provided by AGA.

On April 26th, the Indianapolis Chapter is planning on hosting a "Small Business Experience." During this event, representatives from local small businesses and the Small Business Administration will meet with AGA members to discuss various aspects of starting and running a small business.

May brings the Spring PDC for our chapter. This year, the event will be held on May 5th in the Blue Herron Ballroom at the Garrison. May 15th is the Mutt Strutt, a charity event hosted by the Indianapolis Human Society that our group has participated in the past.

Furthering our community outreach, we have partnered with ASMC, NAFE/WIN, BIG and the CWFC to collect water for the residents of Flint, Michigan through March 24. Donations in the form of cases or jugs of water can be left on pallets located at the South Doors of the building. Curb-side drop-off is available at the North Doors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 AM.

Thank you for your dedication and effort in making the Indianapolis AGA chapter successful. Please continue to encourage your co-workers and peers to attend AGA events as well as suggest new avenues for interaction with our chapter. May you and your family enjoy all of the fun and sunshine that spring has to offer!

Cindy Garcia
President
AGA, Indianapolis Chapter



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 Andrew Tyler at andrew.p.tyler2.civ@mail.mil
www.againdy.com

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

On December 2nd, 2015 AGA sponsored a Lunch & Learn for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program is a national program providing free tax assistance to low income, elderly, limited English proficient, and disabled individuals who require assistance in preparing their tax returns and cannot afford services of a paid professional taxpayer. Kate McKnight (from the IRS) presented the information about the VITA program and then attendees at the meeting were able to sign up for a one day tax training class to be held in January or were given materials to complete the training online by themselves.

The tax training class was held at DFAS on January 13, 2016. The AGA Indianapolis Chapter promotes participation in VITA by linking volunteers to the program and facilitating on-site training. AGA is able to coordinate with DFAS and the IRS to be able to provide an instructor and materials free of charge to the volunteers. Kate McKnight (IRS) instructed the class on advanced returns, the Health Care Savings Account, tax laws, and how the Affordable Care Act is impacting returns.

It's not too late to become a VITA volunteer! If you missed the tax class you can still take the online training and test by yourself. There are also other volunteer choices available: greeter, screener, reviewer, or interpreter. Contact VITA Chairs: Melanie Blunk (317-212-7201) or Monique Johnson (317-212-1954) with any questions.

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March is CGFM Month!

To recognize the CGFM Program and its accomplishments, AGA has declared the month of March of each year as "CGFM Month." Your chapter is working to have CGFM Month recognized by local government, with an official proclamation being available in late March.

What is CGFM?

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.

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

How do I get the CGFM?

CGFM Certification Process

- Step 1 — Read AGA's Code of Ethics**
- Step 2 — Apply for the CGFM Program**
- Step 3 — Submit Required Degree Documentation**
- Step 4 — Receive an Eligibility Letter**
- Step 5 — Submit a Work Verification Form**
- Step 6 — Prepare for the CGFM Examinations**
- Step 7 — Schedule the CGFM Examinations**
- Step 8 — Take the CGFM Examinations**
- Step 9 — Receive CGFM Award Letter**
- Step 10 — Receive Your CGFM Certificate and Maintain Your Certification**

How do I maintain the CGFM?

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**.

CGFM Examination Requirements

The three comprehensive examinations that make up the core requirement of the CGFM program are:

- 1) Governmental Environment (GE)
- 2) Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting (GAFRB)
- 3) Governmental Financial Management and Control (GFMC)

CGFM Examination Sample Question:

According to the AGA Code of Ethics, a vendor using an agency contract monitor as a personal reference on a resume would constitute:

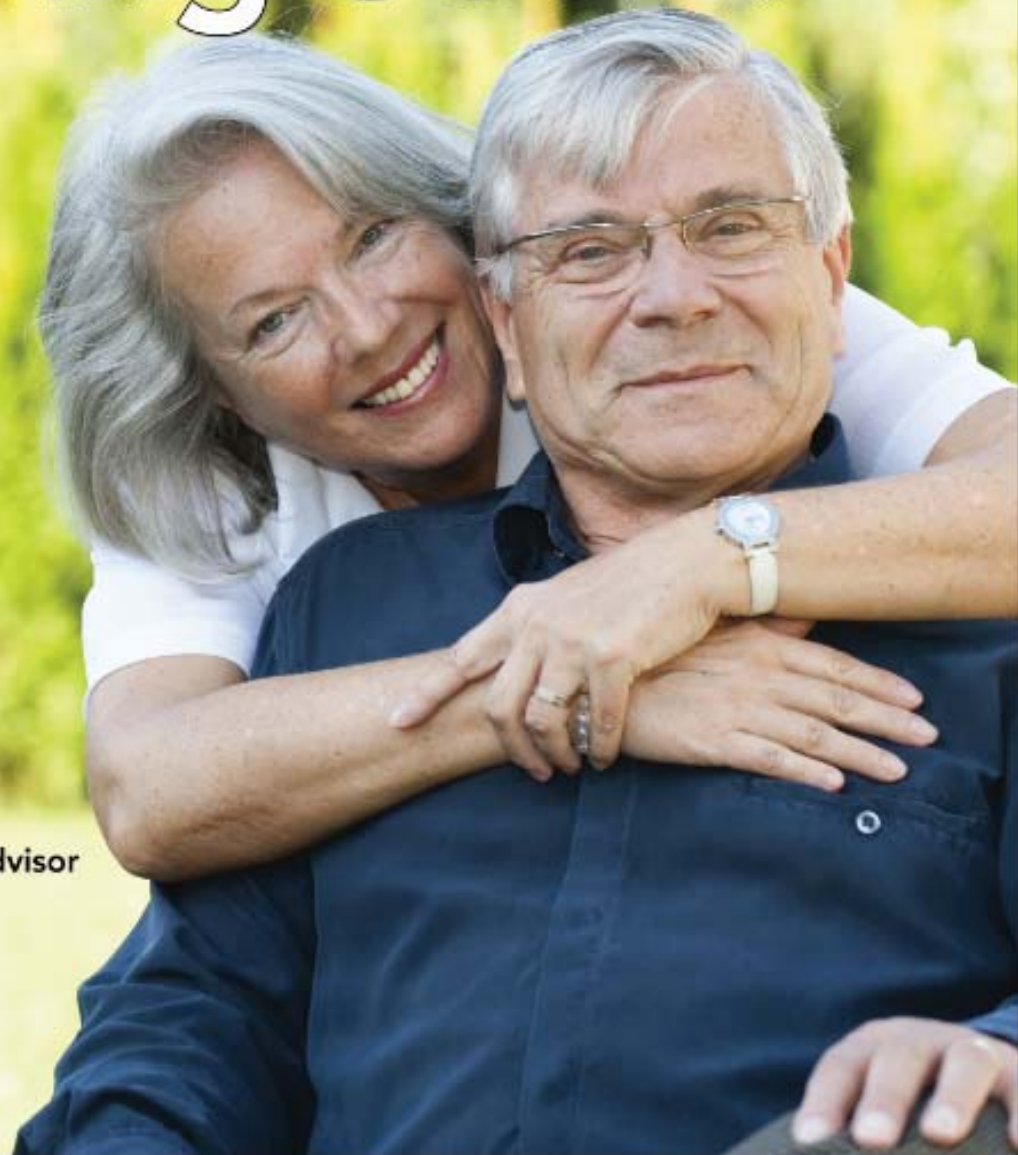
- A) Fraud
- B) Professional Incompetence
- C) A Conflict of Interest
- D) Nepotism



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Answer: C

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Announcements

AGA Early Career's Committee

The 2nd Annual AGA Networking Event is back!

This year's event will be held at Buffalo Wild Wings on **March 10, 2016 at 4:30 PM**. This after-hours event is focused on bringing managers, AGA members and leaders together in a more relaxed environment. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP with one of the individuals listed below. Appetizers are being provided by AGA.

Address:
Buffalo Wild Wings
10625 Pendleton Pike
Indianapolis, IN 46236

RSVP with:
AGA Social Committee: Katie Buck and Alicia Turpin
AGA Early Careers Committee: Natalie Crow and Wendy Hahn

Operation Flint Water Collection

Are you looking for a chance to provide clean water to the residents of Flint, Michigan? Here is your opportunity to help prevent disease and save lives.

AGA, ASMC, NAFE/WIN, BIG, CWFC and other organizations have joined together to provide water donations for the residents and cordially invite you to participate. This extraordinary effort is one way of showing our love for our neighbors.

The collection will run **THROUGH MARCH 24**. We are asking that you donate cases of water that contain 16.9 oz. or 1 liter bottles. We will also accept the 5-gallon 'water cooler' jugs. There are pallets located in the South entrance for regular drop-off. Curb-side drop-off is available at the North entrance on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 AM.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to assist with the curb-side drop-off, please contact Katie Buck (212-4590).

Did You Know?

Our chapter has its own website full of information about AGA, upcoming events, CGFM certification and more.

Visit www.AGAINdy.com to see what AGA and the Indianapolis chapter has to offer its members!

While you are there, please verify your personal information is up to date using the "My AGA" tab. This information is used to send newsletters, flyers and invitations to AGA events.

IU AGA Chapter Outreach

The IU AGA Chapter has asked for members of our chapter to attend a "Careers and Public Finance" panel on March 25, 2016. This event is targeted at giving college students and IU AGA members information regarding civil service Accounting and Finance job opportunities.

Mutt Strut

Our chapter is once again participating in the annual Human Society Mutt Strut. This year's event is being held at Garfield Park on May 15th. More information on this event will be provided as it draws closer.





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Interesting Articles

Be the Leader You Want Your Boss to Be

By: David M. Dye, February 10, 2016

I'd just finished a leadership program with a group of caring, committed professionals. They asked great questions, made important decisions, and then it happened. A middle level manager approached me and asked a question. It's a common question. I hear it every time I speak—in the Q&A, in the comments afterwards, in emailed follow-ups. This manager asked, "David, I really appreciated the program today. How can I get this information in front of my boss's boss?" If you've ever read a book, attended a seminar, or heard a speaker and desperately wished your supervisors would learn how to do what you just heard, you're not alone.

In fact, the phenomenon is so common that I've given it my own name. I call it SASRNT Syndrome—So And So Really Needs This. It's the reaction you have when you encounter really good information and immediately want to give it to someone else. "This is awesome. My boss totally needs this!"

There's just one problem: your boss didn't receive the information. You did.

Don't Fail Before You Start I call SASRNT a syndrome because it can hurt you if you let it. When you rush off to share good leadership information with someone else, you neglect the most important step: to use it. That other person—your boss, your colleague, your spouse—may need...

Read the remainder of the article at: http://www.govexec.com/excellence/promising-practices/2016/02/be-leader-you-want-your-boss-be/125772/?oref=govexec_today_nl

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Upcoming Events

March

- CGFM Month
- March 10: 2nd Annual Networking Event @ Buffalo Wild Wings – 4:30PM
- March 25: IUAGA Careers and Public Finance Panel @ IU Bloomington
- Through March 24: Operation Flint Water Collection

April

- April 26: Small Business Experience @ Jockamo Pizza – Time to be determined
- Operation Flint Water Collection – Through March 24

May

- May 5: Spring PDC @ Garrison Blue Heron Ballroom
- May 15: Human Society of Indianapolis Mutt Strut @ Garfield Park



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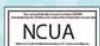


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Newsletter Articles

The deadline for submitting articles and updates for the next newsletter is the end of each quarter. Submissions for the June newsletter are due by May 14. Please email submissions to:

Desiree.R.Garcia6.civ@mail.mil

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