

THE AGA COMMUNIQUE

2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR
WINTER

AGATM
Montgomery/
Prince George's
County Chapter



A Message from the President

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed a restful Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the year end holidays and a strong start to 2026. As we close the second quarter of the 2025/2026 program year, our chapter remains focused on this year's theme, **Connecting Communities, Expanding Impact**, as we continue to strengthen connections, expand outreach, and deliver value to our members.

Membership Growth and Engagement

We continued to engage students and government professionals across the federal, state, and local levels and welcomed three new student members and eight new professional members, reflecting the strength and relevance of our chapter.

Education and Professional Development

Due to the recent government shutdown, the GAO Standards in Action Fraud Risks and Audit Excellence session planned for November 17, 2025, at GAO Headquarters in Washington, DC, was rescheduled and will now be held on February 25, 2026. Please register at <https://form.jotform.com/253505287170153>.

On December 11, 2025, our chapter hosted the Annual Ethics Workshop at the KPMG Washington, DC office. Thanks to Becker and our speaker, Allison McLeod, the session awarded four CPE credits in Regulatory and Behavioral Ethics and met ethics requirements for Washington, DC, Virginia, and Maryland. Thank you to Past Presidents Jonathan DeBoer and Denise Wu, Past Treasurer Alexander Dickey, and Education Committee Chair Farryn Jones and committee for their leadership.

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Ms. Carol-Ann Boothe, President
AGA MPGC Chapter

President's Message

Continued

Networking and Membership Engagement

In September, our chapter partnered with the AGA DC, AGA NOVA, and AGA Baltimore Chapters to host a successful joint picnic that strengthened connections across chapters. On November 15, 2025, members and guests gathered at Topgolf in Oxon Hill, Maryland, for a well-attended networking event organized by Tanequa McQueen, Chair of the Membership Committee.

Community Engagement

In October, November and December our chapter volunteered at Junior Achievement Finance Park locations in Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Thank you to Freda Jackson, Past President and Community Service Director, for coordinating these activities.

Citizen Centric Reporting Recognition

Our chapter received the AGA Citizen Centric Reporting Recognition of Excellence for our 2025 2026 Citizen Centric Report, reflecting our commitment to transparency and accountability.

Looking Ahead

Please review the chapter calendar for upcoming professional development, networking, and community service opportunities.

Join Us in Making an Impact

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to advancing government accountability and leadership. I wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a healthy prosperous New Year and look forward to connecting with you in 2026.

With gratitude and commitment,



President, AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter



Carol with Past AGA MPG Board Members

2025-26 AGA MPGC Chapter Leadership



Carol-Ann Boothe
President



James Gregg
President - Elect,
Communications



Oluwatoyin Ojumu
Immediate Past
President, NCC Rep



Olayinka Afolabi
Secretary



Wilson Kayo
Treasurer



Bridgett Downs-Tucker
Assistant Treasurer



Jeff Cole
Historian



Brett Parris
Accountability



Kathleen Sobieraiski
CGFM Certification



Freda Jackson
Community Service



Jessica Kissoon
Community Service



Alpha Odimegwu
Student Rep



Felix Sithiphone
Early Careers



Rodney Green
Early Careers,
Communications



Jing Maggie Huang
Education



Farryn Jones
Education



Jatin Wahi
Education



Meili Niu
Education



Tanequa McQueen
Membership



Brian Frey
Membership



Sia Jasmine Wondy
Awards & Recognition



Janice Codrington
Awards & Recognition



Jillian Manning
ACE Reporting Chair



Kelli Davis
Communications



Scott Cogburn
Communications



Shehreen Farhan
Communications



Nicholas Garrard
Sponsorship

Vision

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability. AGA defines government accountability as a government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.

Mission Statement

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

2025–26 AGA MPGC Executive Mentoring & Technical Advisory Council (EMTAC)



Nicholas Garrard
TFC Consulting



Freda Jackson
Sikich



Doreen Shute
Retired



Yehuda Schmidt
Sikich



Andrew Lewis
KPMG LLP



Christine Turner
USDA



Marlon Perry
KPMG LLP



Kimberly Penn
CliftonLarsonAllen

Vision

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Mission Statement

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

Our Sponsors – Thank You!

Gold Level



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Bronze Level



Think Ahead



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If you are interested in becoming a 2025–2026 sponsor, please reach out to our Sponsorship Committee.

Member News

CGFM PREP

Are you interested in or currently preparing to take the CGFM exam? Now is a great time to prepare for the CGFM!

This year's CGFM program will feature **quarterly webinars**—one for each section of the CGFM exam—followed by a **comprehensive summary session**.

Monthly Webinars (Online, Mondays at 6 p.m.):

January 26

February 23

Summary Session (In Person):

March 20 | 2–4 p.m. | GWU, Room 601c

Join us online for the section-focused webinars and then connect in person at GWU for the capstone session.



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

For more information on becoming a CGFM, [click here](#).

For information on maintaining your CGFM, [click here](#).

Cheers to Our Incredible New Members! 🥂

Let's raise our glasses and celebrate the amazing new members joining us! Welcome aboard! 🎉

Monica Adamo

Julian Flemons *

Jerome Giganti

Heavyn Harper *

Vita Price

Mahdin Rahman *

Andy Rider

Yanisa Queen

Althea DeGree

*Denotes new student member

Whether you've been part of the community for a decade or just a few years, we're grateful for your continued support. Your commitment makes us stronger. Here's to many more years together!

We are looking forward to the great things we will accomplish together!

Congratulations to our 2025 CGFM's!

Philip Brown
Yanping Zhu



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- GSA OASIS+ Total Small Business, Management & Advisory Domain, Contract No. 47QRCA25DS817
- GSA Multiple Award Schedule, Contract No. GS-23F-0057W

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Follow the link in the QR code for more information including a downloadable copy of our government capabilities statement.



Student Spotlight:

Building the Next Generation



Alfonso Odimegwu

Student Representative, AGA MPGC
2025–2026 Program Year

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Alpha Odimegwu. I am a double major in accounting and philosophy, attending the University of Maryland, College Park.

What inspired you to get involved with AGA as a student rep?

I'm interested in learning more about the accounting sector. I attended an AGA event, where they welcomed me and asked if I'd be open to serving on the Board as the MPG Chapter Student Representative.

What's something valuable you've learned in this role?

The experiences of accounting in its different roles. I have learned a lot about the accounting sector and its many niches. Now, I have a good overview of what it's like to be an accountant, which many courses don't really cover.

How has being an AGA student rep influenced your career goals?

It has actually made me question a lot about myself and if the accounting field was for me, which I would not have learned if I had not taken on this role.

What advice would you give other students who want to get more involved with AGA?

Go to events and show interest. AGA MPGC board members are some of the nicest people I have met.

How do you like to spend your time outside of school or work?

Playing computer games on my PC and creative work like music or video creation. A fun fact about me: I am left handed!

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- ◆ Internal Control Program (OMB A-123) Design, Implementation, and Monitoring
- ◆ Risk Monitoring and Mitigation Support
- ◆ Statistical Analysis and Data Analytics
- ◆ Trainings and Workshops for New Policies and Procedures (Directives & Instructions)



CORPORATE SNAPSHOT

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CAGE / NCAGE: 4CSD0
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NAICS CODES: SINS: 541211, 541219 and 541611

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7.5 ELEMENTS OF AGA THAT MAKE FOR A MEANINGFUL CAREER IN GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (REFLECTING ON AGA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY)

BY FELIX SITHIPHONE

"ISN'T IT FUNNY HOW DAY BY DAY NOTHING CHANGES BUT WHEN YOU LOOK BACK, EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT." — C.S. LEWIS

More often than not, unsolicited career advice comes off as unnecessary and uninspiring, and in an industry based on U.S. government accountability, which traces its origins to at least the Constitutional Convention of 1787, there has no doubt been a lot of advice from a lot of people about a whole number of evolving topics.

Rather, as we are celebrating 75 years of AGA, it feels appropriate to share some pillars of what AGA offers that, when paired with some navigable advice, can help anyone in pursuit of an effective and rewarding career advancing sustainable government. These 7.5 elements include:

Element 1: The CGFM

Element 2: AGA Network & Community

Element 3: Volunteer Opportunities with AGA

Element 4: Continuous Education (CPE)

Element 5: Ethical Fortitude (Handbook)

Element 6: History (National and Chapter)

Element 7 (and a half!): Controlling the Controllable's & Developing Historical Instincts



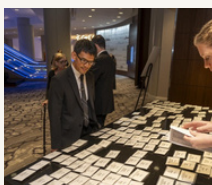
Elements one through six might seem the most actionable with a few online searches and key connections but the 7th and final element has always been sort of intuitive and undefined.

In my career, I've worked with and for the government at each level: local, state, and as a federal consultant. And in reflection, I've found the above elements help connect me to AGA and have particularly supported me and my career, be that weathering the twists and turns, achieving successes or mitigating failures, and continue to serve me as I seek to excel.

Few things are absolute constants, and AGA is no different. After all, it began as the Federal Government Accountants Association in the very beginning. And only three years ago, AGA was the Association of Government Accountants. Now, AGA projects to financial professionals with the directive: Advance, Grow, Accelerate. In being adaptive, AGA can best serve the largest number of people

Taking the "right approach" is never an easy sell, especially if you're going against trends, challenging traditions or possibly, making history. The fruits of our endeavors often aren't realized until well into the future. Shoring up the present while preparing for the future isn't always mutually agreeable. 25 years ago, AGA likely had not yet envisioned embodying "advance, grow, accelerate." Perhaps in the next quarter century it might even be that it's time to slow down, reflect, and pause.

So, like AGA, how can one hold these elements of forward-, present- and past-thinking together? Maybe it becomes more of an instinct, supported by level-headed analysis and an equal appreciation of innovation and caution, rather than just a prescribed method. After all, when I look back now, on AGA, on the field of government financial management, and even on my own career — everything is different.



At the 2024 CEAR Awards held in Washington, D.C. in May 2025.

Felix Sithiphone, CGFM, CPA, is a federal consulting professional. He serves as a board member with AGA's Prince George's/Montgomery County Chapter and the Rockville Bike Hub.

Advancing Knowledge Through Education

Continuing education is at the heart of AGA MPGC's mission. Our Education Committee is committed to providing high-quality learning opportunities that strengthen professional skills, expand knowledge, and foster meaningful connections across our community.

We are excited to share the lineup of CPE sessions and workshops planned for the rest of the program year. Mark your calendars and join us!

Spotlight: GAO Update Luncheon

CPE Session & Luncheon: GAO Standards in Action — Fraud Risks and Audit Excellence

February 25, 2025

TBD

GAO Headquarters, Washington, DC

This session will provide timely insights into the GAO Yellow Book standards, fraud risk management, and audit excellence in practice.

Register [HERE](#)

Save the Dates: 2026 CPE Sessions

- **January – “Strengthening Accountability and Internal Controls in Today’s Government Environment”: Insight from AGA Sponsors**
- **February – GAO Standards in Action – Fraud Risk and Audit Excellence (rescheduled from November 17, 2025)**
- **March–Enterprise Risk Summit: Resilience Across Sectors**
- **April – Annual Government Financial Management Spring Workshop**
- **May – Lessons in Leadership: Insights from AGA Past Presidents & Sponsors + Community Service**

Don’t miss these opportunities to engage, learn, and grow with your peers in the profession. Together, we advance excellence in government financial management!



Upcoming AGA National Events

In addition to our local programs, AGA National offers a variety of CPE sessions, conferences, and training opportunities throughout the year. These sessions provide access to national experts, innovative best practices, and networking with peers across the country.

ERM Workshop, 5.5 CPES!(Virtual)

January 14, 2026. Join AGA and AFERM for a one-day virtual workshop that turns ERM theory into action. This event features expert-led sessions and interactive breakouts to help federal professionals apply enterprise risk management concepts within their agencies.

Register [HERE](#)



National Leadership Training , 14 CPES!(Washington D.C)



February 18– 19, 2026. NLT is where government financial leaders connect, grow, and lead. Designed for current and future leaders, the event offers expert insights, practical strategies, and CPEs. Attendees build skills and share ideas to strengthen leadership across all levels of government. The 2026 agenda is coming soon.

Register [HERE](#)

Technology Transformation Summit (In Person/Virtual)

March 17, 2026. Join 1,000+ government and industry leaders driving digital transformation. This event explores how IT innovation, cybersecurity, workforce development, and cloud tech are reshaping mission delivery across government. Now more than ever, digital solutions are key to effective outcomes.
of government. The 2026 agenda is coming soon.

Register [HERE](#)



Upcoming AGA National Events Cont.

AGA National Webinar Training Schedule

Stay sharp with AGA's upcoming webinars! Earn CPEs and stay ahead on key topics shaping government financial management.



Jan 7th, 2026, 2:00–3:50 PM ET

Uniform Guidance and Grant Accounting
(2 CPEs)

[Register HERE](#)



Jan 21st, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET

Artificial Intelligence
(2 CPEs)

[Register HERE](#)



Feb 4th, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET

GASB Update
(2 CPEs)

[Register HERE](#)



Feb 25th, 2026, 2:00–3:15 PM ET

Members only Webinar
(1.5 CPEs)

[Register HERE](#)



Mar 4th, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET

Cybersecurity
(2 CPEs)

[Register HERE](#)



Mar 25th, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET

Process Intelligence
(2 CPEs)

[Register HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) for AGA National's CPE calendar – a perfect way to complement your chapter learning and stay ahead in the profession!

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Serving Our Community

As part of our commitment to giving back, AGA MPGC is proud to support meaningful initiatives that make a positive difference in our community. We invite you to join us at these upcoming opportunities to serve and inspire.

Volunteer at the Food For Families Program!

The Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter of AGA is heading to the Manna Food Center Warehouse on Saturday, February 28, 2026 (10am–12pm) to support the Food for Families Program. This initiative distributes 45 pounds of food per family per month, helping households stretch their grocery budgets by over \$118.

Want to lend a hand? Here's what you need to know:

- Volunteers must be at least 11 years old.
- Middle schoolers: 1 adult for every 3 students.
- High schoolers: 1 adult for every 5 students.
- You'll need to be comfortable standing, reaching, and lifting up to 25 pounds.
- All volunteers must submit a Volunteer Agreement Form after registration, and those under 18 will need a parent or guardian's signature.

📦 **Register [HERE](#)**

🕒 **Saturday, February 28, 2026**

📍 **Manna Food Center, Gaithersburg Warehouse ,**
9311 Gaither Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
[Directions](#)



Serving Our Community Cont.

Volunteer at JA Finance Park

JA Finance Park® is Junior Achievement's capstone program for personal financial planning and career exploration. This program, comprising a curriculum and a simulation, helps students build a foundation on which they can make intelligent financial decisions that last a lifetime, including decisions related to income, expenses, savings, and credit.

This educator-led classroom curriculum culminates with a visit to JA Finance Park, a realistic on-site classroom, where students engage with volunteers and put into practice what they've learned by developing a personal budget.

Following participation in the program, students will be able to:

- Identify personal interests, skills, work preferences, and values.
- Identify career interests.
- Evaluate the risks and benefits of saving and investing.
- Evaluate risk and recognize insurance as a way to minimize it.
- Define taxes, explain their purpose, and understand how they affect everyone.
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using credit and debit cards.
- Explain who uses a budget and why.
- Identify the components of a successful budget.
- Create a successful budget using hypothetical life situations.

We hope our chapter members will join us at our upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Register [HERE](#) (Please enter "AGA MPGC" in your user profile for tracking.)

Open to: Members, friends, and colleagues

Once registered, you'll receive confirmation, day-of details, and a reminder email from JA. Please sign up early so they can plan accordingly.

Upcoming Dates:

📍 **Prince George's County – 960 Nalley Rd, Landover, MD**

- Thurs, Mar 26, 2026, 9:15 AM–2:45 PM

📍 **Montgomery County – 12501 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD**

- Thurs, Apr 30, 2026, 8:30 AM–1:45 PM

📍 **Fairfax, VA – 4099 Pickett Rd, Fairfax, VA**

- Fri, January 16, 2026 at 8:45 AM – 1:20 PM



Questions: Email Freda Jackson at freda.jackson@sikich.com

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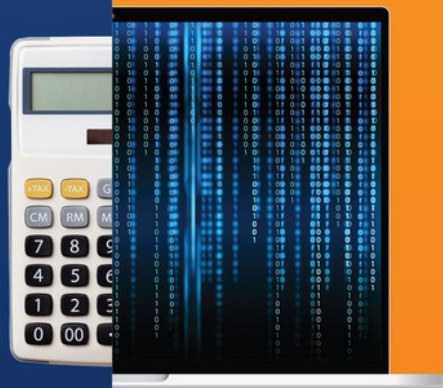
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Technology, tools, regulations, and standards — a lot has changed since Kearney & Company was founded in 1985. One thing that hasn't is our commitment to delivering quality services to clients while being a Best Place to Work for our team members. Four decades later, we are proud to carry on that legacy as we help make government work better.

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AGA MPGC Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- Strengthening Accountability and Internal Controls in Today's Government Environment: Insight from AGA Sponsors
- CGFM Webinar



FEBRUARY

- GAO Standards in Action – Fraud Risk and Audit Excellence
- CGFM Webinar



MARCH

- Enterprise Risk Summit: Resilience Across Sectors
- Crab Feast & Networking Reception
- JA Finance Park Community Service
- CGFM Summary Session (in-person)



APRIL

- Annual Government Financial Management Spring Workshop
- JA Finance Park Community Service



MAY

- Lessons in Leadership: Insights from AGA Past Presidents



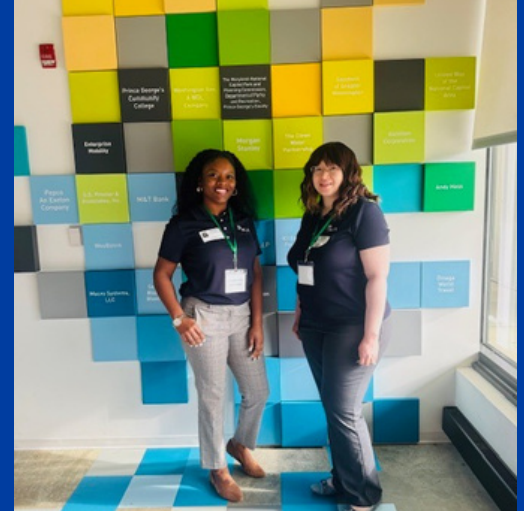
JUNE

- Annual Awards Ceremony Dinner Cruise



Past Event Highlights

We're excited to share photos from some of the most impactful and memorable moments in AGA's history. Thank you to everyone who's been part of our journey. Your support has shaped these incredible experiences. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue building a bright future together!



In October, November and December, our chapter had the privilege of volunteering at the JA Finance Park locations in Montgomery County and Prince George's County through Junior Achievement. Chapter President Carol-Ann Boothe and Past President/Community Service Director Freda Jackson participated on October 30 at the Montgomery County location. On November 20, Freda returned alongside Membership Director Tanequa McQueen to support the Prince George's County session. On December 17, Freda and Accountability Director, Brett Parris supported another Prince George's County session.

Past Event Highlights Cont.



Multi-chapter Picnic , September 2025

Members of the AGA MPGC, DC, Northern Virginia, and Baltimore Chapters came together for the Annual Multi-Chapter Picnic at Jennie Dean Park- a fun-filled day of networking, delicious food, and strengthening professional connections.

Past Event Highlights Cont.



Networking Event at Top Golf, November 2025

Past Event Highlights Cont.



Ethics workshop, KPMG DC, December 2025

Past Event Highlights Cont.



Ethics workshop, KPMG DC, December 2025

Past Event Highlights Cont.



AGA MPGC Chapter Board Member Sia Jasmine Wondy, also an ACCA Advocate, proudly represented the **AGA MPGC Chapter and ACCA** at **Montgomery College's Club Rush**. The event offered a fantastic opportunity to connect with enthusiastic students and welcome new members into the chapter. The energy and interest shown by students in accounting and finance careers was truly inspiring. Special thanks to **Moye Stephenson** of Montgomery College for the invitation, and to the AGA MPGC sponsors for their continued support: **Allmond & Company, LLC, ACCA North America, Savalan, LLC, Alford & Rambaran, LLC, TFC Consulting, Inc., The Joachim Group, CPAs & Consultants, LLC, Becker Accounting, Kearney & Company, KPMG US, and RMA and Associates LLP.**

Taste the Season

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, there's nothing quite like a hearty pot of chili to bring comfort. Whether you're gathering with friends or relaxing at home, this vibrant, veggie forward chili is sure to become a new cold weather favorite.



Butternut SQUASH CHILI

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef or turkey
- 3/4 cup chopped red onion
- 5 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon salt
- 1-3/4 to 2 cups water
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (14-1/2 to 15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 3 cups cubed peeled butternut squash, (1/2-in. cubes)
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- Optional: Chopped avocado, plain Greek yogurt and shredded mozzarella cheese

Butternut

SQUASH CHILI

Directions:

1. In a Dutch oven over medium heat, cook meat and onion, crumbling meat, until beef is no longer pink and onion is tender, 6-8 minutes.
2. Add next 5 ingredients; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in water, both types of beans, diced tomatoes and tomato sauce. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Stir in squash; simmer, covered, until squash is tender, 20-25 minutes. Stir in vinegar.
3. If desired, serve with chopped avocado, Greek yogurt and shredded mozzarella cheese.



Credits

This recipe was extracted from a Taste of Home by Jeanne Larson from Rancho Santa Margarita, California.



Recognition of Excellence **2025**

AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter is proud to receive this Recognition of Excellence for the 2025-26 program year as reflected in our Citizen-Centric Report (CCR).



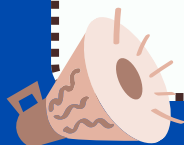
AGA COMMUNIQUE NEWS

**ATTENTION
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WRITE FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

DO YOU...

DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN WRITING? DO YOU HAVE INSIGHTS TO SHARE ON GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND RELATED TOPICS? IF THE ANSWER IS YES TO EITHER OF THESE QUESTIONS, CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO THE AGA MPGC CHAPTER NEWSLETTER.



UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS

SPRING- MARCH 2026
SUMMER - JUNE 2026

FOR MORE INFO OR TO SUBMIT CONTENT:

NEWSLETTER@MARYLANDAGA.COM

Thanks for reading! We invite you to leave feedback about this newsletter [HERE](#).