

# THE AGA COMMUNIQUE

2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR  
SUMMER

**AGA**<sup>TM</sup>  
Montgomery/  
Prince George's  
County Chapter



## A Message from the President

### A Year of Excellence, Growth, and Impact

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As we close the 2025-2026 AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter program year, I reflect with gratitude on what we have accomplished together.

When I began serving as Chapter President last July, we introduced our theme, **"Connecting Communities, Expanding Impact."** Our goals were to expand membership, strengthen strategic partnerships, enhance professional development, elevate governance, and increase our chapter's visibility. I am proud to say that, together, we achieved those goals and positioned our chapter for continued success.

This year was marked by measurable accomplishments. We earned AGA's Platinum Achievement in Chapter Excellence (ACE) Award, delivered successful educational programs attended by more than 250 professionals, expanded membership and student engagement, awarded scholarships, strengthened governance through forming the Executive Mentoring & Technical Advisory Council (EMTAC), and continued making a positive impact through community service and outreach.

### Inside This Issue

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| • Chapter Leadership                            | 3  |
| • Our Sponsors                                  | 5  |
| • Member News                                   | 6  |
| • Member Spotlight                              | 8  |
| • Achievement in Chapter Excellence Recognition | 10 |
| • Upcoming AGA MPGC Events                      | 11 |
| • Upcoming AGA National Events                  | 12 |
| • Serving our Community                         | 14 |
| • Celebrating 250 Years of Independence         | 16 |
| • Program Year in Review                        | 17 |
| • Sip into Summer                               | 26 |



**Ms. Carol-Ann Boothe, President**  
**AGA MPGC Chapter**

# President's Message

## Continued

Our partnerships with AGA National, the IIA DC Chapter, NABA DC, the Jamaica National Association of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area, IMA National Capital Area Chapter, WMATA, GAO, and the Bureau of the Fiscal Service expanded our reach and strengthened our ability to deliver professional development, networking, mentorship, and community service opportunities throughout the year.

Our Annual Awards Gala Dinner Cruise aboard a private yacht was a fitting conclusion to the program year, bringing together members, partners, sponsors, and guests to celebrate excellence in government accountability. Congratulations once again to all of our honorees.

While this message would ordinarily serve as my final President's message, I am honored to continue serving as your Chapter President for the coming year. I look forward to building on the strong foundation we have established as we continue Connecting Communities, Expanding Impact.

My sincere thanks to our Board of Directors, EMTAC, volunteers, sponsors, and every member whose dedication and service made this remarkable year possible. Your commitment is the foundation of our chapter's success.

As you enjoy the upcoming Independence Day holiday, I wish you and your families a safe, relaxing, and **Happy Fourth of July!** I hope you have an opportunity to recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. I look forward to reconnecting with you after the holiday as we begin another exciting program year together.

With sincere appreciation,



President  
AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter



AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter Board Members at the Annual Awards Gala, 2026



# 2025-26 AGA MPGC Chapter Leadership



Carol-Ann Boothe  
President



James Gregg  
President - Elect,  
Communications



Oluwatoyin Ojumu  
Immediate Past  
President, NCC Rep



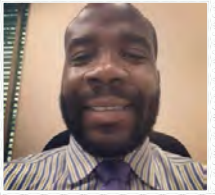
Olayinka Afolabi  
Secretary



Wilson Kayo  
Treasurer



Bridgett Downs-Tucker  
Assistant Treasurer



Femi Fekindele  
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



Jaideep Chakravorty  
Education



Patrick Ghoto  
Education



Jatin Wahi  
Education



Meili Niu  
Education



Tanequa McQueen  
Membership



Brian Frey  
Membership



Sia Jasmine Wonday  
Awards & Recognition



Janice Codrington  
Awards & Recognition



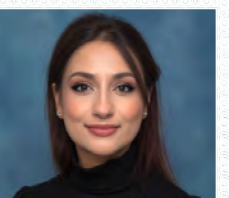
Jillian Manning  
ACE Reporting Chair



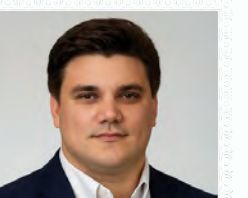
Kelli Davis  
Communications



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

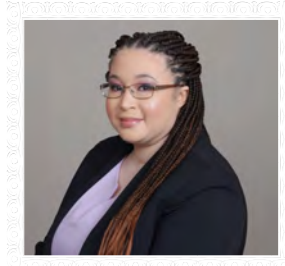
AGA fosters learning , certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

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

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Nicholas Garrard  
TFC Consulting



Freda Jackson  
Sikich



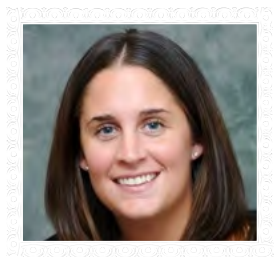
Doreen Shute  
Retired



Yehuda Schmidt  
Sikich



Andrew Lewis  
KPMG LLP



Christine Turner  
USDA



Marlon Perry  
KPMG LLP



Kimberly Penn  
CliftonLarsonAllen

## Vision

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.

# Our Sponsors

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## Bronze Level



Think Ahead



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? For **summer study group** info, please contact Kathleen at [kathleen.sobieralski@umgc.edu](mailto:kathleen.sobieralski@umgc.edu)

### Why Attend?

- Meet Certified Government Financial Managers (CGFMs)
- Learn strategies for CGFM exam preparation
- Explore career pathways in government financial management
- Build connections in the public finance community



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](#).

## Welcome New Members!



Join us in welcoming our newest members! We are excited you have chosen to be part of the AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter and look forward to your contributions and engagement.

Justin Abold-Lebreche  
Conici Blount  
Carole Cimitile  
Autumn Francis  
Johnson  
Mark Livingston  
Julia Stevenson  
Morgan Wray  
Mehdi Bousaidi

Suzanne Auerbach  
Frieda Cardwell  
Vincent Enriquez  
Tiffany Gaither  
Sandeep Khanna  
Connor McCarthy  
Marcel Wallace  
Ryan Zablocki  
Ryan Evans

Brett Baker  
Yi Cheng  
Ryan Evans  
Stephen Jameson LeToya  
Wanda Killingsworth  
Tawhid Rahman  
Tamara White  
Quaezhawn Alford  
Chuma Nkamhoua

We look forward to connecting with you throughout the year and hope to see you at our upcoming educational, networking, and community service events.

# Congrats!



Congratulations to the recipients of the 2026 Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) Scholarship Award, Dev Wahi (University of Maryland, College Park) and Krish Wahi (Indiana University). Their award-winning Citizen-Centric Report on the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) highlighted the agency's services, financial position, and future priorities, including the rebuilding of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. We are proud to recognize their outstanding achievement at our 2026 Annual Awards Gala.





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- GSA Multiple Award Schedule, Contract No. GS-23F-0057W

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# Member Spotlight



**Jim Greg**

**James Gregg**  
**President – Elect,**  
**Communications**  
2025–2026 Program Year

## **Tell us a little about yourself and your professional background.**

I am currently a Senior Audit Manager within the Federal Service Line at KPMG. I have been with the firm for over 12 years, dedicating the vast majority of my career to serving clients in the federal sector. On a personal note, I live in Poolesville, Maryland, with my wonderful wife and our four children, who definitely keep us on our toes!

## **How did you first become involved with AGA MPGC, and what has kept you engaged over the years?**

My journey with AGA actually began with the DC chapter, where I helped out on the Young Professionals committee. When my family and I moved to Maryland during the COVID-19 pandemic, I switched my allegiance to the AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County (MPGC) chapter, thanks to the encouragement of a few Maryland-based coworkers. Over the years, I have grown particularly fond of my role as the chapter's webmaster. It has been incredibly rewarding, as it allows me to engage with and support our local accounting community in a unique way that goes beyond the scope of my day-to-day work.

## **Looking back on your time as President-Elect, what accomplishment or experience stands out the most?**

Looking back, a few key experiences really stand out. I greatly valued attending specialized trainings, such as the one hosted at the GAO, and the opportunity to connect with so many fantastic professionals at the technology summit. Additionally, helping to oversee communications was a major highlight; it gave me the chance to work much more closely with other committees within the chapter, which was incredibly rewarding and provided a broader perspective on all the great work we do.

## **What has been the most rewarding part of serving in a leadership role with AGA MPGC?**

For me, the most rewarding part has been seeing firsthand the positive impact we can have on the government accounting community. By providing opportunities for professionals to gather, network, and learn from one another, we help foster a greater sense of shared purpose and connection that extends far beyond our day-to-day jobs.

## **What advice would you give to members who are thinking about volunteering or serving on the Board?**

My advice is simple: don't overthink it, just do it! It is so easy to get in our own heads and hesitate to get involved. However, if you just take that first leap, I promise you will land among a group of fantastic, supportive people who will catch you and guide you along the way.

## **What do you enjoy doing outside of work?**

Outside of work, my favorite way to spend my time is with my family. I love playing with my kids and spending time with my wife tending to our garden. We also really enjoy getting outdoors and going for short hikes to explore the beautiful Agricultural Reserve here in Montgomery County.



# Member Spotlight (Contd)

**What's one fun fact about yourself that most members may not know?**

I actually came to DC completely by chance! I was visiting my wife (then-girlfriend) during one of my many long-distance trips from Long Island to see her when I happened to run into a Senior Manager with KPMG at a bar. We got to talking, one thing led to another, and just a few months later, I transferred into our Federal practice.



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- ♦ Risk Monitoring and Mitigation Support
- ♦ Statistical Analysis and Data Analytics
- ♦ Trainings and Workshops for New Policies and Procedures (Directives & Instructions)



### CORPORATE SNAPSHOT

The Joachim Group CPAs & Consultants, LLC  
3027 Peters Creek Road, Suite C  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
T: (540) 387-1000  
F: (540) 387-1001  
E: [info@tjgcpas.com](mailto:info@tjgcpas.com)  
W: [www.tjgcpas.com](http://www.tjgcpas.com)  
SAM UNIQUE ENTITY ID: S5NWNMJW3593  
CAGE / NCAGE: 4CSD0  
GSA PSS Contract No.: GS00F004HA  
NAICS CODES: SINs: 541211, 541219 and 541611

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- ☐ Virginia DBE Certified

# 2026

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## PLATINUM

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Achievement in  
Chapter Excellence



Montgomery/  
Prince George's  
County Chapter



# Upcoming MPGC AGA Events

Join us this season for a series of engaging events designed to connect, celebrate, and bring our community together.

*Save the Date*

## Blood Cancer United

### Light The Night Fundraiser Walk

 **September 25, 2026**

 **5 pm**

 **Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd , Glen Echo, MD (new location)**

Please consider registering as a team member for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Light The Night. Your leadership and fundraising efforts will bring light to the darkness of cancer in your community and across the country. It's mission is to "Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Blood Cancer United funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.



*Pictures from the 2025 Light the Night Fundraiser Walk.*



# 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.

## Professional Development Training (PDT), 20 CPES!(Hybrid)



**July 21-23, 2026.** Professional Development Training (PDT) offers an opportunity to expand your knowledge through expert-led sessions focused on today's government financial management challenges. Attendees can connect with leaders across the profession and explore innovative solutions that strengthen government accountability, efficiency, and performance. PDT 2026 will take place in Washington, D.C., with a virtual attendance option available. [Register HERE](#)

## Internal Control and fraud Prevention, 14 CPES! (In person)

**September 22-23, 2026.** The Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training brings together government accountability professionals for two days of expert-led learning focused on strengthening internal controls, enhancing fraud prevention efforts, and improving risk management practices. Attendees will gain practical insights from leaders across government and industry while exploring emerging strategies to detect, prevent, and respond to fraud, waste, and abuse. The event also provides valuable opportunities to connect with peers and share leading practices that support stronger organizational performance and public trust. [Register HERE](#)



## AGA National Webinar Training Schedule



**Jul 15, 2026, 2:00-3:50 PM ET**  
Free Virtual Information Session

[Register HERE](#)



**Sep 9, 2026, 2:00-3:50PM ET**  
Communications ( 2 CPES)

[Register HERE](#)



**Sep 24th, 2026, 10:30-2:30PM ET**  
Congretional Budget Process( 4 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 Montgomery/Prince Georges Chapter is proud to support meaningful initiatives that make a positive difference in our community.

## Supporting Progress Place, Silver Spring, MD

The AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter is proud to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness through community service. Following our Audit Quality Roundtable Breakfast Forum at WMATA on May 8, chapter members assembled and donated 100 snack and toiletry care packages to Progress Place in Silver Spring, Maryland. The care packages help meet immediate daily needs while supporting the organizations working on the front lines to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.

Progress Place is a Montgomery County-owned facility that brings together Shepherd's Table, Interfaith Works, and Mobile Med to provide comprehensive services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Services include nutritious meals, healthcare, case management, employment readiness programs, laundry and shower facilities, and seasonal emergency shelter.

The chapter is proud to support organizations like Progress Place that provide hope, dignity, and essential services to those in need. We encourage our members to continue making a difference through volunteerism and charitable support.

To learn more about Progress Place or explore volunteer opportunities, visit:  
<https://silverspringdowntown.com/go/progress-place>



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# Celebrating 250 Years of Independence

This year, Americans have an especially meaningful reason to celebrate. On July 4, 2026, the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—a historic milestone honoring two and a half centuries of freedom, democracy, public service, and civic engagement.

Communities across the region will mark this once-in-a-generation celebration with concerts, parades, family-friendly activities, historical commemorations, and spectacular fireworks displays.

To help you plan your Independence Day festivities, we've compiled a selection of local celebrations and fireworks displays taking place throughout Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

## Montgomery County

### Rockville Independence Day Celebration

Location: Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park,  
Rockville

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Fireworks: Approx. 9:15 p.m.

### Germantown Glory

Location: South Germantown  
Recreational Park, Boyds

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Fireworks: Approx. 9:15 p.m.

### Poolesville Fireworks Celebration

Location: Hughes Road Soccer Fields,  
Poolesville

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Time: before dusk

Fireworks: Approx. 9:15 p.m.

## Prince George's County

### Laurel Independence Day Celebration

Location: Granville Gude Park, Laurel

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Vendor Village: 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Entertainment: Begins at 5:00 p.m.

Fireworks: 9:15 p.m.

### Greenbelt Independence Day Celebration

Location: Buddy Attick Lake Park,  
Greenbelt

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Time: Approx. 4:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Fireworks: Around 9:00 p.m.

### Prince George's Stadium

Location: Bowie

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Game Time: Approx. 6:35 p.m.

Fireworks: Immediately following the game

**Note: Event schedules are subject to change. Please confirm details with local organizers before attending.**

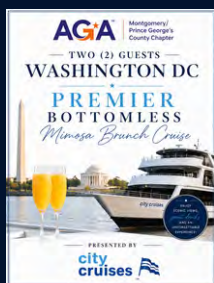
# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review

## AGA MPGC Celebrates Excellence Aboard Our Annual Awards Cruise | June 2026

The AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter welcomed members, guests, partners, and sponsors aboard our Annual Awards Gala Dinner Cruise for an evening of networking, recognition, and celebration along the scenic Washington, D.C. waterfront.

The program featured keynote addresses by Ann M. Ebberts, M.S., PMP, Chief Executive Officer of AGA National, who reflected on leadership and the future of AGA as she prepares for retirement, and Rebecca Shea, Director of GAO's Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, who shared valuable insights on fraud risk management and government accountability.

The evening recognized outstanding achievements in volunteerism, leadership, scholarship, and professional excellence through chapter and national awards while celebrating the many accomplishments of our AGA community. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this year's Awards Gala Dinner Cruise a memorable conclusion to another successful program year.



The evening's Silent Auction featured two exceptional experiences generously donated by our sponsors: two D.C. United match tickets, courtesy of Savalan, LLC, and a Premier Bottomless Mimosa Brunch Cruise for Two, courtesy of City Cruises.

Thank you to our generous donors and everyone who participated in making the auction a success..



# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review

## 2025–2026 AGA MPGC Award recipients :

### **National Volunteer of the Year**

Freda Jackson, Community Services/ Past President

### **Strategic Partnership Award**

Government Accountability Office (GAO)

### **Distinguished Leadership Award**

Rhonda Shaffer – U.S. Department of Transportation

### **Chapter Achievement of the Year Award**

Andrew Lewis

### **Outstanding Board Service Award**

Kathleen Sobieralski – CGFM Certification

### **Chapter Volunteers of the Year**

Shehreen Farhan – Communications

Kelli Davis – Communications

### **Outstanding Service Award**

Nicholas Garrard  
Oluwatoyin Ojinmu





# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review



AGA MPGC Celebrates Excellence Aboard Our Annual Awards Cruise | June 2026





Montgomery/  
Prince George's  
County Chapter

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## SILENT AUCTION WINNERS

*Thank you for supporting the AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter.*

TWO (2)

### D.C. UNITED TICKETS

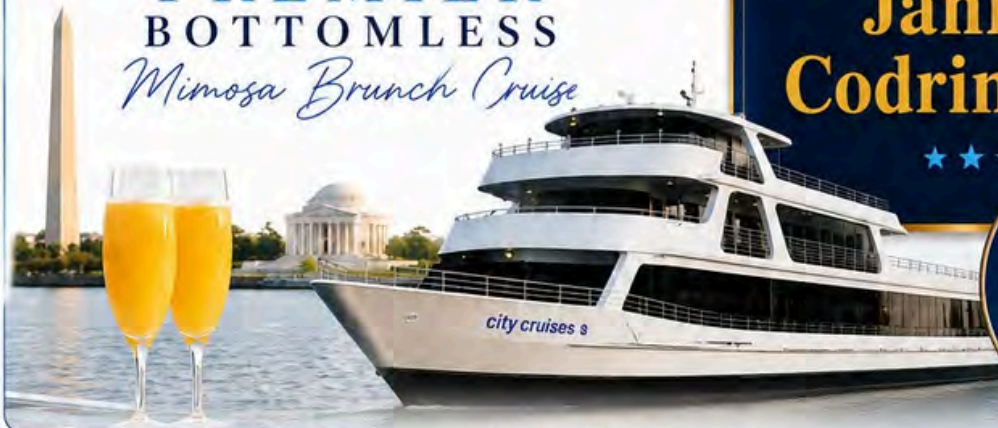


WINNER

Alfred  
Same Etame

TWO (2) GUESTS —  
WASHINGTON DC  
PREMIER  
BOTTOMLESS

*Mimosa Brunch Cruise*



WINNER

Janice  
Codrington

★  
ENJOY  
SCENIC VIEWS,  
*great drinks*  
AND AN  
UNFORGETTABLE  
EXPERIENCE!

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# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review



## Advancing Audit Quality Breakfast Roundtable

AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter, in partnership with the IIA Washington, DC Chapter, hosted the Advancing Audit Quality Breakfast Roundtable at WMATA, bringing together regulators, auditors, and industry leaders for a dynamic discussion on emerging trends, audit quality, and leading practices across the profession.

We extend our sincere appreciation to moderator **Andrew Lewis** and speakers **Jason Ackerman, Dr. Brett Baker, Heather Dunahoo, Warren Hersh, Khalilah Imperatrice, Yehuda Schmidt, Elizabeth Sullivan, Susan Verghese, and Denise Muschett Wray** for sharing their expertise and insights. Special thanks to **WMATA** for hosting this outstanding event and to the IIA Washington, DC Chapter for its valued partnership in making the program a success. The event concluded with a community service activity benefiting Progress Place Shelter, reflecting our shared commitment to professional excellence and community service.



# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review



## AGA Government Financial Management Spring Workshop, April 2026

AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter hosted a successful Government Financial Management Spring Workshop at the United States Mint Headquarters, bringing together professionals from government, academia, and industry for a day of learning, networking, and collaboration.

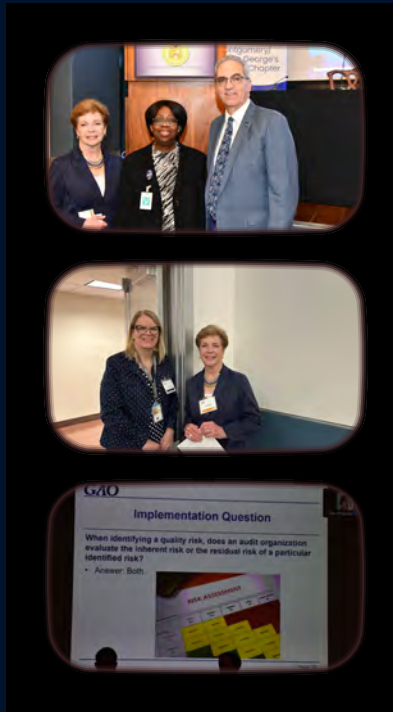
We extend our sincere appreciation to our outstanding speakers, sponsors, partners, volunteers, the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, and the United States Mint for helping make this event a success. Their support and commitment to advancing government financial management made this outstanding program possible.



# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review



Strengthening Accountability & Internal Controls in Today's Government Environment, January 2026



GAO Standards in Action: Fraud Risks and Audit Excellence, February 2026



AGA Technology Transformation Summit, March 2026



Ethics workshop, KPMG DC, December 2025



AGA MPGC and ACCA at Montgomery College's Club Rush, September 2025



# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review



## Crab Feast, May 2026

Members, guests, and sponsors came together for our annual Crab Feast, enjoying an afternoon of great food, networking, and camaraderie.

This longstanding tradition provides an opportunity to strengthen professional connections, welcome new faces, and celebrate the vibrant community that makes our chapter so special.



## Evening at the Ballpark

Friends and family joined members of the IIA Washington, DC Chapter for a fun-filled day at the ballpark, hosted by the Membership Committee. Attendees enjoyed watching the Washington Nationals take on the San Diego Padres while networking, building relationships, and enjoying an afternoon together. The event provided another great opportunity to strengthen the partnership between our two chapters.



AGA Multi-chapter Picnic , September 2025



AGA MPGC, IMA & MACPA Networking Event at Ledo's Pizza, September 2025



# 2025 – 2026 Program Year in Review



Networking Event at Top Golf, November 2025



Social Networking Event at Beat The Bomb, March 2026



NABA-QUE, September 2025



Serving our community at JA Finance Park and Manna Food Center, 2026



# *Tip into Summer:* HIBISCUS, LEMONGRASS, BASIL AND HONEY SWEET ICED TEA

Summer is the perfect time to slow down, soak up the sunshine, and enjoy a refreshing beverage with family and friends. Whether you're hosting a backyard barbecue, relaxing on the patio after a long day, or looking for a healthier alternative to sugary drinks, this tea is sure to become a seasonal favorite. Give this simple recipe a try and raise a glass to a relaxing, flavorful summer season!



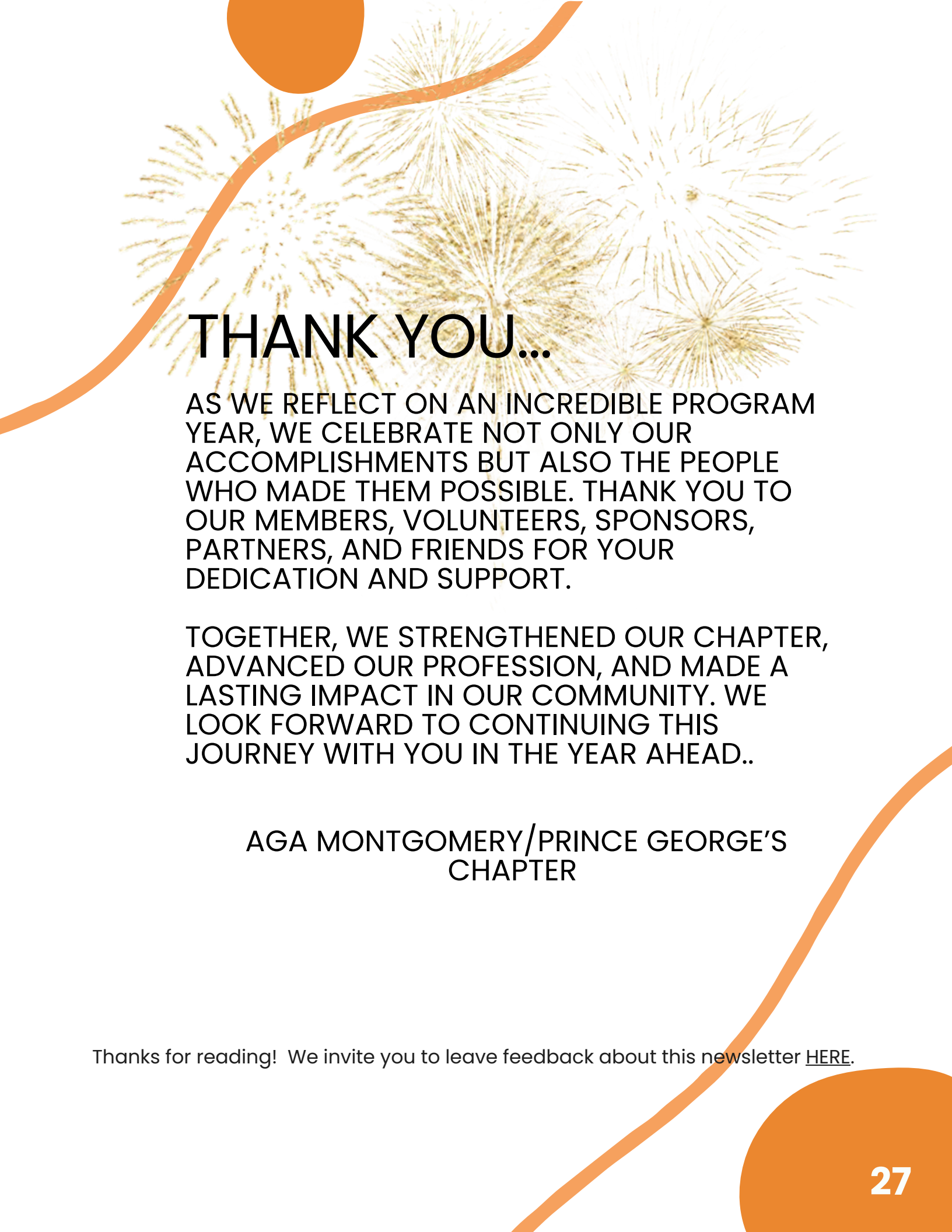
## Ingredients:

- 5 cups water
- 1 lemongrass stalk thinly sliced, plus more stalks for serving\*
- 1/4 cup honey or more to taste (may sub coconut sugar or maple syrup for vegan version)
- 1/2 cup dried hibiscus flowers
- 3/4 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves plus more for serving
- 1/4 cup fresh squeezed lime juice plus lime slices for serving

## Directions:

1. Bring the water to a boil in a medium size pot. Remove from the heat and add the lemongrass, honey, hibiscus flowers and basil leaves. Cover and let steep for 20 minutes. Strain into a pitcher and discard the used lemongrass, hibiscus flowers and basil.
2. Stir in the lime juice and taste, if needed add more honey.
3. Chill until cold.
4. Serve over ice with a fresh lemongrass stalk, basil and lime.

Credit: Tieghan Gerard, Half Baked Harvest

The page features a festive background with a large orange circle in the top left, a thick orange wavy line curving across the top, and several golden-yellow fireworks exploding in the upper right. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font.

# THANK YOU...

AS WE REFLECT ON AN INCREDIBLE PROGRAM YEAR, WE CELEBRATE NOT ONLY OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THEM POSSIBLE. THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS, PARTNERS, AND FRIENDS FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT.

TOGETHER, WE STRENGTHENED OUR CHAPTER, ADVANCED OUR PROFESSION, AND MADE A LASTING IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS JOURNEY WITH YOU IN THE YEAR AHEAD..

AGA MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGE'S  
CHAPTER

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