



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Table of Contents

Message from the Chapter President	1
Fall Professional Development Training Webinars	2
Message from 2017-2018 National President	3
Meet AGA's 2018-2019 National President	4
The Art of Taking Vacation	5
Governments Need to Retool the IT Workforce	6
Early Career Center	7
Michigan Program Opens Door to Cybersecurity	8
AGA 2017-2018 Chapter Award Recipients	9
Chapter Education Calendar	10
Member News	11
Chapter Finances	12
Other Educational Opportunities	13
CGFM Corner	14
CEC Minutes	15
Chapter Executive Committee	16

As we embark on a new AGA chapter program year, and approach the first fiscal year-end with SIGMA, here are Seven Powerful Habits to Transform Your Life. [Source: <http://www.planetofsuccess.com/blog/>]

Anshu

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit" ~Aristotle

It takes only 21 days for most habits to form. This means that if you can repeat a beneficial behavior over and over for three weeks, it will form a habit. In the beginning, this will be difficult. But once you master the challenge, all the pain and difficulties will be forgotten. What will be left is the astonishment how easily you are able to successfully perform your new habit, mostly without even thinking about it.

One can effectively promote habit formation by giving yourself external rewards combined with self-monitoring and positive feedback. The most effective way to break unwanted habits is by restructuring your personal environment or programming new responses to unwanted behaviors. All it takes the right willpower to persist in the creation of a new habit. Here are 7 powerful habits that can transform your life.

1. Fail Forward

Failure is an inevitable but healthy part of life. If we wouldn't fail, we wouldn't advance. Our fear of failure, however, is not so healthy. We only see the negative aspects of a failure, which is why we're so afraid of it. And while it is certainly true that failing can be an extremely painful experience that severely pushes you to the ground, ultimately it serves you. In the long run, every failure helps you to become a little bit better. It allows you to grow as a person and will present

[continued on page 9]

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

Members Only Webinar
Communications Webinar
Fall Professional Development Training

[see pages 2-3 for details]

Eye Opener



\$761,560 a year

Salary for the head of Florida's top domestic organization, which is state-funded. The exorbitant pay has prompted a state audit of the organization.

SOURCE: governing.com/daily-digit | July 30, 2018





2018 FALL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

AGA Members
\$35

Non-Members
\$55

Students
\$15

SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 2, 2018

4 HOURS CPE

Instructional Method: Group-Live

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Major General Leonard W. Isabelle
Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Leadership

Dr. Charles L. Ballard
Michigan State University
Health Insurance: What now? What's next?

Bill Ballenger
Political Pundit
Campaign 2018: What will happen?

**** FINAL SPEAKER AND TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

LOCATION:

Michgian Historical Library Forum
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, Michigan

[Click Here to Register](#)

Sign-in and a boxed lunch will begin at noon. The training begins at 1pm.

Registration will end September 26, 2018.

Payment

- can be made by credit card when you register on-line
- checks can be sent to AGA at PO Box 12159, Lansing, MI 48901
- checks or cash will be accepted at the event
- SIGMA ID CV0026537-007
- CPE Sponsor ID 104201
- Registrants are responsible for payment unless a cancellation is received by September 26, 2018.

This event qualifies for 4 hours of CPE.

Questions?

contact
Zack Gregg
Chapter Education Director
greggz@michigan.gov
517-284-9050



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



WEB CONFERENCE THURSDAY

September 6, 2018
1:00pm to 2:00pm

FREE FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Your Desk

BRIDGING COST, PERFORMANCE, AND EVIDENCE

What are the costs of federal programs and policies? What results do we get for that spending? These two questions are fundamental to understanding public value and cost effectiveness, yet issues of cost, performance and impact often exist in silos. That's a problem, since when financial management, performance, and evidence communities work together to tackle important agency or cross-agency challenges and opportunities, government produces better results, often at lower cost. This webinar will explore the causes of those silos and discuss recommendations for bridging them. It will also discuss how one agency, the Small Business Administration, has worked to successfully connect cost, performance and evidence.

SPEAKERS:

Jason Bossie

Director of Office of Performance Management,
Small Business Administration

Andrew Feldman

Director, Grant Thornton

Robert Shea

Principal, Grant Thornton

Kathy Stack

Former VP, Laura and John Arnold Foundation

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.agacgfm.org

COST

AGA members - FREE



WEB CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY

September 12, 2018
2:00pm to 3:50pm

Van Waggoner Building
Sleeping Bear Room
Lansing, Michigan

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY IN AN EVOLVING AND TRANSITIONING WORKFORCE

Have you been feeling overwhelmed with workload due to your organization downsizing and/or in a transition? This webinar presents a framework for effective communication strategies in today's evolving and transitioning workforce. We will explore effective strategic communications when engaging workers that are retiring in an effort to build strong relationships and encourage knowledge transfer et al. Specifically, we will utilize Emotional Intelligence (EQ) strategies and examine its application as well as framework for integrating the research on strategies for communication. These tools will be discussed on how you can apply to your day-to-day work, so you may effectively inform the right stakeholder at the right time of what you need to complete the project.

SPEAKER:

Alfred Robinson, PHD, BSA, BSM, AAS
Chief J1, Department of Defense

REGISTRATION

Register on-line at www.aga-lansing.org.

Click on events.

Register before Monday, September 10, 2018

COST

AGA members - FREE

non-members - \$20

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

What financial certification do you need?
If you work with the government – **CGFM.**



FINAL MESSAGE FROM AGA'S NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2017-2018



Jim Arnette, CGFM

Being the AGA National President had not been on my radar. So, when I was asked to throw my hat in the ring for consideration, I did so a bit apprehensively. I had worked for two past AGA National Presidents, Charles Harrison and Richard Norment, so I knew what was involved and the commitment that would be necessary to be successful. I just was not sure I was ready to take on that leadership responsibility. But here we are, winding down the 2017-2018 program year. What an honor and a privilege it has been to serve AGA as national president and I am so thankful for the opportunity that I have had to give back to an organization that has given so much to me.

My presidential theme for the year was, "Accountants and Accountability Professionals Working Together to Make Government Work Better." That is what we do as AGA members. We make government, academia and the private sector work better and more efficiently. AGA provides us with many of the tools and opportunities we need to make that happen.

I came into this position as national president with some ideas. Of course, I was not able to accomplish everything I wanted to, nobody does. Our Inclusivity Task Force started a conversation about how our organization and chapters need to be more inclusive. AGA is so much more than an association of government accountants or an association of federal accountants or state and local government accountants. Our membership should represent all the different genres that make up the government accountability profession.



Our State and Local Government Task Force placed an emphasis on reaching out to our Association's largest membership demographics,

state and local government members, and encouraged them to take part in AGA's national training events, such as the PDT.

Our new Higher Education Committee has worked with so much excitement and enthusiasm to brainstorm ways to reach out to higher education and to urge colleges and universities to promote careers in public service, teach government accounting classes and promote the CGFM certification to their students.

Of most significance this year, AGA's Governance Committee proposed, and the NEC approved, a new governance structure that can take us into the future by improving communications. This will allow us to operate more strategically and efficiently, make chapters stronger and give chapters and members a more direct voice in the AGA decision making process. It is now up to the National Board of Directors to approve this forward-thinking organizational strategy at the PDT in Orlando, Fla. This is a big deal and I am proud of all the hard work that has gone into this project.

But what a year this has been! AGA hosted three very successful training events: the 2017 Boston PDT, the 2017 Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training and the 2018 National Leadership Training. AGA also hosted several successful summits: the 2017 Shared Services Summit, the 2018 Financial Systems Summit, the 2018 CFO/CIO Summit and the first ever PIO/CIO Summit. Throw in another successful ERM Workshop along with webinars and the issuance of world-class publications and we should be proud of what our organization has accomplished and offers the government accountability profession.

While AGA was doing all these wonderful things, I was on the road representing our Association. Being AGA national president requires some travel. Since the beginning of this journey, I have made 27-chapter visits and have traveled over 57,000 miles for AGA! Whew! I have been able to see so many wonderful places, many of which I had never been, and I also had the opportunity to meet many delightful, talented and dedicated AGA members and volunteer leaders along the way.

AGA is so much more than one person and there is only so much the national president can do. I have had a lot of support. My family has been with me every step of the way. My staff picked up the slack when I was out of the office. My boss, the Tennessee comptroller of the treasury, and his chief of staff not only encouraged me to be president but have supported my involvement in AGA. Employer support is so critical for AGA members.

[continued on page 5]

[continued from page 4]

The NEC has been a pleasure to work with. The committee is full of bright, successful individuals that love AGA and who work tirelessly to carry out the mission of our organization. I want to be sure and thank all the many volunteer leaders that serve AGA at the state, local and regional levels. And finally, the AGA national staff has been incredible to work with. Ann Ebberts is an outstanding CEO and her staff assisted me by working out travel details and making sure I knew where and when I was supposed to be and what I was supposed to talk about.

In closing, I have spent all 35 years of my professional career with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. To some, that might sound boring. To me, it has been a rewarding and challenging experience. One of the constants during my career has been my membership in the Nashville Chapter of AGA and I am convinced I am where I am today professionally due to the fact I have been an AGA member. AGA's network of chapters and dedicated members is where the rubber meets the road in our Association. It is critical that we continue to look for ways to better support our members and to grow our organization, thinking outside the box as to how we can be more inclusive and have a membership that more accurately reflects the government accountability profession.

I cannot wait to see what John Lynskey has in store for us next year. John is an AGA guy through and through. He has been an active AGA member, taking on leadership roles and serving on various national committees. John and I have communicated throughout the year and I know he is ready. I could not have asked for anyone better to follow me. I know John has some exciting things he wants to accomplish during his tenure.

Thank you for this opportunity of a lifetime! As government accountability professionals, let us continue to make government work better. When government works better it ultimately improves the lives of all citizens that are impacted by the many functions and services our agencies and organizations provide.

See you in Orlando! Don't forget the sunscreen!

Jim

MEET AGA'S NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2018-2019



**John Lynskey
CGFM, CPA**

John H. Lynskey, CGFM, CPA of AGA's Washington DC Chapter is the controller and deputy division director for financial management at the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). His responsibilities include fiscal stewardship of NSF's daily financial operations. This includes budget execution and funds control, financial statements and reporting, accounting operations, and grant payments and administration.

As controller of a seven-billion-dollar CFO Act agency, he leads NSF programs for internal control, improper payments, financial audit and strategic financial initiatives. He also oversees NSF's cloud-based FedRamp certified financial system and spearheads grantee financial outreach to NSF's 1,700 institution customers. Under his 18 years of stewardship, NSF has achieved sustained success in obtaining "clean" audit opinions and in financial reporting excellence.

Prior to joining NSF, John served with the U.S. Secret Service for eight years where he developed the Secret Service's first financial statements and a budget model for protective events under the CFO and in protective operations. He was also part of the security teams for events such as political conventions, UN General Assemblies and the Olympics. Prior to his federal government service, he worked in public accounting for Deloitte and other firms. He holds a degree in accounting from James Madison University.

John has been very active in AGA's Washington DC Chapter, serving in many positions. At the national level, he served on AGA's Finance and Budget Committee for six years and was a member of the Professional Certification Board and Accountability Work Group. Over the last seven years, he has been a member of AGA's National Executive Committee (NEC) where he has served as national treasurer, a senior vice president and then president-elect.

John resides in Maryland on the Chesapeake Bay with his family where they enjoy bay breezes and activities and the salt air life.



Lia Miller



Posted
February 27, 2018

THE ART OF TAKING VACATION

If you are like me, you always have “use or lose” leave because you are too good at utilizing long weekends and holidays to get in little “vacationettes” here and there, instead of longer-duration vacays. So when the time comes to figure out what to do with your leave, you either end up donating it or trying to plan the vacation to end all vacations. To be clear, if you end up with excessive use or lose leave every year, then that means you are not effectively managing your vacation time and that needs to change.



Now, I am very type A in the sense that when I work, I work and am completely dedicated to what I am doing. In the past, I found myself regularly taking vacation and not ending up with “use or lose leave” but I also found myself not feeling fully at ease on vacation because I was always worried about what was going on in the office. I basically had work “FOMO,” though I hate to admit it.

One day, I finally concluded that work is work and vacation is vacation and never should the two meet. I am a better employee when I return from a good vacation because I have completely disconnected from the office and am in a head space dedicated to focusing on the other aspects of my life – friends, family, health etc. while I am away. That directly impacts my ability to give 100 percent at work.

It took me a while to get to this point and to create a healthy separation between work and vacation, but I did it, and here is how:

1. Let the guilt go. You’ve earned your vacation, so take it. Even more than that, take it guilt free. Vacations are necessary and there is a reason why vacations exist. They exist to help us avoid burnout, to recharge and to be able to focus on our lives, enabling us to return to work and focus.

Remember, while your contribution at work is appreciated, no one is going to force you to take vacation. It is up to you to regulate your vacation time and to take it. You must be your own advocate. To bring your “A game” to the office, you need to take a break from time to time.

2. If you are gone, be gone. By this, I mean turn off your work phone, DO NOT check email and “go dark.” As important and critical as we feel we are to our offices, believe me, the work will get done and you do not need to worry about it. This is why you designate a backup to cover the period of your absence and you have a “hand over” meeting with them before you head out. This way, you have absolutely no reason to have your work devices, phone or email on. If there is a true “emergency,” your office will find a way to reach you. Very few things actually constitute an “emergency.” Bottom Line: TURN IT OFF and LEAVE IT OFF.

3. Plan and schedule your leave. One of the biggest hangups people have about taking vacation is potentially leaving someone else in the office holding the bag for your work. I know this is a pet peeve of mine when it happens to me, so I do my utmost to avoid putting others in this situation.

The best way to avoid this potential trap is to book your leave in advance, socialize it with your office and make sure it is on a shared calendar so that everyone is aware of it and there is ample time to prepare for your absence. That way, your backup is not surprised by your absence and you have time to prepare prior to your vacation, making it easier on the office and ensuring a smooth return for you when the time comes.

4. Set up your out-of-office message. This may seem small, but it isn’t. People need to know when you’ll be back, how long you will be out and who to reach during your absence. This and other details can all be addressed with a solid out-of-office message. A good out-of-office message can ensure important business does not fall through the cracks and potentially create a mess for colleagues while you are out.

5. Follow up, AKA schedule the in-brief. Before you leave to go on vacation, schedule a time and have it on everyone’s calendar to in-brief soon after you return to the office. I know it is hard to think about returning from vacation before you have even left to go on it, but this is a crucial step for you in terms of being able to hit the ground running and to jump back into work mode more quickly.

Now go take your well-earned vacation and if you follow these tips, your vacation will be the most restful, enjoyable and stress-free time ever. Happy vacationing!

GOVERNMENTS NEED TO RE-TOOL THE IT WORKFORCE (AGAIN)

Mark Forman, former U.S. Administrator for E-Government and Information Technology, OMB, is global head of Public Sector at Unisys



Leaders should encourage change agents, and those government workers will to develop and maintain certain skills and capabilities.

As governments transform to better serve tech-savvy citizens, the need to modernize systems is paramount. For government workers, there is a growing need for new skills to drive this transformation. We are seeing tech-savvy professionals play a significant and growing role in figuring out what data, algorithms and insights are needed to improve service at the moment of truth: when a citizen connects with government for help or to comply with a law.

We are in the early years of the digitization of organizations, a major IT disruption. And these are the most exciting times to be an IT professional who becomes an agent of change. We have hardly completed the last IT wave in which only a few governments ever fulfilled their needs for agile developers. Now, organizations are shifting away from agile as a focus for their IT workforce. As government applications move to the cloud, there is increasing focus on “server-less” and “cloud native” computing—applications built using web services, mini-services and micro-services to marry data to business logic. For the immediate future, this low-/no-code approach is rapidly replacing the need for a government agency to build and maintain software code.

Government leaders often call for wholesale workforce change, arguing that salaries and training budgets limit access to key skills in demand. That generally comes with too little focus on existing government employees who possess aptitude and desire. Digital government will require engaging workers at all levels who want to be part of the change versus their becoming irrelevant. Leaders should encourage change agents, and those government workers will need to develop and maintain certain skills and capabilities:

- Skills in cloud computing and software as a service will continue to be in demand, with an emphasis on hybrid solutions that include Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and other platforms.
- Experience in DevOps and organization change management to make agency leaders and program owners comfortable with getting their IT as a service rather than a capital asset.

- Management of diverse teams made up of AI experts, data scientists and innovative product specialists who can answer political leaders’ questions such as: What data do we need? How do I find or acquire it? Are we using data to best fulfill our mission?

Regardless of the latest tech skills, communication and collaboration skills are at the heart of successful outcomes. IT leaders—whether team or project leaders—are challenged to converge understanding of tech with understanding of government organizations in order to specify exactly how cloud computing can improve mission results at lower costs. IT projects are still at risk due to constantly shifting requirements and inter-dependences across existing and new workflows. The ability to communicate options and clarify benefits, cost and risk is crucial to success. Success requires collaboration between multiple stakeholders to make sure decisions are timely and well made.

Freeing up tech-savvy workers from the constraints of day-to-day IT operations is important. In many governments, individual talent is being focused on innovation to address government mission and business needs, while IT-as-a-service is obtained through performance contracts. In this model, the cost of service is made visible so that savings can be identified and used to reinvest in needed initiatives. Some leading digital government agencies use policy-area clustering, which allows data from siloed systems to be melded for insights to better serve citizens, predict and scale for future needs, and achieve cost and performance transparency across the government. In addition, this approach makes it easier to address citizen usability concerns about agency versus citizen-centric government, like having to go to multiple websites for service.

Of course, government can benefit from new workers and suppliers, as well as internal change agents. There are multiple and varied paths that government organizations can take on their transformation journey. The foundation for these initiatives are IT professionals with a broad and current portfolio of skills and leaders who can work successfully in multi-disciplinary teams; are flexible and adaptive to change; and are open communicators receptive to new ideas to solve today’s and tomorrow’s challenges.

This article was originally published by NextGov.

Early Career Center

FIVE STEPS TO BECOMING A LEADER, NO MATTER YOUR CAREER LEVEL

By: John Burton, GovLoop



As you move through your career, your knowledge, confidence and ability to work effectively with others will grow. This will give you the chance to show leadership and shape the culture of your organization. However, you don't need to wait until you've conquered the corner office to show your leadership chops. In fact, wherever you are in your career, no matter how junior in the organization, you can begin to show leadership right now.

Here are five practical steps you can take today to be a leader:

Develop a Coherent Set of Principles and Live by Them

Wise leadership is built on a strong foundation of core values and principles. As Alexander Hamilton wrote, "In matters of taste, swim with the current. In matters of principle, stand like a rock."



When you develop your principles, it will help to think of great leaders who were tried and tested and came through with flying colors. What principles can be inferred from their actions? Leaders always show some combination of courage, determination and compassion. The opportunities to show these very same qualities are all around us. At important moments in your career, ask yourself if your action is consistent with your principles and values. If not, don't do it.

Understand the Mission and Values of Your Organization

A leader works to understand and embody the highest ideals of an organization. These ideals are expressed in the mission statement and other key policies. Think of these as a set of collective principles for the organization. Typically, they will mention things like integrity, respect, fairness and service.

The mission and values of an organization are always aspirational. There is inevitably work to be done to align the organization with its bedrock principles. Indeed, organizations are living, breathing things that constantly need reform and repair. They must adapt and evolve to meet the unique challenges that every time period puts before them or risk irrelevance. Therefore, a leader must seek to understand the mission in the context of the changing needs of the people who work there and the changing needs of the people it serves.

Seek Out Like-Minded Colleagues and Mentors

Anything worth accomplishing in an organization cannot be achieved alone. Leaders seek out mentors and allies who can help them understand the needs of the organization. They work hard to discover where their own goals and the goals of others intersect, providing fertile ground for creative ideas to galvanize a critical mass of their colleagues.

Invest in your colleagues, be interested in their lives, notice and celebrate their successes, be in their corner and fight for them when necessary. Your investment will be repaid a thousand times over. They will support you in your goals, share in your vision, and act as guardrails when your ideas stray from the true needs of the organization.

Be Patient and Persevere

Samuel Johnson wrote that "Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance." When you begin to act as a leader, there will inevitably be naysayers who will doubt you. Some of the criticism will be fair and well-intentioned, some won't be. Therefore, you need to become comfortable with resistance to your ideas and even resistance to you personally. If your ideas are good and you persevere, then your efforts will bear fruit. There will always be resistance along the way, in proportion to how much change your ideas bring to your organization.

A leader works hard to persuade her colleagues, to understand and address any legitimate concerns, but recognizes that not everyone will agree all the time and yet moves forward anyway.

Treat Everyone the Same

The etiquette maven Emily Post defined good manners as "the sensitive awareness of the feelings of others." She added that if you have this awareness, "It doesn't matter which fork you use; you have good manners." Always treat your colleagues with good manners.

Leaders understand what makes people tick. They understand the universal need hardwired into all of us to feel included and treated fairly. They can bridge divides, smooth ruffled feathers, bring down the temperature in a room and demonstrate in a myriad of other ways their ability to tune into how others feel. As a consequence, leaders are able to channel energy that is misdirected toward anger or resentment back to getting things done that move the organization forward.

A leader understands her own emotions and those of the people around her. What's more, if there's a way she can help someone feel better, she does it.

[continued from page 1]

unexpected opportunities. In fact, some like Thomas A. Edison were even extraordinarily proud of all their failures. These people understood that there is something by far more painful than a failure: Not having tried in the first place.

2. Never stop learning

At the foundation of personal success lies the unquenchable thirst to learn something new. This desire facilitates your growth as a person and keeps your mind challenged. It will not only encourage you to continuously reinvent yourself, but it will also help you to fight complacency. If we no longer wish to explore the world we're living in, we put our development to a full stop. This poisonous mindset can be turned to dust by the desire to learn and explore something new. It will fuel your curiosity that leads you on the pursuit of adventurous endeavors. Make learning a habit. Embrace the mindset of being a student of life.

3. Gratitude Journal

Gratitude is a simple, yet powerful habit that can have a profound impact on your life. It allows us to overpower the feeling of not having enough, not being enough, there isn't enough. Focus on gifts and avoid being frustrated over NOT getting what you desired. This shift in perspective allows you to replace dissatisfaction with gratitude and contentment. Cultivating the habit of gratitude helps you to (re-)discover the beauty that can be found in your life. Being grateful will allow you to develop a deep appreciation even for the little things in life. Even more importantly, gratefulness will ultimately make you spend less time in the constant pursuit of more. Count your blessings and discover how special YOU are!

4. Pack Your Own Bag of Sunshine – Self Motivate

Many people wonder what the secret to motivation is. "Motivation is a fire from within. If someone else tries to light that fire under you, chances are it will burn very briefly." ~ Stephen Covey

Watching motivational videos, listening to motivational speakers and reading motivational

quotes might get you excited in the short run. In the long run, however, it will not bring you any further. Know that YOU alone are responsible for your motivation. If you are not motivated, no one else is to blame. Make it a habit of motivating yourself day after day.

5. Develop Your Life's Vision

Life continuously revolves around the question whether you have a purpose or not. Without having a clear vision of what you desire, you'll never reach it. But if you do have a true mission it will fire your determination to see it realized. For this reason, profound changes in life require an underlying vision that makes you see things through, even when the going gets tough. Think about it. All the great inventors and revolutionaries that profoundly changed the way we are living had a vision that fueled everything they did. These people were so energized by their mission to help make this world a better place that it allowed them to overcome every difficulty that presented itself. When you have a truly ambitious vision your focus starts to shift away from the difficulties of a given task to the higher purpose of it. Instead of getting demoralized by unpleasant tasks, you will understand that your task contributes to your underlying vision. This will help you to address the most difficult and challenging obstacles, as you can clearly see how important the fulfillment of your task is to see your vision realized.

6. Live without Regrets

The past cannot be changed. Still, the very thought about our past mistakes and failures torments us. Our mistakes do not only anger us, but they also make us regretful. We wonder about what could have been if we hadn't done this or that. Without realizing it, we keep thinking about what happened, regretfully mulling about the missed opportunities. It prevents us from seizing the moment. Regret makes us forget that the only thing we can influence is the present.

7. Meditate

Meditation is a simple habit that can be practiced anywhere and anytime. It's scientifically proven to relieve stress, improve focus and memory among many other beneficial advantages. But most important of all, it will allow you to make profound changes in your life.





MICHIGAN PROGRAM OPENS THE DOOR TO CYBERSECURITY TRAINING, CAREERS

By: Andy Barrand, Hillsdale Daily News | June 11, 2018

The Hillsdale Intermediate School District Career Center pairs high school students with state of the art technology and the chance to earn various cybersecurity certifications.

(TNS) — HILLSDALE, Mich. — Sitting in front of various drones, virtual reality goggles and other computer parts Gov. Rick Snyder, State Rep. Eric Leutheuser and Sen. Mike Shirkey listened to a presentation by Wayne Boggs, cybersecurity instructor at the Hillsdale Intermediate School District (ISD) Career Center.

Snyder's visit to the Career Center came only minutes after completing a graduation ceremony for the city of Hillsdale. The city of Hillsdale and its administration graduated from the governor's Rising Tide initiative on Friday.

While outlining the virtues of the newly formed class Boggs shared the successes of its first year. In its first year the program had 18 students enrolled, 10 of which were seniors. Out of those 10 seniors nine of them are pursuing a career in cybersecurity or a related information technology field.

He went onto say that a lot of his students put in many hours outside of the classroom working on additional certification.

A student who is part of the program for two years could feasibly earn up to 40 college credits in two years. That is two thirds of the required courses for a cybersecurity degree from Jackson College.

"We have to rise up to prepare students with the talent and technology they need," said Boggs.

The program at the Career Center gives students the opportunity to gain 17 different certifications, while working with state of the art technology. The program even has an identical computer to the Michigan State Police's cybercrime machine.

While listening to Boggs' presentation Snyder asked several questions and applauded the Career Center in their efforts to prepare students for the workforce.

The Career Center along with the centers in Jackson, Calhoun, Bedford and Lenawee counties are starting a pilot program with Jackson College this fall to provide additional training to students enrolled in the program. Students will be allowed to take online classes from adjunct professors from the five counties specializing in different certifications.

Several area manufacturing leaders along with representatives from Jackson College attended Friday's event.

©2018 Hillsdale Daily News, Mich. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



Jim Arnette, AGA National President, presenting the Chapter Recognition Platinum Award to Anshu Varma, Lansing AGA Chapter President.

2018-2019 National Officers

National President
John Lynskey, CGFM
Washington DC Chapter

National Treasurer
Dennis Green, CGFM
Northern Virginia Chapter

Senior Vice President Section I
Joseph Connolly
Northern New Jersey Chapter

Great Lakes Regional Vice President
Vicki Hagerman
Cleveland Chapter

GREATER LANSING AGA CHAPTER AWARDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2017-2018



Excellence in Government Leadership Award

This award is presented to a governmental professional who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government accountability management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures. This year's recipient is Ron Foss, Department of Technology, Management and Budget.



Ron Foss (middle) accepting the Government Leadership Award.

Professional Development Award

This award is presented to an individual to recognize extraordinary efforts in providing and promoting continuing education and professional development leadership for government professionals and others, demonstrating the importance of lifelong learning. This year's recipient Kyle Stolicker, Department of Technology, Management and Budget.



Kyle Stolicker (right) accepting the Professional Development Award.

Community Service Award

This award is presented to an AGA member to recognize exceptional and personal commitment to community service activities supported by AGA and other organizations. This year's recipient is Sherri Troyer, Delta Dental of Michigan.



Sheri Troyer (right) accepting the Community Service Award.

Member Participation Award

This award is to recognize a member's efforts and commitment to the Chapter. This year's recipient is Christine Berns, Department of Environmental Quality.



Christine Berns (right) accepting the Member Participation Award.

Chapter Ambassador Award

This award is to recognize outstanding efforts of a member in promoting AGA's mission, activities, and benefits. This year's recipient is Dan Wawierina, Department of Technology, Management and Budget.



Dan Wawerinia (right) accepting the Chapter Ambassador Award.

Rookie of the Year Award

This award is to recognize a new board member or a board member serving in a new position and has gone the extra mile to perform their duties. This year's recipient is Kim Dunbar, Department of Technology, Management and Budget.



Kim Dunbar (right) accepting the Rookie of the Year Award.

Chapter Education Calendar



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 12, 2018

Webinar Conference

Communications
VanWagoner Building, Sleeping Bear
2 hours CPE

February 19, 2019

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

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

September 19, 2018

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

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

March 6, 2019

Webinar Conference

Finance
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room
2 hours CPE

October 2, 2018

Professional Development Training

Training for Government Professionals
Michigan Historical Library Forum
4 hours CPE

March 2019

Professional Development Training

Training for Government Professionals
Location to be Determined
8 hours CPE

October 10, 2018

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room
1 hour CPE

March 27, 2019

Webinar Conference

Cybersecurity
Location to be Determined
2 hours CPE

November 20, 2018

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

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

April 16, 2019

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

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

November 28, 2018

Webinar Conference

Ethics
Williams Auditorium
2 hours CPE

April 24, 2019

Webinar Conference

DATA Act
Location to be Determined
2 hours CPE

December 19, 2018

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

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

May 15, 2019

Webinar Conference

Fraud and Data Analytics
Location to be Determined
2 hours CPE

January 15, 2019

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Annual Tax Update
Library of Michigan
1 hour CPE

May 21, 2019

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Optimizing Professional Relationships
VanWagoner Building, Lakeshore Room
1 hour CPE

February 6, 2019

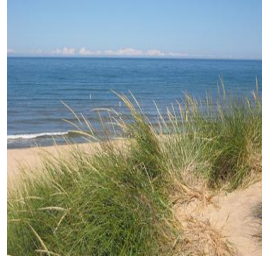
Webinar Conference

GASB Update
Constitution Hall, ConCon A and B
2 hours CPE

June 12, 2019

Webinar Conference

Leadership
Location to be Determined
2 hours CPE



MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Member Anniversaries

Joseph Asghodom, CGFM	26 years
Laura Hirst	25 years
Steven Kirinovic	25 years
Eric Formberg, CGFM	23 years
Tom Colosimo	22 years
Kathryn Cartwright	18 years
Craig Murray	18 years
Brian Curran	14 years
Cristine Berns	5 years
Tammie Anderson	5 years
Suzie Kyes	5 years
Liz Williamson, CGFM	4 years
Timothy Johnson	2 years
Kim Dunbar	1 year
Tami Flodin	1 year
Brandon McAndrew	1 year
Ann Marie Muliatt	1 year
Tapiwa Nedziwe	1 year
Scott Simon	1 year

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Brittany Willer
Technology Management and Budget
Delana Bach
Technology Management and Budget
William Baldry
Technology Management and Budget
Lisa Munroe
Technology Management and Budget



CHAPTER FINANCES

Financial Position at June 30, 2018

Assets

Current Assets:	
Checking Account	\$ 26,231
Pay Pal Account	\$ 1,913
Total Assets	\$ 28,144

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 250
Beginning Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 27,070
Income (Loss)	\$ 3,691
Ending Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 23,379
Restricted Fund Balance	
AOA Donation	\$ 4,515
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 28,144



“CGFM is a brand differentiator to identify a knowledgeable practitioner in government financial management.”

Wendy Morton-Huddleston, CGFM, PMP
Principal, Grant Thornton LLP
Member, AGA Professional Certification Board



OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



National AGA

To register for events, visit www.agacgfm.org

September 20-21, 2018

Internal Control and Fraud Prevention Training

Washington DC or Virtual
14 hours CPE

November 1, 2018

Shared Services Summit

Washington DC
24 hours CPE

February 27-28, 2019

National Leadership Training

Washington DC or Virtual
14 hours CPE

“Working life has extended so much in the last fifty years that it exceeds life expectancy of even the most successful businesses. Very few businesses are successful for more than 25 or 30 years. And yet most educated people who go to work in their early twenties will keep working until they are 70. And so they had better be prepared for a second career whether it's in another organization where they are doing what they have been doing or in a new line of work. They must be prepared to learn again. They must be prepared to position themselves. They must be prepared to want to learn- to see it not as something they need to do, but as something they enjoy doing. They will have to learn how to learn.”

— Peter Drucker —



**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.

SEASON OF SUCCESS 2018 CGFM PROGRAM PROMOTION

CGFM candidates, take any CGFM exam in August or September and receive a promotion code for 50% off any CGFM exam taken before the end of the year.

Here's how it works:

1. Take any CGFM exam between August 1 and September 30.
2. Receive a promo code via email, which will give you 50% off the price of your next CGFM examination.
3. Schedule and take your next CGFM exam using the promo code by December 31, 2018.

Terms and conditions:

1. A promo code will automatically issued to all current CGFM candidates who take a CGFM exam between August 1 and September 30, and who still have to pass at least one exam.
2. Promo codes will only be emailed to candidates on the following dates:
 - 08/31 for exams taken between 08/15-08/30
 - 09/17 for exams taken between 08/31-09/16
 - 10/01 for exams taken between 09/17-09/30
3. The promo codes are not exam specific and can be used towards any of the three CGFM exams as long as they are scheduled to be taken by December 31, 2018.

4. Each candidate will receive one promo code for each exam taken in the August through Septemeber timeframe. Candidates who take more than one exam during that time frame will receive more than one promo code. No promo codes will be issued for exams taken before or after this time period.
5. To receive the 50% off discount, promo codes must be used prior to payment when scheduling an exam online or over the phone with Pearson VUE. Adjustments to the exam price will not be once the exam is scheduled or taken.
6. Candidates do not have to pass an exam in the August through September time frame, in order to receive a promo code.
7. Promo codes are non-transferable and have no monetary value.
8. To utilize the promo code, candidates must schedule and take their exam by December 31, 2018. This expiration date will not be extended for any reason. Testing centers may fill up and candidates are encouraged to schedule their appointments with the promo codes as soon as possible.

**Schedule your CGFM exam.
Click Here**



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2018
Lewis Cass Building

CEC Members Present: Sandra Burkhart, Julie Chrysler, Kim Dunbar, Zack Gregg, Cindy Osga, Sherri Troyer, Anshu Varma, Dan Wawierina, Brittany Willer, Liz Williamson

CEC Members Not Present: Anthony Edwards, Karen Stout

Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the agenda.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the April and May 2018 minutes.

Budget and Financials: The chapter had a May 2018 fund balance of \$33,797.95.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the April 2018 financials and expenditures in the amount of \$537.65; and the May financials and expenditures in the amount of \$2,749.40.

Cindy indicated the budget needed to be amended to comply with the bylaws. Expenditure line items need to be increased for Awards, Board/PDT, Education, and Programs. After discussion it was determined the budget will need to be amended but be finalized at a later date to ensure it was amended to account for all fiscal year expenditures.

Membership: Liz has been updating the chapter's membership list and spoke with members who had not yet renewed. Liz noted a Membership Committee meeting was held on Friday, June 8, to discuss membership recruitment ideas shared at the National SLM in May. Liz is interested in going to college campuses and reaching out to accounting students and professors to education them about AGA and the CGFM.

Education: Zach and Brittany were introduced as the education co-directors for 2018-2019. Zach will reserve the Michigan Library for the fall half day PDT on September 19, 2018.

Program Luncheons: Karen indicated in a written update that she has reserved the Lakeshore Learning Center in the VanWagoner Building for the September, October, November, February,

April, and May luncheon meetings. The Michigan Library has been reserved for the January Tax Update which is joint with SAAABA.

Communications – Newsletter and CCR: Cindy will let the CEC know of the next newsletter deadline. The CCR for the 2017-2018 program year is due to National on September 30.

CGFM and CPE Events: Per Dan, the last webinar we will host this program year is June 13, 2018. The topic is Ethical Leadership. Dan plans to obtain feedback from attendees about dates, topics, etc. for the next program year. On June 20, 2018, there is a webinar to discuss the proposed National Governance. Registration is available on the National website. The National Sponsor ID Number 104201 should be added to all CPE forms.

Webmaster: No report.

Community Service: A motion was made and seconded to donate \$250 to the Women's Center of Greater Lansing and \$250 to the AGA Community Service Booth at the July 2018 PDT. No payment has been made to the Women's Center thus far, therefore, new action was taken on the donation amount.

Options for donations for the 2018 National PDT were discussed: 1) Raffles and 2) Chapter Challenge. Sherry agreed to email Renee at National to determine their preferences before finalizing our decision on what to donate.

Awards and Nominations: No report.

Chapter Recognition Program: The chapter has achieved Platinum Status for the program year.

New Business: President's Report

- Anshu recognized that Cindy is the incoming Chair for the National Bylaws and Procedures Committee. Congratulations Cindy!
- President Elect Position:
 - Anshu indicated she talked with John Lynskey, National AGA President-Elect about leadership. He suggested that Lansing have 2 to 3 president-elects to ensure proper succession.
 - Cindy indicated the chapter bylaws allow for only one president-elect. Liz indicate she would be interested in being mentored for the President Elect position.
 - Julie Chrysler is the President Elect for the 2018-2019 program year.

Old Business: Cindy will provide an update regarding the NBD vote for restructuring National AGA's governance structure.

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 1:06 pm.

President

Anshu Varma, CPA
Technology, Management and Budget
varmaa@michigan.gov
517-241-2002

President Elect

Julie Chrysler
Natural Resources
chryslerj@michigan.gov
517-284-5864

Education Co-Director

Zack Gregg
Technology, Management and Budget
greggz@michigan.gov
517-284-9050

Programs Co-Director

Karen Stout, CGFM
Treasury
stoutk@michigan.gov
517-335-1012

Membership Director

Liz Williamson, CGFM, CFE
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
williamsone@michigan.gov
517-284-5243

CGFM, Audio Conference Co-Director

Dan Wawiernia
Technology, Management and Budget
wawarierniad@michigan.gov
517-241-2768

Newsletter Director

Cindy Osga, CGFM
Health and Human Services
osgac@michigan.gov
517-335-4087

Community Service Director

Sherri Troyer
Delta Dental of Michigan
stroyer@deltadentalmi.com
517-381-4232

Treasurer

Sandra Burkhart, CPA
Treasury
burkharts@michigan.gov
517-373-6085

Secretary

Kim Dunbar
Technology, Management and Budget
dunbark@michigan.gov
517-927-7080

Education Co-Director

Lisa Munroe
Technology, Management and Budget
munroel@michigan.gov
517-243-0667

Programs Co-Director

Julie Chrysler
Natural Resources
chryslerj@michigan.gov
517-284-5864

Accountability Director

Cindy Osga, CGFM
Health and Human Services
osgac@michigan.gov
517-335-4087

CGFM, Audio Conference Co-Director

Liz Williamson, CGFM, CFE
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
williamsone@michigan.gov
517-284-5243

Website Director

Anthony Edwards
Treasury
edwardsa9@michigan.gov
517-373-0717

Awards and Nominations Director

Sherri Troyer
Delta Dental of Michigan
stroyer@deltadentalmi.com
517-381-4232



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

Greater Lansing AGA
PO Box 12159
Lansing, MI 48901