

THE AGA COMMUNIQUE

2026–2027 PROGRAM YEAR
FALL



A Message from the President

A Year of Excellence, Growth, and Impact

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As we begin the 2026–2027 program year, I am honored to continue serving as President of the AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter. I am grateful for all that we accomplished together last year and excited about the opportunities ahead.

Celebrating Excellence

We begin this year with much to celebrate. At AGA LEAD 2026, our chapter was honored to receive AGA's Platinum Achievement in Chapter Excellence (ACE) Award, AGA's highest level of chapter recognition. This achievement reflects the dedication and teamwork of our Board, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and members. Thank you for making this recognition possible.

LEAD was also a special opportunity for the AGA DMV Chapters to honor **Ann Ebberts**, AGA's retiring Chief Executive Officer, with the Legacy of Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership, dedication, and lasting contributions to AGA and the government accountability community. We congratulate Ann on her retirement and wish her all the best in this next chapter.

Looking Ahead: Our 2026–2027 Priorities

Building on this momentum, we will focus on four key areas:

- **Membership Growth & Engagement:** Expand our membership and strengthen engagement, with increased outreach to students, early-career professionals, and professionals across government, nonprofit, and corporate sectors.

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Ms. Carol-Ann Boothe, President
AGA MPGC Chapter

President's Message Continued

- **Professional Development:** Deliver relevant education on technical, leadership, ethics, and emerging topics, with opportunities to learn and connect.
- **Partnerships & Community Impact:** Strengthen collaboration with government agencies, universities, professional associations, sponsors, nonprofits, and community partners.
- **Leadership & Succession:** Expand mentoring and leadership opportunities and continue developing our next generation of chapter leaders.

Our Leadership & Sponsors

I am pleased to introduce our 2026–2027 Board of Directors and thank each member for their commitment to serving our chapter. I also extend our sincere appreciation to our corporate sponsors and strategic partners, whose continued support helps make our programs, student initiatives, community service, and professional development activities possible.

Together, We Make an Impact

There are many opportunities to get involved this year—attend a program, serve on a committee, mentor a student or colleague, volunteer in our community, or invite someone new to experience AGA.

Our Platinum ACE recognition demonstrates what we can accomplish together. Let us build on that momentum and make 2026–2027 another year of connection, growth, service, and impact.

Thank you for your continued commitment to AGA MPGC. I look forward to another successful year together.

With gratitude and Commitment,



President
AGA Montgomery/Prince George's Chapter

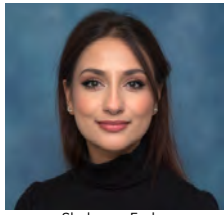


AGA LEAD! 2026 – Celebrating Leadership, Service, and Chapter Excellence

2026–27 AGA MPGC Chapter Leadership



Carol-Ann Boothe
President



Shehreen Farhan
President - Elect,
Communications



Oluwatoyin Ojumu
NCC Rep/
Communications



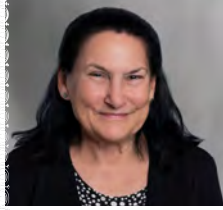
Olayinka Afolabi
Secretary/
Education



Femi Fekindele
Treasurer



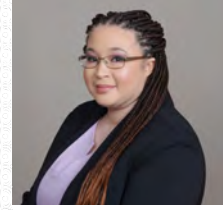
Bridgett Downs-Tucker
Assistant Treasurer



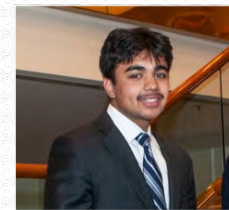
Kathleen Sobieraiski
CGFM Certification



Trina Scott
CGFM Certification



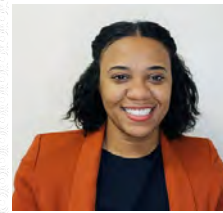
Freda Jackson
Community Service



Dev Wahi
Student Representative



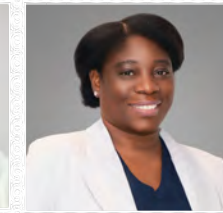
Felix Sithiphone
Early Careers/
Communications



Farryn Jones
Education



Jaideep Chakravorty
Education



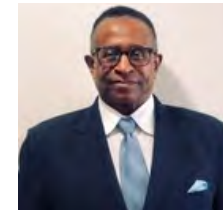
Mahmia Richards
Education



Tanequa McQueen
Membership



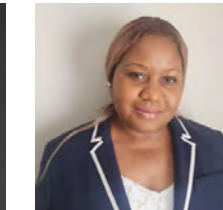
Kelli Davis
Membership



Jeff Cole
Historian



Janice Codrington
Awards & Recognition



Sia Jasmine Monday
Awards & Recognition



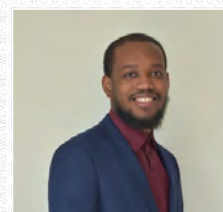
Jillian Manning
ACE Reporting Chair



Nicholas Garrard
ACE Reporting
Chair/Sponsorship



Jatin Wahi
Accountability



Patrick Ghoto
Communications



Jessica Kissoon
Communications

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.

2026–27 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



Marlon Perry
KPMG LLP



Christine Turner
USDA



James Gregg
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.

Sponsor Appreciation

Gold Level



ALLMOND & COMPANY, LLC



Silver Level



Bronze Level



If you are interested in becoming a 2026–2027 sponsor, please reach out to our Sponsorship Committee.

Partner Appreciation



Institute of Management Accountants



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business

Potomac & Chesapeake Regional Council

Serving Management Leaders in Delmarva, Nation's Capital, Richmond & VA Skyline Chapters



The Institute of
Internal Auditors

Member News

CGFM PREP



Are you interested in or currently preparing to take the CGFM exam?

For **study group** info, please contact Kathleen at 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](#).

Cheers to Our Incredible New Members! 🥂

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

Aaron Prince Avant

Ishani Biswas*

T'naia Felder

Lucius H. Montgomery

Mehdi Bousaidi

Ed Bonanno

Amy Graham

**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!

SAVE THE DATE

Prepare for the CGFM exam.

Please join us for a joint study group with NOVA, Richmond, Montgomery/PG, and DC Chapter!



October 14, 2026



4:30pm - 7:30pm



Register [HERE](#)

*Invest
in Your
Future*



Member Spotlight



Shehreen Farhan

President – Elect & Communications Chair
2026–2027 Program Year

Tell us a little about yourself and your professional background.

I am a fellow chartered accountant (FCCA) with a career focused on financial management, government contracting, compliance, and organizational growth.

In my current role as Finance Manager at EMI Advisors, I work across finance, operations, human resources, and leadership to strengthen systems, solve complex challenges, and support informed decision-making.

What I enjoy most about my work is turning complicated financial information into practical guidance that helps people and organizations succeed. Beyond my day-to-day role, I am actively involved with both AGA and ACCA, where I have found meaningful opportunities to serve, collaborate, mentor others, and continue growing as a leader.

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

I first became involved with AGA MPGC after attending a spring workshop as an ACCA member.

I found the workshop extremely valuable and met Farryn, who encouraged me to join the Board. I began as Communications Chair, where I helped create and publish a quarterly newsletter. This year, I wanted to give back even more, so I accepted the position of President-Elect. What has kept me engaged is the chapter's strong sense of community and its commitment to education, collaboration, and public service. Every role and event has allowed me to learn from others, build meaningful relationships, and help strengthen our professional community.

What has been the most rewarding part of serving the chapter?

The most rewarding part has been working with talented volunteers who are genuinely committed to advancing the profession. Leadership has allowed me to contribute ideas, support member engagement, and create opportunities for people to connect and learn. It has also challenged me to grow as a communicator, collaborator, and leader.

Member Spotlight (Contd)

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

Say yes—even if you are not completely sure where you fit at first. Volunteering is one of the best ways to build relationships, develop leadership skills, and better understand the organization. Start with a project or committee that interests you, be willing to contribute, and do not be afraid to share your ideas. Your perspective may be exactly what the chapter needs.



Shehreen and her family , Chichen Itza, Mexico

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, reading (mostly literary fiction) and hiking with my golden retriever. I also enjoy bringing people together through community events and exploring emerging technologies, particularly how artificial intelligence and business intelligence can help organizations work more effectively and make better-informed decisions.

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

One fun fact most members may not know is that I play the sitar. It gives me a creative outlet and helps me stay connected to my cultural roots.

Rethinking Total Compensation in the Era of the OBBBA:

A Strategic Guide for County Government Employers

How new tax and benefit provisions create opportunities to attract, retain, and engage a talented public workforce.

The enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), Public Law 119-21, signed into law on July 4, 2025, represents one of the most significant changes to employee compensation policy in recent years. While much attention has focused on its tax implications, the legislation also creates an opportunity for county governments to rethink their total compensation strategies. By reshaping the tax treatment of overtime pay, expanding dependent care assistance, permanently extending employer-sponsored student loan repayment benefits, and enhancing healthcare account flexibility, the OBBBA provides public employers with practical tools to strengthen recruitment and retention while remaining fiscally responsible.

The OBBBA is more than a tax law – it's a strategic opportunity for counties to strengthen their employee value proposition.



Olayinka Afolabi
Compensation Analyst
Montgomery County
Government, Maryland



Overtime: More Value Without Raising Base Pay

For tax years **2025–2028**, eligible employees may deduct qualified overtime compensation—the FLSA-required premium portion of overtime pay—subject to statutory limits and income phaseouts. This could be especially meaningful for employees in overtime-intensive positions such as corrections, emergency communications, and public works.

For counties, the opportunity also creates an administrative responsibility.

Beginning with tax year 2026, employers must separately report qualified overtime compensation, making payroll-system readiness and accurate FLSA classifications increasingly important.



Dependent Care Gets a Long-Awaited Boost

Beginning in 2026, the annual dependent-care assistance exclusion increases from **\$5,000 to \$7,500** (\$3,750 for married employees filing separately)—the first increase in nearly 4 decades.

To implement the change successfully, counties should amend their Section 125 cafeteria plans, coordinate updates with third-party administrators, and carefully monitor nondiscrimination testing requirements to ensure continued compliance.



Student Loan Assistance Becomes a Lasting Benefit

OBBBA also permanently extends the ability to provide qualifying student-loan repayment assistance through Section 127 educational assistance programs. The exclusion is \$5,250 for 2025 and 2026, with cost-of-living adjustments beginning after 2026.

For positions requiring degrees or professional credentials, this gives counties another tool for designing competitive benefit packages. Counties without a Section 127 program may want to evaluate whether one fits their workforce strategy.



More Flexibility in Healthcare

The OBBBA also permanently authorizes pre-deductible telehealth services for high-deductible health plans and expands Health Savings Account (HSA) eligibility for certain direct primary care arrangements.

These changes improve employees' access to affordable healthcare while reducing administrative complexity for employers, allowing counties to enhance benefit offerings without significant plan redesign.



WHAT COUNTIES SHOULD DO NOW



Update payroll systems and reporting procedures



Amend benefit plans before open enrollment



Communicate changes to employees



Plan for potential budget impacts and participation changes



REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

1. One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Public Law 119-21, § 70202 (2025).
2. IRS Notice 2025-69 (November 2025).
3. Stinson LLP. July 2025.
4. Winston & Strawn LLP. July 2025.
5. Nixon Peabody LLP. July 2025.
6. Seyfarth Shaw LLP. July 2025.
7. Mercer. 2025.
8. Economic Policy Institute. August 2024.

9. Gallagher. September 2024.
10. MissionSquare Research Institute. July 2025.
11. Grant Thornton. September 2025.
12. MRSC (Municipal Research and Services Center). November 2025.
13. Outside General Counsel (OGC). May 2026.
14. IRC § 127 (Educational Assistance Programs), as amended by the OBBBA.
15. IRC § 129 (Dependent Care Assistance Programs), as amended by the OBBBA.
16. IRC § 21 (Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit), as amended by the OBBBA.

This article was created with the support of AI-assisted technologies to help generate, organize, and refine content. All AI-generated material was reviewed, fact-checked, and edited by the author before publication. While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, readers should independently verify any information that is critical to decision-making.

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

Auditing AI: Risks, Controls, Governance, And Accountability

See flier on the next page

 **September 24, 2026**

 **11:30am - 1:00pm**

 **Virtual - Zoom webinar**

Join us for a timely conversation on navigating AI risks, strengthening governance and controls, and providing assurance in a rapidly evolving environment.

[Register HERE](#)



AUDITING AI: RISKS, CONTROLS, GOVERNANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*Perspectives from government and the profession
on managing AI risks and providing assurance
in a rapidly evolving environment.*



THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026



11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. ET
VIRTUAL – ZOOM WEBINAR



LIVE Q&A
WITH THE PANEL

FEATURED PANELISTS



George Fallon

Practice Lead,
Cybersecurity
RMA Associates



Dr. Brett Baker

Retired Inspector General
Former IG, National Archives
and Records Administration
Former Acting IG, CFTC
Chair, CIGIE Audit Committee



Megan Gaillard

Owner and Consultant
Auditing, Forensics,
and Consulting, LLC.



Mike Revelle

Director
External Assurance
and Compliance
Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN



Identify key risks of AI
in government operations



Describe governance and
internal control considerations



Evaluate approaches for auditing
AI-related risks and controls



Recognize emerging practices
to strengthen assurance

REGISTER TODAY!



Scan the QR code or click below
to secure your spot.

[Register Here](#)

PRICING



AGA, ACCA, IIA,
NABA & IMA Members

FREE



Non-Members

\$20



Students

FREE



GAIN INSIGHTS
from government
leaders and
industry experts.



STAY AHEAD
of AI risks, controls,
and governance.



EARN CPE
1.5 CPE in
Governmental
Accounting.



CONNECT
with peers and
professionals.



AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be submitted to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors through its website: www.NASBARegistry.org.

✉ **QUESTIONS?** Email us at cavbooth@outlook.com

🌐 www.agampgc.org

Upcoming MPGC AGA Events (Contd)

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

[Register HERE](#)

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 MPGC AGA Events (Contd)

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.

Junior Achievement (JA) Finance Park

We hope you can join us in making an impact! We will be providing volunteers to support middle school students at Junior Achievement Finance Park.

Junior Achievement Finance Park® is Junior Achievement's experiential learning 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.

The visit to Junior Achievement Finance Park is where students engage with volunteers and put into practice what they've learned by developing a personal budget. You do not need to be a financial literacy expert to be a great volunteer. All below dates include a 1-hour JA Orientation.

For Montgomery County volunteers only, separately, you will need to complete a mandatory, 30-minute volunteer training for Montgomery County Public Schools in advance of volunteering at Junior Achievement Finance Park. Details will be included in the confirmation email.

- Junior Achievement Finance Park **Montgomery County**, 12501 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD
 - Friday, October 30th from 8:45 am to 1:45 pm
 - Friday, December 4th from 8:45 am to 1:45 pm
 - Friday, April 23rd from 8:45 am to 1:45 pm
- Junior Achievement Finance Park **Prince George's County**, 960 Nalley Road, Landover, MD
 - Thursday, November 19th from 8:15 am to 1:45 pm
 - Wednesday, March 24th from 9:15 am to 2:45 pm
 - Friday, April 30th from 8:15 am to 1:45 pm

Volunteer Registration Link:
[Register HERE](#)



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.

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 (No CPE Credits Offered)	Register HERE
	Sep 9, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET Communications (2 CPEs)	Register HERE
	Sep 24th, 2026, 10:30–2:30PM ET Congressional Budget Process (4 CPEs)	Register HERE
	October 14th, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET Navigating the Uniform Guidance 2026 (2 CPEs)	Register HERE
	November 9th, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET Internal controls (2CPEs)	Register HERE
	November 18th, 2026, 2:00–3:50PM ET Ethics (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!

Calendar of Events

CONNECT | LEARN | LEAD | MAKE AN IMPACT

SEP 26

- Light The Night Fundraiser
- Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser
- Webinar: Auditing AI: Risks, Controls, Governance, and Accountability
- DMV Multi Chapter Picnic



OCT 26

- Joint CGFM Study Group
- Webinar : Still Needs a Human: Judgment in the Age of AI, Policy Change, and Workforce
- Junior Achievement Volunteer Day (Silver Spring)



NOV 26

- Junior Achievement Volunteer Day (Landover,MD)



DEC 26

- Junior Achievement Volunteer Day (Silver Spring,MD)
- Annual Ethics Workshop
- Toy Drive



Past Events Highlights

Celebrating memorable moments from our recent AGA events! Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make these experiences so meaningful. Your participation, energy, and support continue to strengthen our community. We look forward to more opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together!

-AGA MPGC Team



PDT 2026, August, Washington DC

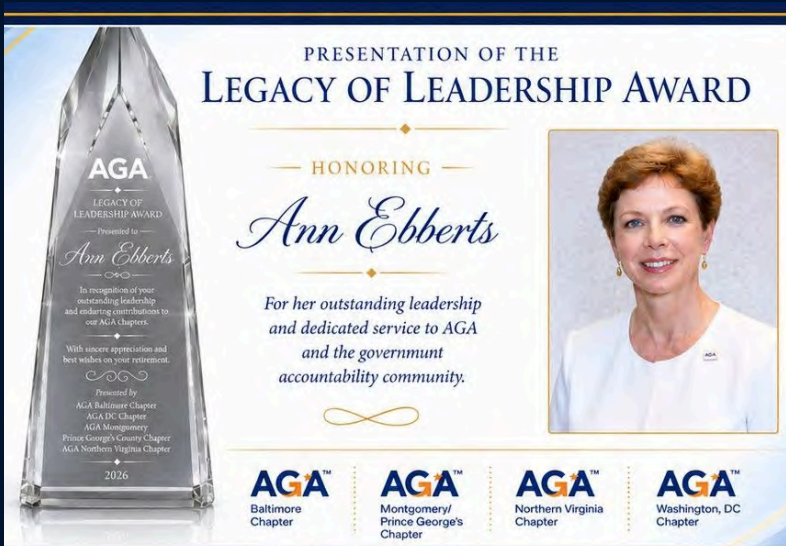
Past Events Highlights



PDT 2026, August, Washington DC

Past Events Highlights

LEAD 2026



We are incredibly proud that the AGA Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter received AGA's Platinum Achievement in Chapter Excellence (ACE) Award at LEAD 2026—AGA's highest level of chapter recognition.

This achievement reflects the dedication, teamwork, and commitment of our Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and members who continue to support our mission and contribute to the success and impact of our chapter.

LEAD 2026 was also an opportunity for the AGA DMV Chapters to come together for a very special recognition. We were honored to surprise Ann Ebberts, Chief Executive Officer of AGA, with the Legacy of Leadership Award, recognizing her outstanding leadership, unwavering dedication, and lasting contributions to AGA and the government accountability community as she prepares for retirement.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this Platinum achievement possible. This recognition belongs to our entire AGA MPGC community!

Past Events Highlights

VIRTUAL EVENT

Best Practices in Federal Financial Reporting



August 12, 2026



Virtual
via Zoom



Live Q&A
with the Panel

Thank You
TO OUR SPEAKERS
AND ATTENDEES!

Federal financial management leaders shared practical insights and lessons learned to strengthen the quality, transparency, and effectiveness of agency financial reporting.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Diane Dudley
MODERATOR
FASAB
Board Member



Andrew Lewis
KPMG LLP
Former Chair,
CEAR Board



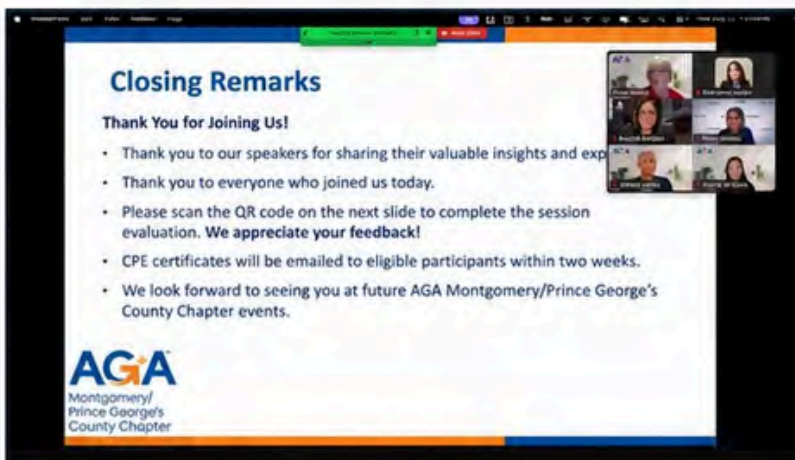
Kerrey Olden
KPMG LLP
CEAR Board
Member



Robin Gilliam
FASAB



Migdali Delgado
Architect of
the Capitol



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Leading practices for preparing high-quality AFRs



Effective planning and quality assurance strategies



Practical approaches to enhance transparency and accountability

Thank you to all who joined the conversation and made this event a success!

Tip into Fall!

APPLE CIDER FLOAT

An apple cider float is the perfect drink to sip into fall. It combines the crisp, sweet flavor of seasonal apple cider with creamy vanilla ice cream, creating a delicious balance of refreshing and comforting tastes. It captures the essence of autumn through familiar flavors like apples and warm spices, evokes nostalgia for fall traditions and gatherings, and transforms a simple beverage into an indulgent dessert-like treat. The blend of tangy cider and rich, melting ice cream delivers a festive experience that feels cozy, celebratory, and unmistakably fall.

Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ apple cider (or substitute in apple juice) and $\frac{1}{2}$ ginger ale
- 3 scoops of vanilla ice cream
- Whipped cream for topping
- Caramel sauce for topping

Directions:

1. Grab a glass and add 3 scoops of vanilla ice cream.
2. Fill the glass halfway with apple cider and top it off with ginger ale.
3. Top off your drink with whipped cream, caramel sauce, and a cinnamon stick

Credit: Toni Roberts, Design Dazzle



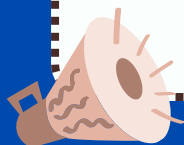
AGA COMMUNIQUE NEWS

**ATTENTION
MEMBERS!**

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

WINTER - DECEMBER 2026
SPRING- MARCH 2027
SUMMER - JUNE 2027

FOR MORE INFO OR TO SUBMIT CONTENT:

NEWSLETTER@MARYLANDAGA.COM

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