



THOUGHTS  
FOR THE  
NEW YEAR



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You can do anything  
but not everything

Whatever you do  
do it with all your heart

Good things take time

Cultivate kindness

Be somebody who makes everybody  
feel like somebody

Keep some room in your heart  
for the unimaginable

Make time for yourself

Don't count the days  
make the days count

Creativity takes courage

Always believe that something  
wonderful is about to happen

Be a voice, not an echo

### Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.

### Mission

AGA is a professional association advancing government accountability, transparency, and leadership by promoting education, certification, innovation, and collaboration across all levels of government and stakeholders.

### Values

Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar  
Monthly Luncheon  
Meeting

see page 2 for details

### SPRING PDT MARCH 20, 2018

REGISTRATION  
IS NOW OPEN

details coming soon  
8 hours CPE

## Eye Opener



### 1962 and 1963

Last time, until recently, that the life expectancy in the U.S. dropped two years in a row. It declined in 2015 and 2016, partially fueled by a 21 percent increase in fatal drug overdoses.

SOURCE: NBC News | December 21, 2017





**WEB CONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY**  
**January 10, 2018**  
**2:00pm to 3:50pm**  
 Van Waggoner Building  
 Lakeshore Room  
 Lansing, Michigan

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT: BREAKING  
DOWN THE COMPLEXITIES**



The idea that grants management is a profession or at least a specialty within the accounting profession, too often this is not understood by an organization's management. The complexities and risks associated with acceptance of federal funding are often not understood by decision makers. Thus, the webinar will focus on training participants to understand some risks and findings from audits and reports, what was done to resolve them and what types of resources and tools are available to help.

**SPEAKER**

Douglas Godesky  
 Senior Grants Officer  
 Corporation for National and Community Service

**REGISTRATION**

Register on-line at [www.aga-lansing.org](http://www.aga-lansing.org). Click on events.  
 Register before Monday, January 8, 2018

AGA members - FREE  
 non-members - \$20

**CPE**

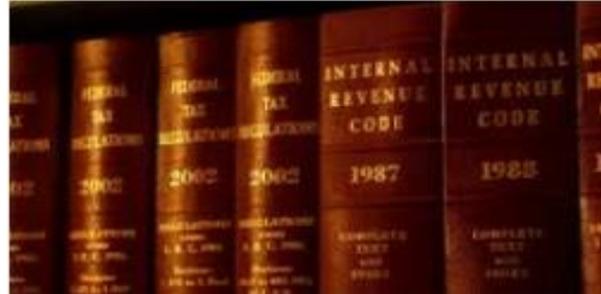
2 hours, Management

Registrants are responsible for payment unless cancellation is received by the registration deadline.



**MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY**  
**January 16, 2018**  
**11:45**  
 Michigan History Center  
 and Library  
 Lansing, Michigan

**ANNUAL TAX UPDATE**



**SPEAKER**

Carrie L. Hindmon, CPA, CSEP

Carrie is a partner at Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC and has over 19 years of public accounting experience. She specializes in individual, trust, estate, corporate, and partnership tax compliance and consulting. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Michigan State University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA), and the Greater Lansing Estate Planning Council. She is the Past-President of the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club. She resides in Portland with her husband and two children.

**REGISTRATION**

Register on-line at [www.aga-lansing.org](http://www.aga-lansing.org). Click on events.  
 Register before Friday, November 17, 2017

**COST**

\$12 AGA members  
 \$16 non-members

**CPE**

1 hour, Other  
 CGFMs please note that in order to claim CPE for this topic you must show there is a connection to your job. See page 8.

Registrants are responsible for payment unless cancellation is received by the registration deadline.

## THE MANAGEMENT LESSONS RETIRED ASTRONAUT SCOTT KELLY LEARNED IN SPACE

By Leah Fessler

Given the lack of gravity, personal space, or guarantee of surviving any given day, one would think space stations would rank among the more stressful, conflict-ridden workplaces.

But according to retired US astronaut Scott Kelly—who spent 520 days in space over four different missions and was commander of the International Space Station during his final, year-long tour—working in space is pretty chill.

“It feels like when you wake up, you’re at work, and when you go to sleep, you’re still at work. It feels like you’re living in your office,” Kelly said in a recent interview with Harvard Business Review’s Josh Olejarz. “But it’s an incredible office. Right? It’s got an incredible view.

Sounds fun enough. So Olejarz probed deeper, asking what astronauts do when they’re annoyed by coworkers, but can’t escape them:

“There are a lot of people that are my very close friends, family, people I know, people I worked with. They wouldn’t do well. But NASA and our international partners pick people that can deal well with being close quarters with other people. They work well together. They’re good teammates. They’re good followers. So, the potential for conflict is very low.”

“But you deal with it. You know, you have your own private space if you need to get away. I’m sure people vent to the folks on the ground. We talk to a psychiatrist, psychologist every couple of weeks. They ask us, you know, ever time, how are your crew members getting along? How are they doing? How are you dealing with them? Anything they do that’s bothering you? I’ve never really personally experienced much conflict—almost no conflict in space. You know, occasionally someone will do something to get on your nerves, but then you realize you’re probably doing shit to get on their nerves, too.”

Astounding as “almost no conflict in space” sounds, the notion of a drama-free workplace seems far more tenable (even without an office psychologist) when you consider Kelly’s leadership tactics and his coworkers’ team-first focus.

### Focus on something bigger than yourself

Management gurus often sound trite when they preach the importance of motivating your team by connecting them to a greater cause. Not so you’re literally working for the good of humanity. Aside

## Excellence in Government

### Management Matters

Government  
Executive

from the scientific-discovery aspect of space missions, international cooperation in space helped the US ensure that Russian rocket scientists were, as Kelly puts it, “occupied with something peaceful, versus something nefarious, like a nuclear weapons program, or building missiles for our enemies.”

Maybe your day job doesn’t help you feel like a goodwill ambassador or an extension of civilization. But the fundamental values bonding Kelly and his team—of doing something challenging, together—are easily relatable.

Like most people, Kelly didn’t know the majority of his coworkers personally before working (or, in his case, flying) with them. Instead, they honed relationships by being vulnerable about the challenges and risks of their profession, and grateful for the opportunity they shared.

### Don’t hone a single “management style”

One would think that directing the International Space Station or flying a spacecraft would demand tight-reined leadership at all times. Kelly, however, took a more flexible approach. As he told HBR: “If there’s a fire on the Space Station, my leadership style is those of a tyrant: Tell people what to do, and I don’t want any questions.” But in other circumstances, he was more collaborative—and at other times he would delegate.

Kelly’s situation-based leadership style demands a blend of confidence, self-awareness, and humility. By setting clear guidelines when times get tough, you help your team trust you, and one another. And when there’s no single solution to a problem, by acting as an equal, intent on learning from your team rather than imposing your own views, you foster innovation and mutual respect.

Essential to this balance is knowing when, and how to pick your battles:

“If I felt like I was being stressed because the ground was asking me to do something that I felt like it didn’t make sense, which sometimes is the case when you’re in space, I would always feel obligated to say, hey, we can do this better this way, or maybe we shouldn’t be doing this at all,” Kelly told HBR. “But in the end, I would always try to remind myself of the big picture, and the big picture was, hey, I’m a government employee. I’m going to be here for so much time. I’m going to be paid a certain amount. And whether I do this thing that makes no sense, or whether I do something that makes more sense to me, it doesn’t really matter. So long as it’s not a safety issue. So sometimes you just got to go with the flow.”

Roger that.

## MATERNITY WARDS ARE DISAPPEARING FROM RURAL AMERICA

Mattie Quinn | December 2017

As rural hospitals struggle to keep their doors open, the high cost of ob-gyn wards makes them one of the first things to cut.



Located as it is in rural southwest Kansas, you'd expect the Kearny County Hospital to be a relatively sleepy operation. The county's population is just under 4,000, and the closest metropolitan area, Wichita, is four hours away. But the hospital's birthing suites are busy: They're now averaging almost one birth every day, nearly twice as many as a few years ago.

There's no mystery as to why the number of babies being born annually at the county-run hospital in Lakin jumped from 189 to 360 in a four-year period. Other hospitals across the region have closed their expensive ob-gyn wards, reflecting a trend across rural America. A study published in September in the journal *Health Affairs* found that 1 in 10 rural counties had lost their ob-gyn wards in the past 10 years.

It used to be unimaginable for any hospital to shutter its obstetrics ward, says Benjamin Anderson, the Kearny County Hospital's CEO. But for hospitals struggling to stay open at all, there aren't a lot of units to close other than the maternity ward. "It requires so many fixed costs," Anderson says. "You have to have birthing suites, anesthesia, medical staff with C-section capabilities."

Yet even getting out of the birthing business hasn't enabled some rural hospitals to survive. Since 2010, 82 of them have closed their doors, the result of factors ranging from the costs of health-care

reform to declining populations to aging local workforces that make staffing a particular challenge.

The Affordable Care Act forced hospitals to modernize their operations and change existing structures of health-care delivery. Rural hospitals often lacked the resources to comply, but this was especially true in states such as Kansas that didn't expand Medicaid under the federal law.

Maternal health in rural America is made more complicated by the fact that rural areas routinely rank higher than urban areas in rates of noncommunicable diseases and preventable deaths. Birth outcomes are poorer, too. And with fewer and fewer ob-gyns available, there will likely be more high-risk pregnancies, unhealthy births and resulting long-term health issues. "What happens during pregnancy sets the tone 20 or 30 years down the road," says Lisette Jacobson, an assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health at the University of Kansas.



Meanwhile, costs and maternity ward closures are likely to continue to mount. Anderson says that by offering obstetric services, his hospital is operating at a six-figure annual loss, even after receiving funding through a public-private partnership to expand its maternity offerings. Women are coming in from two hours away to give birth, and the hospital is quickly running out of birthing space, he says.

There's no funding solution in sight. While states might try to pick up some of the slack, there's a consensus among most health-care experts that a federal partner is needed. Even a reform as simple as mandating a minimum distance between delivery sites -- along with the funding to make that work -- would benefit not only new mothers but their families as well, Anderson says. "Mothers make about 80 percent of the health-care decisions in a family, so if mom is healthy, that's one of the most significant factors to making sure the whole family is healthy. We have to get this right."

## **GREATER LANSING CHAPTER SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS**



## **DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMUNITY?**

The Greater Lansing Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is seeking nominations for its annual (1) Excellence in Government Leadership Award, (2) Professional Development Award, and (3) Community Service Award. The Chapter's Awards and Nominations Committee is seeking the nominations of individuals whom you believe deserves to be recognized with these prestigious awards.

Nominations should include the name and position held by the nominee, the award for which they are being nominated, and a brief description of the person's recent accomplishments for the award category. In addition, the nominator's name and contact information must be included. You may nominate yourself. Recipients will be recognized by their peers at the Chapter's Spring Conference on March 20, 2018.

Please refer to the following criteria when submitting your nomination:

### **Excellence in Government Leadership Award**

The Excellence in Government Leadership Award is presented to a government professional who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government accountability management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards and innovative management procedures. The award criteria includes the following:

1. The nominee must be employed in government, holding a management position involving one or more disciplines of government financial management.
2. The nominee does not need to be a member of AGA.
3. The nominee must be personally responsible for leading extraordinary initiatives in the course of their employment throughout the last year that have made a significant and lasting contribution to the quality, efficiency, and/or effectiveness of government accountability management.

### **Professional Development Award**

The Professional Development Award is presented to an individual, either an AGA member or nonmember, to recognize extraordinary efforts in providing and promoting continuing education and professional development leadership for government professionals and others, demonstrating the importance of a lifelong commitment to learning.

### **Community Service Award**

The Community Service award is presented to an AGA member to recognize exceptional personal commitment to community service activities sponsored by AGA and other organizations.

### **Nominations must be received by Friday, February 23, 2018 to submit a nomination**

send an email or write a brief letter with the information requested above  
(feel free to nominate yourself)

completed nominations may be emailed to [lansingaga@gmail.com](mailto:lansingaga@gmail.com)  
or mailed to PO Box 12159, Lansing, MI 48901  
contact Sherri Troyer, Awards Chairperson  
at [troyers1@michigan.gov](mailto:troyers1@michigan.gov) or 517-335-8202

AGA is a national professional association of 14,000 members who represent every level of government financial management. Since 1950, AGA has been dedicated to serving those who are faced with the challenge of using every government financial resource in the most effective manner possible and has been the vanguard organization addressing the issues and challenges facing government financial managers.



Joseph Novick

Posted  
October 27, 2017



## 15 WAYS TO BENEFIT FROM HUMOR IN GOVERNMENT

President Eisenhower had it right when he noted, "A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done." Poll after poll tells us that the public values three things most in government leaders: Trustworthiness, credibility and a sense of humor. No one should go into government service without the sense of humor that comes with the ability to laugh at themselves.

If you enjoy *Saturday Night Live*, *Second City*, *30 Rock*, or *Parks & Recreation*, then you already have an understanding of the benefits of a good sense of humor. The skills derived from a sense of humor – creativity, spontaneity, 'in the moment' thinking, flexibility, storytelling – are important tools for municipal leaders and government officials.

Some of the popular benefits are:

- Build trust and awareness.
- Foster teamwork and better brainstorming.
- Improved communication and presentation skills.
- Promote creative problem-solving.
- Helps you respond quickly and decisively to unanticipated challenges.
- Think on your feet and recognize opportunities as they arise.
- Increases comfort level with change and willingness to take risks.
- Manage change and promote a supportive governmental culture.

Humor is used regularly by presidents on both sides of the aisle to their great advantage – often to deal with what was perceived as a potential political liability.

In 1960, John Kennedy ran for president. There was a serious issue of whether or not his family's immense wealth would influence the election. Kennedy joked that on the eve of the election, his father, Joseph Kennedy, had asked him the exact number of votes he would need to win. The senior Kennedy said, "There's no way I am paying for a landslide." The issue never surfaced again in the news.

Twenty-four years later, President Ronald Reagan ran for re-election when he was 73. He was the oldest man to ever run for the presidency. During a debate with Democratic challenger, former Vice

President Walter Mondale, the age issue came up in a question. Reagan deflected the issue with a joke, "I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience." The age issue never surfaced again.

Both Kennedy and Reagan knew the advantage of self-deprecating humor: If you can laugh at yourself, no one can politically attack you.



Communications consultant, Andrew Targin, shares the following 15 ways to benefit from a sense of humor for use in life in general that can be applied to government leaders:

**Humor gets people to listen.** "Consistent use of appropriate humor makes people want to read and hear what you say."

**Humor increases long-term memory retention.** "Instructional messages that gain students' attention and help them make sense of course content – clarify behaviors – enhance students' ability to process the content – resulting in greater retention and learning."

**Humor increases persuasion.** "Humor can be highly persuasive when presenting a message that people disagree with because the humor distracts them from immediately creating counter-arguments, in part because they don't feel like the message is being crammed down their throats."

**Humor aids in learning.** "The use of humor as a pedagogical tool has been shown to reduce classroom anxiety, create a more positive atmosphere, as well as facilitate the learning process."

**Humor increases the likability of the speaker.** "An appropriate use of humor will produce a favorable attitude toward the speaker."

**Humor connects us with others.** "Positive sounds such as laughter or a triumphant 'woo hoo!' can trigger a response in the listener's brain. The response is automatic and helps us interact socially by priming us to smile or laugh, and thereby connecting us with the other person."

[continued on page 11]

# Early Career Center

## EMPLOYEES WHO STAY IN COMPANIES FOR MORE THAN 2 YEARS GET PAID 50% LESS

By: Kunal Doley, TechGig



There's an image that has come to be associated with millennials – that they are changing jobs every couple of years. This is said to look bad on a resume. It portrays a prospective employee as someone who can't hold down a job or is unable to get along with colleagues; worst still, lacks loyalty and commitment.

However, that stigma is changing, especially as millennials constantly rise in their workplaces and, in the process, learn and advance their careers. In fact, it has been seen that those who stay with the same company for several years tend to see lower pay growth than others who don't. If we are to go by a *Forbes* report, staying employed at the same company for over two years on average is going to make you earn less over your lifetime by about 50% or more – an estimate that they claim is conservative.



There are more studies to prove the same. A recent analysis from financial services company Nomura confirms what you've probably always

suspected: Switching jobs will probably give you a bigger pay hike than sticking with your current employer. Using the most recent data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's 'Wage Tracker' and HR firm ADP's 'Workforce Vitality Report', the report found that wage growth was higher for "job switchers" than "job stayers".

Employees who changed jobs earned about 1% more year-over-year than those who stayed with the same employer. That might not make a huge difference for one year, but it could add up to hundreds of thousands of dollars of lost wages over the course of your career. Job switchers likely experience stronger bargaining power and greater salary increases when more opportunities are available, or they find a new higher-paid role that better matches their talents, according to the report.

### Job-hopping pays

Millennials are probably the most highly educated generation in recent times and they are working in the most productive economies. But unfortunately,

that doesn't mean they are getting the pay packages they deserve.

Now, this is where switching jobs comes into play – it could even be one of the best ways to boost your income. As per a *Forbes* report, staying employed at the same company for over two years on average is going to make you earn less over your lifetime by about 50% or more – an estimate that they claim is conservative. "This is assuming that your career is only going to last 10 years. The longer you work, the greater the difference will become over your lifetime," the report said.

### Banking on annual raises? It's not enough

Most people tend to rely on annual appraisals if they are staying with one employer for long. But that doesn't help much. They may see only slight increases to their baseline salaries. While a certain per cent annual raise is the norm, now many employees don't even see any salary increase. Those who are getting an increment will not be able to keep up with inflation either.



Also, employees who stay in their jobs for a long time are at risk of seeing their earnings stagnate. Job security may have certain benefits, but it can also go hand in hand with stagnation. On the other hand, if they start at a new job, they could get an entirely new baseline that's in line with their skills and experience. But just remember, when you join a new organization, find out how it is going to support your professional, personal, and financial growth.

Remember another thing: just because we say job-hopping pays doesn't mean that you should run out and submit your resignation today. You shouldn't jump ship so often that employers see you as a flight risk. Look at your current standing; if your position doesn't offer much in terms of professional or financial growth, then maybe it's time to look for new opportunities. It is then that you shouldn't feel guilty about leaving the organization in pursuit of greener pastures.



**The Mark of Excellence  
in Federal, State, and  
Local Government**

CGFM is the 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.

**CPE Topics and Subjects that Qualify**

The CGFM is initially responsible for determining whether a topic or subject qualifies as acceptable CPE. CPE programs include a wide variety of topics and subjects that may contribute to maintaining or enhancing the professional proficiency of some CGFMs, but not others. Determining what topics and subjects are appropriate for individual CGFMs to satisfy the CPE requirement is a matter of professional judgment. Among the considerations in exercising that judgment are CGFM's experience, the government financial management area(s) in which they work and the responsibilities they assume in performing government financial management functions.

To help one determine whether the course would qualify for CPE, the CGFM should answer "yes" to all of the following questions:

1. Is the information covered in this course applicable to government financial management?
2. Does this course contribute to my professional proficiency as a CGFM?
3. Does this course provide information that directly benefits me in my job as a government financial manager or enhance my overall knowledge of government financial management?

Some courses, such as the ones that cover individual or business taxation, may not qualify for the CGFM CPE. If the CGFMs are taking these courses to satisfy the CGFM requirement, they will need to make a connection to their job and proficiency as a government financial manager and be prepared to provide a written explanation of the applicability of such courses.

CPE that would satisfy the CGFM Program's requirement must be in government financial management topics or related technical subjects applicable to government financial management. Examples of such topics and subjects include, but are not limited to, the following:

accounting principles and standards  
 accounting research  
 accounting systems  
 acquisitions management  
 actuarial techniques and analysis  
 analytical procedures  
 assessment of internal controls  
 assessment and evaluation methodologies  
 asset management  
 audit methodologies  
 audit of contract compliance/costs  
 audit/evaluation of program results  
 audit risk and materiality  
 audit/evaluation standards  
 audit preparation, review techniques and tools  
 auditing research  
 budgeting

business law  
 cash management  
 compliance with laws and regulations  
 compilation and review of financial statements  
 computer science  
 computer security  
 contracting and procurement  
 cost accounting  
 credit management  
 current industry risks  
 data management and analysis  
 debt collection  
 economics  
 enterprise risk management  
 ethics and independence  
 evaluation design  
 financial auditing  
 financial management  
 financial management systems  
 financial planning or analysis  
 financially related fraud  
 financial reporting  
 financial statement analysis  
 forecasts and projections  
 forensic accounting  
 forensic auditing  
 government structure, organization, authority  
 human capital management  
 industrial engineering  
 information resources management  
 information systems management  
 information security  
 information technology  
 internal control and internal control assessment  
 interviewing techniques  
 inventory management  
 investigations  
 investment of public funds  
 operations research  
 oral and written communications  
 organizational change management  
 pension and other employee benefits accounting  
 performance measurement and reporting  
 principles of leadership and management  
 process reengineering  
 procurement management  
 productivity improvement  
 program evaluation  
 project management  
 property management  
 public accountability  
 public administration  
 public finance  
 public policy and structure  
 report writing  
 research methods  
 sampling methods  
 social and political sciences  
 statistics  
 statistical analysis and techniques  
 strategic planning  
 taxation (need to make a connection with your job)

# Chapter Education Calendar



You can register for all chapter events at [www.aga-lansing.org](http://www.aga-lansing.org). Click on events.

Check the chapter website and upcoming newsletters for more information.

**September 13, 2017**

## Webinar Conference

Government Communications/Leadership  
Constitution Hall Arthur Iverson Conf Rm  
2 hours CPE

**September 19, 2017**

## Professional Development Seminar

A Changing World  
Library of Michigan  
4 hours CPE

**October 17, 2017**

## Monthly Luncheon Meeting

East Lansing New Tax and Budget Impact  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
1 hour CPE



**November 15, 2017**

## Webinar Conference

Ethics in Fraud  
VanWagoner Building, Pictured Rocks  
2 hours CPE

**November 21, 2017**

## Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Caring for Veterans in Michigan  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
1 hour CPE

**December 6, 2017**

## Webinar Conference

Auditing Challenges and Best Practices  
Constitution Hall Arthur Iverson Conf Rm  
2 hours CPE

**January 10, 2018**

## Webinar Conference

Grants Management  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
2 hours CPE

**January 16, 2018**

## Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Annual Tax Update  
Library of Michigan  
1 hour CPE

**February 20, 2018**

## Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Topic to be Determined  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
1 hour CPE

**March 2018 – Date to be Determined**

## Professional Development Training

Training for Government Professionals  
Location to be Determined  
8 hours CPE

**March 7, 2018**

## Webinar Conference

Infrastructure Financing  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
2 hours CPE

**March 28, 2018**

## Webinar Conference

Cybersecurity  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
2 hours CPE

**April 17, 2018**

## Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Topic to be Determined  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
1 hour CPE

**May 15, 2018**

## Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Topic to be Determined  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
1 hour CPE

**May 16, 2018**

## Webinar Conference

Fraud and Data Analytics  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
2 hours CPE

**June 13, 2018**

## Webinar Conference

Leadership  
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room  
2 hours CPE



## MEMBER NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS!

#### Member Anniversaries

Leo LaPorte, CGFM	22 years
Annette Eustice, CGFM	21 years
Bobbie Marr, CGFM	21 years
Deb Christopherson, CGFM	21 years
Michelle Hiliker, CGFM	21 years
Jerry Kulka, CGFM-Retired	21 years
Vickie Crouch, CGFM	20 years
Tim Martin	19 years
Linda Shepard, CGFM-Retired	19 years
Beth Colosimo, CGFM	19 years
Mary Elizabeth Gienapp, CGFM	19 years
Cheryl Baker	18 years
Karen Spak, CGFM	18 years
Karen Stout, CGFM	18 years
Cynthia Michels	16 years
Scott Strong, CGFM	7 years
Abdel Abdelrahman	5 years
Nancy Katsareles	4 years
Desiree Kirkland	4 years
Kim Garland	3 years
Alpa Kulkarni	2 years
Robert Fay	1 year
David Stephens	1 year
Sherri Troyer	1 year
Benjamin Brewer	1 year
Cindy Liu	1 year



## CHAPTER FINANCES

### Balance Sheet at November 30, 2017

#### Assets

Current Assets:	
Checking Account	\$ 28,915
Pay Pal Account	<u>\$ 4,064</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 32,979</u>

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

Beginning Fund Balance	
Unrestricted	\$ 28,433
Restricted	<u>\$ 4,515</u>
Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 31</u>
Ending Fund Balance	
Unrestricted	\$ 28,464
Restricted	<u>\$ 4,515</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 32,979</u>



[Humor continued from page 6]

**Humor reduces status differentials.** “Humor can help to reduce the social distance between managers and employees.”

**Humor diffuses conflict.** “Humor has long been seen as the great equalizer — a means to facilitate conversation and bridge differences. As a matter of fact, humor has been identified as a key factor in peace-building and international mediation.”

**Humor builds trust.** “Social benefits of humor include group cohesiveness, reduction of status differentials, diffusion of conflict, team and trust building among diverse groups.”

**Humor encourages people to work together.** “A growing body of research shows that when you share a laugh with someone, you’re mirroring not only one another’s body language but also the hormonal and neuronal activity, prompting a mutual investment in each other’s well-being.”

**Humor boosts overall brainpower.** “A dose of humor releases the chemical serotonin in your brain, which improves focus, increases objectivity and improves overall brainpower.”

**Humor improves decision-making.** “Positive moods prompt more flexible decision-making and wider-search behavior as well as greater analytic precision.”

**Humor triggers new connections.** “Humor stimulates the right hemisphere of the brain, which, in turn, sets off divergent, creative thinking which allows individuals to see broader applications,

novel connections and otherwise elusive relationships.”

**Humor increases the acceptance of new ideas.** “Unconventional interactions can lower the barrier for people to posit novel things.”

**Humor enhances one’s ability to solve problems.** “Studies have shown that simply watching comedy films can improve creative problem-solving skills.”



A well-developed sense of humor enhances communications, relationships and problem-solving. These are essential skills for anyone seeking a career in government.

Kennedy and Reagan used humor to their benefit. Presidents like Nixon and Ford did not.

Remember what George Will said, “On a throne at the center of the sense of humor sits the capacity for irony, all which rests on a cheerful awareness of life’s incongruities. It is a genuine awareness, and no politician without it should be allowed near power.”

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



### National AGA

To register for events, visit [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

**February 27-28, 2018**

#### National Leadership Training

Washington DC or virtual  
14 hours CPE

**May 2018**

#### CFO/CIO Summit

Washington DC  
4 hours CPE

**July 22-25, 2018**

#### National Professional Development Training

Orlando, Florida  
24 hours CPE



### West Michigan AGA

To register for events, visit [www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events](http://www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events)

**February 6, 2018**

#### 2018 Governmental GAAP Update

Your Computer  
2 hours CPE

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. John F. Kennedy

I never learn anything talking. I only learn when I ask questions. Lou Holtz



## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**October 10, 2017**  
**Fifth Third Building**

**CEC Members Present:** Kim Dunbar, Julie Salman, Karen Stout, Sherri Troyer, Anshu Varma, Dan Wawiernia

**CEC Members Not Present:** Julie Chrysler, Anthony Edwards, Cindy Osga, Kyle Stolicker

**Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda:** The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the agenda.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the September 12, 2017 CEC meeting were approved via email on October 9, 2017.

**Budget and Financials:** Julie S. discussed the financial reports presented. The chapter has a fund balance of \$32,363 at September 30. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the September 2017 financials and expenditures in the amount of \$1,546.19

**Membership:** Sherri will work with the membership list on the website to assist with a membership drive.

**Education:** The Fall PDT was a success. The results of the evaluations should be available by the next CEC meeting.

**Program Luncheons:** Registrations for the October 17 meeting is currently at 10. Karen will send out a reminder for the meeting. The speakers and topic has been confirmed for the November meeting. There will be two speakers, Brad Slagle will be discussing the history and future of Michigan's Homes for Veterans, and Lindell Holm will be speaking on the Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund.

**Communications – Newsletter and CCR:** The October newsletter is done. Dan will send it in Anthony's absence.

**CGFM and CPE Events:** The next webinar is scheduled for November 15. The topic is Ethics.

**Webmaster:** Registrants were experiencing problems with PayPal. Anthony will address when he returns.

**Community Service:** Sherri volunteered to assist with community service activities. We will be collecting for the East Lansing Veteran's Memorial at the October luncheon meeting.

**Awards:** No report.

**Chapter Recognition Program:** No report.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 12:50 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
Location: Lewis Cass Building  
Host: Anshu Varma





## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**November 14, 2017**  
**Lewis Cass Building**

**CEC Members Present:** Kim Dunbar, Cindy Osga, Julie Salman, Kyle Stolicker, Karen Stout, Sherri Troyer, Anshu Varma, Dan Wawiernia

**CEC Members Not Present:** Julie Chrysler, Anthony Edwards

**Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda:** The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the agenda.

**Minutes:** The October 2017 board minutes were discussed. Corrections will be made and sent out to approve the revised minutes.

**Budget and Financials:** The chapter had an October 2017 fund balance of \$32,948. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the October 2017 financials and expenditures in the amount of \$89.00. Anshu recommended using some of the fund balance for a dynamic speaker at the spring PDT.

**Membership:** Cindy report that the chapter has 8 new members this program year. Welcome letters were sent. Chapter membership stands at 122 members.

**Education:** The Spring PDT will be in March 2018. A date has not yet been finalized. A PDT planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29.

**Program Luncheons:** The next meeting is November 21. Karen will re-confirm the speakers and ask for the presentations to be provided electronically. Eighteen participants have registered. Karen will not be at the meeting.

Karen will create the CPE form so it is available at the meeting. Dan will confirm the registrations after the November 17 registration deadline. Julie is unable to attend and Sherri volunteered to handle the registration table.

**Communications – Newsletter and CCR:** The November newsletter has been issued. Cindy indicated she recently reviewed 12 chapter CCRs.

**CGFM and CPE Events:** The next webinar is November 15 and will discuss Fraud in Your Organization. There are 52 registrants and the location has been changed to the Williams Building Auditorium to accommodate the event. The December 6 webinar is Accounting and Financial Auditing Challenges and Best Practices.

**Webmaster:** The PayPal issue is resolved.

**Community Service:** No report.

**Awards:** We will discuss the awards at the December 12 CEC meeting.

**Chapter Recognition Program:** Cindy reported the first quarter credits.

Leadership: 1,975 of 5,000 yearly max  
Education: 1,225 of 4,000 yearly max  
Certification: 875 of 4,000 yearly max  
Communication: 2,025 of 3,000 max  
Accountability: 950 of 2,000 yearly max  
Community Service: 275 of 2,000 yearly max  
Awards: 0 of 1,000 yearly max [this is normal]

**New Business:** AGA's National Executive Committee is seeking comments regarding a new governance structure. Please share your input with Cindy who is on the National Governance Committee.

**Old Business:** The membership appreciation event is scheduled for May 15, 2018.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 12:57 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Date: December 12, 2017  
Location: Lewis Cass Building  
Host: Cindy Osga





# Chapter Executive Committee 2017-2018

Platinum  
Chapter

### President

Anshu Varma, CPA  
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### President Elect

Vacant

### Treasurer

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### Awards

Vacant

### Membership

Vacant

### Newsletter

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### Past President

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See the Chapter's Annual Citizen Centric Report  
on the website.

The Chapter's Citizen Centric Report was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by National AGA.

[www.lansing-aga.org](http://www.lansing-aga.org)

Greater Lansing AGA  
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