

Disclosures



**A
MESSAGE
FROM
THE
CHAPTER
PRESIDENT**



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We had an exceedingly successful PDC last month. The credit for that goes to our Educational Chair Anshu Varma and the rest of the Chapter Board who supported her at this event. We have more educational opportunities coming up the details of which are located elsewhere in this newsletter. However, as our year winds to a close I want to draw your attention to our Greater Lansing Chapter's awards.

There are 3 specific awards for which we would like your input – Excellence in Government Leadership Award, Professional Development Award, and Community Service Award. Again, there are further details in this newsletter about the criteria for each of these awards. What I want to draw your attention to is the need for your input. As government accountants and leaders in the state and local Lansing-area governmental units you have unique insight as to those among you who are deserving of these awards. I encourage you to take the time to submit a nomination for these awards.

As always we welcome your input and constructive comments on our Chapter's operations. We are always striving to improve.

Chris Bayley

Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.

Mission

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

Core Values


Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership

SPRING
INTO AGA

Let your professional goals bloom!

renew now


Eye Opener



225%

The anticipated average increase in insurance premiums sold on the federal exchange if the U.S. Supreme Court rules against Obamacare in *King v. Burwell* and eliminates subsidies for people in 37 states.

SOURCE: The Fiscal Times | March 3, 2015





**MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY
April 22, 2015
11:45**
Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street,
Lansing, Michigan

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR
THE GREATER LANSING REGION**

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Friday, April 17, 2015

COST

\$12 AGA members
\$16 non-members

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



**WEB CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY
May 13, 2015
2:00pm to 3:50pm**
Constitution Hall
ConCon A and B
Lansing, Michigan

**ETHICAL DECISIONS MAKING
IN THE REAL WORLD**

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.
Click on events.
Register before Friday, May 8, 2015

COST

AGA members - FREE
non-members - \$20

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



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

**Free CGFM Exam
for AGA Members**

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.

AGA members can now take a CGFM examination for free. Enroll in the CGFM program in April or May and save \$125!

To qualify for this promotion, an individual must:

1. Be a current member of AGA for the 2015-2016 membership year, and
2. Complete the CGFM application requirements between 4/1/15 and 5/31/15 (Note: this includes submitting the online CGFM application form, paying the \$85 application fee and submitting the required official college transcript to the AGA Office of Professional Certification).

Individuals who have met the above criteria and are enrolled in the CGFM program will be issued an exam voucher that can be used in lieu of payment for the Governmental Environment examination taken at a Pearson VUE testing center. The testing appointment must be scheduled and the exam must be taken by November 30, 2015.

Additional questions?

Any questions regarding this promotion should be directed to the Office of Professional Certification at agacgfm@agacgfm.org or 703.684.6931.

Q: When will I receive my exam voucher?

A: Once your CGFM online application form, application fee payment and required transcript are received and approved by the Office of Professional Certification, AGA will enroll you in the CGFM program and email you an eligibility letter. The letter is usually sent out within five business days of AGA receiving your CGFM application and transcript. The Exam 1 vouchers will be emailed to newly enrolled CGFM candidates who qualified for the promotion on 4/15, 4/30, 5/15, 6/1, and 6/15.

Q: Do I have to take CGFM Examination 1 by May 31, 2015?

A: No, all exam appointments using these vouchers must take place by November 30, 2015.

Q: When does the voucher expire and can the expiration be extended?

A: All exam vouchers expire on November 30, 2015. All exam appointments using these vouchers must take place by November 30, 2015. The voucher expiration date will not be extended for any reason.

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) Government Financial Manager of the Year 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. Recipients will be recognized by their peers at the Chapter's Meeting on May 19, 2015. You may nominate yourself.

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 Thursday April 30, 2015

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.
or mailed to PO Box 12159, Lansing, MI 48901
contact Wanda Clavon Jones, Awards Chairperson
at lansingaga@gmail.com

AGA is a national professional association of 16,000 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.



CHAPTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

April 25, 2015

ATTENTION AGA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!
Let's get moving for a great cause! The Greater Lansing AGA chapter is excited to sponsor participants in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Walk MS event here in Lansing on April 25th.

Walk MS is a day that connects friends, families, and coworkers who join together to help create a world free of MS. Each step we take brings us closer to ending MS forever. When you participate in Walk MS, the funds you raise give hope to the more than 18,000 people living with MS in our community. The dollars raised support life-changing programs and cutting-edge research. Every connection counts.

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! That's what you'll see at this walk location. A walk through Potter Park Zoo makes up much of the walk route before going out on the River Trail. In 2014 there were 937 participants who raised more than \$66,000 in the fight against MS. We would love to have you join us for our 2015 event. Our AGA chapter had several members who joined together and had a great time on the walk. Here's the link to register: http://walkmig.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=25537&pg=entry

Our past president, Amy Zimmerman, has signed up and here is her information to help give you an idea to get started with your registration: When my niece was diagnosed with MS, I experienced that helpless feeling of wishing that there was something I could do to help. I am excited to say I have found something that I can do to help.

I am going to participate in the MS Walk in Lansing on April 25th and am looking for friends and family that would like to join me in the walk and / or donate money to help fund the programs and services that the National MS Society provides to the many people affected by MS. I have set up my own personal webpage to make donating easy. Please check it out at http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Walk/MIG/WalkEvents?px=13985807&pg=personal&fr_id=25537

Multiple sclerosis affects millions of people, including our co-workers, friends, families and loved ones. MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the mind and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.

Your gift helps support cutting edge research and programs and services for everyone impacted by MS. Ending MS means no one will receive an MS diagnosis again. Every step matters. Every dollar counts. Every person makes a difference.



AGA members and friends participating in the 2015 MS Walk at Potter Park Zoo.



CHAPTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Join Team Susan and AGA May 3, 2015

A member of our AGA family, Susan Rosenbaum, passed away on January 31, 2015. A team has been formed to participate in the ALS Association's Walk to Defeat ALS. The walk will be held on May 3 in Howell, Michigan in memory of our dear friend Susan.

The team would love to have you join the walk or make a donation to support ALS research. You can donate to any team member, sign up to participate, or just learn more about the walk through this link:

[Click here to view the team page for Team Susan](#)

If you are interested in walking to raise funds for ALS and this date doesn't work for you, please consider the ALS of Michigan's Walk and Roll event on Sunday September 20, 2015 in Lansing. Our team plans to participate in that event too!

**AGA's
NATIONAL
PRESIDENT
2011-2015**

**William D. Miller
CGFM**



**AGA National President
Bill Miller shares the
importance of
leadership and
empowering AGA
members.
Opportunities await!**

AGA National recently completed two major training events that represented great benefit to our members. AGA is a leader in training at all levels of the organization. My travels to many Professional Development Training events held by our chapters, have revealed how effective these chapters — and the Association as a whole — is in providing up-to-date and needed training. How have we done this? Leadership and commitment. We can be proud of our members and their chapter leadership.

Advancing leadership and empowering our members is one of our strategic goals; and, I've seen this in action at many of our chapter events. I often hear members say they "don't have the time to participate in leading their chapter." However, those who have made the time to volunteer and lead, explain it was a matter of adjusting priorities and making time. The benefits of leadership are many — it helps our members build self-confidence, achieve a sense of professional growth and satisfaction, as well as personal development. I look at leadership as an opportunity to learn and create accomplishment. To me, there is no better feeling than working with colleagues, giving them opportunities and watching them take on new challenges and further develop leadership skills. Leadership is a progression from small tasks to major undertakings. Sure, leaders risk failure along the way, but that is part of growth.

If you choose to lead, you have to develop your style of leadership. Strong leaders make tough decisions when they have to, seek guidance as appropriate, and mentor emerging leaders whenever possible. Collaboration with affected parties helps the leader understand the potential outcome of the pending decision. How a leader relates to staff defines the response to expect from staff. Don't be the type of leader like the one depicted in this old statement, which I've heard throughout my career, "There they go, I must hasten after them for I am their leader!" Telling, isn't it? I believe in participative management; that means working with others along the way. Our potential is limitless and restricted only by our actions.

So, I encourage our members to use AGA as their leadership training ground. Seek out positions in the chapter Executive Committees. Use your talent to influence others while also learning from your colleagues. And most of all — have fun and enjoy the experience!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D. Miller". The signature is cursive and fluid.

William D. Miller, CGFM, CIA
2014-2015 AGA National President



From Debt to Data: Detroit Launches Open Data Portal

When the city of Detroit filed for bankruptcy on July 18, 2013, it was the largest municipality to do so in U.S. history. Debt was at more than \$18 billion. The media described the catastrophe not as a breaking disaster but as an unavoidable fate.

“You could see the writing on the wall,” Terence Tyson, a city worker, told *The New York Times*. And his remark was echoed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who assessed the calamity as “the only viable option” for a problem “six decades in the making.”

Yet today, Detroit’s run of hardships appear to be on the wane. On December 14, 2014, the city officially declared itself out of bankruptcy. And while struggles remain, Detroit is showing glimmers of a rebirth. Businesses are returning to its downtown and the unemployment rate continues to fall from 23 percent in 2010 to 16.9 percent in 2013, and will be lower in 2014, once it’s officially calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The city’s momentum will be pushed in part by its first open data portal, “Detroit Open Data.” “This is the first step in a very long journey, and perhaps it’s the hardest part,” said Beth Niblock, Detroit’s CIO.

The city, which emerged from bankruptcy last year, has received a grant from the Socrata Foundation that will allow it to publish data on finance, crime, economic development, and blight remediation.

Detroit’s Department of Technology has teamed up with the open data portal provider Socrata to receive the first technology grant awarded from the company’s recently established Socrata Foundation, which provides Socrata’s technologies, talent and practices to data-minded organizations serving the public good.

The grant covers the launch and service of Detroit’s portal for the next three years and Niblock envisions it as critical foundation for the city’s data and transparency endeavors.

“We know that we’ll have city financial transactions online in the next four to six months, data sets that are especially helpful for a city that’s gone through the experience we’ve gone through,” Niblock said.

Socrata’s aid arrives during a time of tight budgets and watchful restraint. After the bankruptcy, Detroit was put under a strict reorganization plan, a policy that permits the city to waive \$7 billion of its debts, yet limits spending to \$1.7 billion spread across 10 years. For the city’s IT needs, \$100 million is already slated for critical IT infrastructure. And though valuable, open data projects might be seen as a luxury at a time like this.

“Now in 2015 it’s indisputable that open data creates economic development,” said Socrata Founder Kevin Merritt. “But given the circumstances, given the bankruptcy, given they lacked the resources to do it in a more conventional way, we said ‘Let’s see if we can be part of Detroit’s path to recovery.’”



Detroit CIO, Beth Niblock, standing far left, showcases the city’s first open data portal announced on February 19.

To balance the city’s open data needs with budgetary constraints, the Socrata Foundation collaborated to publish Detroit Police Department crime reports on an hourly basis, building and trade permits information daily and blight remediation data every week. In an effort to bring open data closer to city practices, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan coupled the portal with the city’s first open data policy.

The policy sets in motion an initiative to publish all public city data on Detroit Open Data, establish a task force for implementation and requires departments to comply by assigning a liaison to coordinate data efforts.

“Providing access to information is one of the most important things we can do to keep the public’s trust and establish a sense of accountability within city government,” Duggan said in a release. “Today is an important first step in that direction.”

More technology grants are slated for 2015. Merritt estimates the foundation will award roughly 10 to 12, about one per month. Socrata has three groups of products available for grants: open data portals, state and municipal performance dashboards and a new suite of financial transparency apps to visualize and decipher budgets. Without a quota on the grants, Merritt said it’s possible the numbers will grow in coming years.

“It wouldn’t surprise me if it grew to 25 or 50 grants a year in a few years’ time,” Merritt said.

Jason Shueh is a staff writer for *Government Technology* magazine. His articles and writing have covered numerous subjects, from minute happenings to massive trends. A San Francisco Bay Area native, Shueh grew up in the east bay and Napa Valley, where his family is based. His writing has been published previously in the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, *Amazon Publishing*, *Bike Magazine*, *Diablo Magazine*, *The Sierra Sun*, *Nevada Appeal*, *The Union* and the *North Lake Tahoe Bonanza*.





Jessie Kwak

Posted
March 17, 2015



THE TOP 10 MOST LIKELY INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND HOW TO ACE THEM

It sure would help ease the interview jitters if hiring managers made it a habit to send out a list of questions beforehand. While you're unlikely to come across one who'll do that – seeing how candidates answer on the spot is a pretty big part of the interview – there are some old standards you can count on seeing again and again.

Along with doing as much research as you can on the company, brushing up on your answers to these ten questions will help you ace your next interview.

1. Tell me about yourself

This seemingly innocuous question is the one that always leaves me tongue-tied. It's typically one of the first questions you'll get asked, and if you want to make a good first impression it's smart to practice your answer. Assuming the hiring manager has already read through your resume and cover letter, brush lightly over your work experience and highlight the parts of your journey, interests, education, and volunteer experience that make you a good fit for the position and the company. This is a good time to show how you're aligned with the company's values, too.

2. Why did you leave your last job?

It could be easy to take this as an opportunity to complain about your old job, but avoid that temptation. Be honest about why you're looking for work – whether it's because you got caught in the last round of budget cuts, or because you feel there's no room to grow your skill set in your old position. Try to frame your reply in such a way that you highlight what you learned in your previous position, and how you hope to grow in a new one. Be careful with this question! You don't want to not to give the impression that you're a mercenary who's just in it for the job advancement or salary. Otherwise you may leave your potential new employers with the impression you'll just move on when the next opportunity comes up.

3. Why do you want this job?

This question is a great opportunity for you to outline what you're looking for, and throw in a dash of flattery. If you've done your research you'll know the organization's strengths and values, and be able to link those to your own personal goals and career path. With this question, the hiring manager will be checking to see if your expectations meet the job – and you can check to make sure this job is going to be a good fit for you.

4. What are your strengths?

You should already know what the job requires, so choose professional strengths that are tailored to the position. It's important to be truthful here, and not just say something you think the interviewer wants to hear. Be prepared to back up your claims with examples of how you demonstrated those strengths in past jobs.

5. What are your weaknesses?

This question is tricky, since you don't want to disqualify yourself by pointing out flaws, but you also need to be honest. One common response is to give a humblebrag answer, like "I'm too detail oriented, and so sometimes I end up putting in hours on my own time." The interviewer will see right through this, and it can come instead, focus on a weakness that you've overcome, or choose a professional trait that you've been working on improving, like that you're not always confident presenting your ideas in public, but you've taken a pitching workshop to improve it.

6. How do you handle stressful work situations?

This question is designed to gauge how well you'll perform when the first big curveball comes your way. When answering, think back to specific situations in past jobs, and try to give examples. Did you ask for assistance when the job got too big? Do you use tools like to-do lists to get a handle on projects? Maybe you're great at pivoting mid-project when problems arise, or you naturally enjoy situations that others find stressful. Come up with a great story to demonstrate just how you work under stress.

7. Tell me about a time when....

It's important to prepare ahead of time with specific examples of what you've done in your past jobs. Brainstorm examples specific to your position and skill set and, of course, come up with some good stories that highlight how you work. You can't know ahead of time what the interviewer might ask, but common questions are either behavioral (like how you deal with criticism and negative feedback from a supervisor), or work-style related (like how you've brought suggestions to the table, and where you've improved processes).

8. What would you like to be doing five years from now?

With this question, the interviewer is trying to determine how committed you'll be to the job, and whether or not your career goals are in line with what the position offers. This is another great opportunity for you to test the waters with this position before jumping in. Be as honest as possible about your goals, since if you're looking to advance to management you don't want to take a position that doesn't have an advancement track. On the other hand, beware of answers that would remove you from consideration, like "I plan to start my own business," or "I want to work in a different field." Your reply should assure the interviewer that your goals are in line with actual advancement opportunities.

9. Why should we hire you?

This question is your chance to really pitch yourself, and to highlight any skills that haven't been brought up yet. Keep your answer in line with the strengths and skills that are required for the job, and explain exactly why you're a good fit both with the company and for the specific position.

10. Do you have any questions for us?

Many people – me included – struggle with this part of the interview process. It can help to jot a list of questions down ahead of time, or keep a notepad handy to jot things during your conversation.

Early Career Center

Tips for Creating a Concise Resume

by Kim Issacs, Monster Resume Expert



If you're in the middle of updating or writing your resume, you may be asking yourself any of these questions:

- How long should my resume be?
- How can I fit all my experience on one page?
- What can I eliminate, and what should be highlighted?

If you are, you're not alone. As millions of workers update their resumes, one of the top concerns is resume length. Not long ago, job seekers followed the resume golden rule: No resume should exceed one page. However, today's job seekers are finding that rule no longer applies.

In this time of confusion, the solution is simple: common sense. If you are just graduating, have fewer than five years of work experience or are contemplating a complete career change, a one-page resume will probably suffice. Some technical and executive candidates require multiple-page resumes. If you have more than five years of experience and a track record of accomplishments, you will need at least two pages to tell your story.

Your Resume Is Not an Autobiography

Don't confuse telling your story with creating your autobiography. Employers are inundated with resume submissions and are faced with weeding out the good from the bad. The first step involves quickly skimming through resumes and eliminating candidates who clearly are not qualified. Your resume needs to pass the skim test. Look at your resume and ask yourself:

- Can a hiring manager see my main credentials within 10 to 15 seconds?
- Does critical information jump off the page?
- Do I effectively sell myself on the top quarter of the first page?

The Sales Pitch

Because resumes are quickly skimmed during the first pass, it is crucial your resume gets right to work selling your credentials. Your key selling points need to be prominently displayed at the top of the first page. If an MBA is important in your career field, don't bury it at the end of a four-page resume. An effective way to showcase your key qualifications is to include a Career Summary statement at the top of the first page.

Eight Tips to Keep Your Resume Concise

1. Avoid Repeating Information: Did you perform the same or similar job tasks for more than one employer? Instead of repeating job duties, focus on your accomplishments in each position.

2. Eliminate Old Experience: Employers are most interested in what you did recently. If you have a long career history, focus on the last 10 to 15 years. If your early career is important to your current goal, briefly mention the experience without including details. For example: Early Career: ABC Company -- City, State -- Assistant Store Manager and Clerk, 1980-1985.

3. Don't Include Irrelevant Information: Avoid listing hobbies and personal information such as date of birth or marital status. Also, eliminate outdated technical or business skills.

4. Cut Down on Job Duties: Many job seekers can trim the fat off their resumes simply by removing long descriptions of job duties or responsibilities. Instead, create a paragraph that briefly highlights the scope of your responsibility and then provide a list of your most impressive accomplishments.

5. Remove the "References Available Upon Request" line: Many job seekers waste the valuable last line of the resume on an obvious statement. Delete it.

6. Use a Telegraphic Writing Style: Eliminate personal pronouns and minimize the use of articles (a, an, the) when preparing your resume.

7. Edit Unnecessary Words: Review your resume for unnecessary phrases such as "responsible for" or "duties include." The reader understands you were responsible for the tasks listed on your resume.

8. Customize Your Resume for Your Job Target: Include only the information relevant to your goal. This is particularly important for career changers who need to focus on transferable skills and deemphasize unrelated career accomplishments.

A Budget Lesson, Sort Of...



**By John Lindstrom
Publisher**

Posted: February 11, 2015 10:17 AM

John Roberts gets tossed to the wolves today. As Michigan's new budget director he gets to present his first budget to the Legislature and then can go home and nurse his wounds. It is the way the world works.

And really, what a strange job is budget director. What child, when asked, says he or she wants to grow up to be a budget director? Where did they come from? Why are they here? Are they friendly?

Such imponderables are beyond answer. However, one of the most famous of Michigan's budget directors had a thought on whence budget directors came onto this planet.

Gerald Miller, who ran the state's finances during the 1970s and early 1980s under then Governor William Milliken, once spoke to a meeting of the Society of Professional Journalists. He said thus:

"A doctor, an engineer and a budget director were arguing over whose profession was the first. The doctor said, 'Look, go to the Bible. There was chaos, God created the earth out of the chaos, created man out of the earth and breathed life into him. Giving life, that's what doctors do. So doctors are the first profession.'

"Then the engineer said, 'Hold on, there was chaos, God created the earth out of the chaos, formed the mountains, the oceans, the rivers. That's engineering. So engineering is the first profession.'

"Then the budget director spoke:
'Who created the chaos?'"



GPS
2015
Government
Performance
Summit
May 4 & 5, 2015 | Washington, DC

**PUTTING
PERFORMANCE
TO WORK**



PI
The
Performance
Institute
AGA

No travel budget? No problem.

Attend the Government Performance Summit virtually from your office or home! This year's summit gives attendees who are not able to travel the [option to attend virtually](#). Virtual participants will be able to log in via their computers, tablets, or smart phones and attend the event in real time, allowing for a full scale conference experience without stretching already tight budgets. Virtual attendees who log into the conference remotely will also receive up to [14 CPE hours!](#)

GPS is the must-attend event for leaders in financial management for federal, state, and local government organizations. Join more than 400 of your colleagues in government and industry to explore the latest mandates, best practices, and proven approaches.

Visit agacgfm.org to learn more.



**National AGA
Academic
Scholarships
Available**

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, or public administration? If so, consider applying for an AGA academic scholarship. This AGA can award full time and part time scholarships for each of the following categories:

- Rising College Freshman
- Current Undergraduates
- Graduate Students

Part time scholarships are for \$1500 and full time scholarships are for \$3000. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, April 17, 2015.

Visit agacgfm.org to learn more.



The Greater Lansing Chapter would like to extend a sincere thanks to everyone who attended the Spring Conference and our sponsor, Data Strategy.

A very special thanks to Anshu Varma, Education Director, who put together a fantastic event once again.

FREE ToolKits and Guides

AGA offers free, online tool kits and guides to help financial professionals working at all levels of government do their job better.

Visit agacgfm.org/Tools-Resources to access this valuable information.



Fraud Prevention Toolkit

Helps officials at any level of government to detect, combat, and prevent fraud.



Risk Assessment Monitoring Toolkit

Provides states with a method of assessing subrecipient risk across federal granting authorities.



Financial and Administrative Toolkit

Assists state agencies in establishing subrecipient monitoring programs. Can be used with the Risk Assessment Monitoring Toolkit.



Cooperative Audit Resolution and Oversight Initiative (CARO) Guide

Helps identify the underlying cause of audit and oversight findings and empowers the people who know programs best to chart a course for program improvement.



Candidate Assessment Toolkit for Grant Managers

Helps government managers assess candidates for grants management positions and serve as a self-assessment tool.



Blended and Braided Funding

Provides some basic “how to” information for those seeking to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of programs by coordinating disparate funding.



Making Better Decisions: Leveraging Government Resources in Challenging Financial Times

Features a number of decision trees for use by officials at all levels of government in developing laws, regulations, or guidance in a manner that enhances the likelihood of successful program performance and oversight.



CHAPTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

**August 8
August 9**

a celebration of culture, tradition, and community

Support MSU and your arts community at the Great Lakes Folk Festival. The festival could not happen without the tremendous contributions of time and energy provided by hundreds of volunteers each year.

A corps of nearly 200 volunteers help produce this annual award-winning festival, a celebration of culture, tradition and community. Music and dance stages -- sponsored by the City of East Lansing -- feature rhythms, sounds, stories and spectacular musicianship over three days, from blues to bluegrass, Celtic, Zydeco, and more; a Taste of Traditions food court with authentic regional and ethnic cuisine; Children's Folk Activities Area, with hands-on fun for the whole family; and living arts and heritage programs that reflect on the MSU Museum's traditional arts research.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Bike Parking
- Bucket Brigade
- Buddy
- Kidlore – Children's Area
- The Marketplace
- Green room
- Information Booth
- JOATMON (jack of all trades, master of none)
- Operations
- Recycling
- Sales
- Seniors on the Go
- Set Up and Take Down Crew
- Site Coordinator
- Transportation
- Volunteer Registration
-

Visit www.greatlakesfolkfest.net to learn more about the festival. And to learn more about the volunteer job descriptions click on volunteers and then job descriptions.

AGA members who volunteer will receive a free henna sample from our chapter's talented Anshu Varma. Visit her at Henna By Design.



CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



You can register for all chapter events at www.aga-lansing.org. Click on events.

Check the chapter website and upcoming newsletters for more information.

~~**September 18, 2014**
Professional Development Conference
Government Accountability
Library of Michigan
4 hours CPE~~

~~**February 18, 2015**
Webinar Conference
Fraud Prevention
Ottawa Building, Conference Room A
2 hours CPE~~

~~**February 24, 2015**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
FOIA and Email
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE~~

~~**October 21, 2014**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
DNR Resource Trust Fund
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE~~

~~**March 18, 2015**
Webinar Conference
Internal Controls
Constitution Hall, ConCon A and B
2 hours CPE~~

~~**November 13, 2014**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE~~

~~**March 26, 2015**
Professional Development Conference
Government Accountability
Okemos Conference Center
8 hours CPE~~



April 22, 2015
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Economic Development for Greater Lansing
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

~~**November 19, 2014**
Webinar Conference
Fraud Risk Management
Ottawa Building, Conference Room 6
2 hours CPE~~



~~**January 26, 2015**
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Income Tax Update
Joint Meeting with SAAABA
Capitol View Building~~

May 13, 2015
Webinar Conference
Ethics – Beyond the Code
Constitution Hall, ConCon A and B
2 hours CPE

~~**January 28, 2015**
Webinar Conference
Strengthening Grant Management
Constitution Hall
2 hours CPE~~

May 19, 2015
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
State of the State of Michigan Budget
Capitol View Building
1 hour CPE

ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Greater Lansing Chapter
Chapter Presidents

The Greater Lansing AGA Chapter received
its charter from the National AGA on
September 25, 1979.

1979-1980	Ron Hoffmeister
1980-1981	Joe Perrone
1981-1982	L.T. Bower
1982-1983	Jerome Herman
1983-1984	Carol Shamka
1984-1985	Jon Houserman
1985-1986	Barbara Hayes
1986-1987	John Hart
1987-1988	Richard Cummings
1988-1989	Jeff Linderman
1989-1990	Steve Hilker
1990-1991	Myron Frierson
1991-1992	Jill Murphy
1992-1993	Therese Regner
1993-1994	Larry Misiewicz
1994-1995	Christine Ullmann
1995-1996	Pratin Trivedi
1996-1997	Lisa Pratt
1997-1998	Laura Hirst
1998-1999	Cindy Osga
1999-2000	Chris Bayley
2000-2001	Jean Ramsy
2001-2002	Lisa Fath
2002-2003	Laura Mester
2003-2004	Christy Ryan
2004-2005	Howard Pizzo
2005-2006	Linda deBourbon
2006-2007	Ed Niereshner
2007-2008	Dairus Reynett
2008-2009	Tim Becker
2009-2010	Corey Sparks
2010-2011	Cynthia Johnson
2011-2012	Susan Saari
2012-2013	Deborah Christopherson
2013-2014	Amy Zimmerman
2014-2015	Chris Bayley

**GREATER LANSING
CHAPTER
35 YEARS**

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



West Michigan AGA

To register for events, visit
www.agawestmichigan.org/home/events

April 8, 2015

Governmental Accounting Training Series Level Three
Grand Rapids, Michigan
8 hours CPE

April 22, 2015

New Uniform Grant Guidance (2 CFR 200)
Webinar
2 hours CPE

National AGA

To register for events, visit www.agacgfm.org



May 4-5, 2015

Government Performance Summit
Marriott Metro Center Hotel
Washington D.C.
14 hours CPE



July 12-15, 2015

Professional Development Training
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee
24 hours CPE



September 15-16

Internal Control and Fraud Prevention
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C.
14 hours CPE

Lansing IIA

To register for events, visit
<http://www.theiia.org/lansing>

April 17, 2015

Reasonable Assurance Does Not
Make Me Sleep Any Better
MSUFCU, East Lansing, Michigan
2 hours CPE

Develop a passion for learning.
If you do so, you will never cease to grow.

Anthony J. D'Angelo





MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS! Member Anniversaries

Therese Regner, CGFM-Retired	27 years
Lisa Mazure, CGFM	22 years
Fern Wilson	10 years
Charlotte Roper, CGFM	9 years
Jean Young	9 years
Matt Gardner	7 years
Angela Richards	6 years
Kavita Bankapur	2 years
Julie Chrysler	1 year

Chapter Membership by Numbers on April 1

Chapter Members	120
Chapter Members Who Have Not Renewed	33

Visit agacgfm.org
to renew.

It is quick and
easy.

Quick Links

Join AGA
Renew Now

Register for an Event
Apply for CGFM Certification
Print Your CPE Certificate

Meet Your Fellow AGA Member



CHAPTER FINANCES

Balance Sheet at February 28, 2015

Assets	
Current Assets:	
Checking Account	\$ 8,505
Pay Pal Account	\$ 2,075
Total Assets	\$ 10,580
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Unrestricted Begin Fund Balance	\$ 9,363
Income (Loss)	\$ 1,217
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 10,580



Maxine and Taxes





CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2015

CEC Members Present: Christopher Bayley, Julie Chrysler, Wanda Clavon Jones, Dan Jaroche, Cindy Osga, Susan Saari, Julie Salman, Cora Schimanski, Karen Stout.

CEC Members Not Present: Kenji Griffith, Charlotte Roper, Anshu Varma, Dan Wawiernia, Amy Zimmerman

Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda: Chris called the meeting to order at 12:07pm. A motion to accept the agenda was seconded and approved.

Minutes: The January 2015 minutes will be sent out via email after the meeting for approval.

Budget and Financials: Julie C. reported that \$434 of revenue has been received and will be included in the February financials. A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 2015 financial statements and expenditures of \$138.99.

Membership: No report. The board discussed uploading the membership list to the chapter website so CEC members could easily access the list.

Community Service: Julie S. reported that the Siren Eaton Shelter has been identified as the community service project for the conference. In addition, Julie will be setting up a Suits for Soldiers community service project.

Awards: Wanda reported that email notifications for the Government Financial Manager of the Year, Professional Development Award, and the Community Service Award were sent to our preferred mailing list of approximately 500 individuals. In addition, notifications were sent each State of Michigan department director, and approximately 100 individuals who hold top accounting or financial positions. Nominations flyers were distributed and the January luncheon meeting and an announcement was included in the February newsletter. Wanda will check with the Trophy Shop to see if there will be an additional fee for including the AGA logo on the award. Wanda checked with CS Trophy Shop about placing an

order for the awards. This proved to be a viable option because they offered a ten percent discount on the order. The Trophy Shop uses the same supplier as On-the-Spot Engraving who the chapter has placed orders with for many years meaning we can order the same acrylic awards we used last year.

Communication: Cindy reported that the February newsletter is ready for publication. She will send it to the webmaster to post to the chapter website and email distribution.

CGFM: The fraud prevention webinar will be February 18 at the Ottawa Building. March is CGFM month and we will request recognition by the Governor.

Website: The chapter's IT consultant is addressing the issue with using the registration feature. Chris will follow-up regarding board member rights to access the website for administrative purposes. Cora reported she has been cleaning up the email list.

Education: The spring conference is close to having all speakers confirmed. The venue will be at the Okemos Conference Center this year. The Office of the Auditor General is planning on sending approximately 50 staff to the event.

Program Luncheons: Karen reported that 27 individuals have signed up for the February 24 meeting. The topic will be FOIA and Emails.

Chapter Recognition: Dan J. provided each board member with the CRP credit list. He requested that each board member review the list and email him with their credit information.

Old Business: The Administrative Officers Association donation was discussed. Acceptance of the donation was approved by the board via an email vote on February 10. Funds will be tracked separately in the budget and will be used only for educational events and conferences.

New Business: Retention of CPE forms will be discussed at the March CEC meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2015
Hosted by Julie Chrysler
Constitution Hall, 4th Floor
North Tower
Ella Koeze Conference Room



Chapter Executive Committee 2014-2015

Platinum
Chapter

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Newsletter/Accountability

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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

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