

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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**MARCH 2024**



## **Thriving Together: Your Vibrant Gateway to Government Financial Management Excellence with AGA Philadelphia!**

Welcome esteemed CGFMs! As leaders in shaping financial strategies and upholding fiscal integrity in government agencies, you are the cornerstone of AGA Philadelphia. Thank you for being essential to our community, where excellence in government financial management begins and thrives!

**Stay Informed,  
Drive Impact:  
Your Essential  
AGA  
Philadelphia  
CGFM  
Newsletter Hub!**



**UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS!  
DON'T MISS OUT!  
(PG. 6)**

**01/10**

# AGA PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

**LAYNA HOLMES-BUTLER**  
**CGFM, CPA**

Layna Holmes-Butler is an accomplished accounting and audit professional with a strong focus on delivering comprehensive solutions to individuals and businesses. Her expertise encompasses a wide range of services, including agreed-upon procedures, financial statement preparation following GAAP standards, general ledger management, accounts receivable and payable, and fixed asset accounting. Layna also specializes in conducting compliance audits in alignment with Government Auditing Standards (the Yellow Book) and relevant laws and regulations.

Throughout her career, Layna has worked with major clients such as The Mercadien Group, J. Miller & Associates, and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Her dedication to excellence and adherence to industry standards make her a valuable asset to the accounting and auditing community.



**02/10**

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**AGA Philadelphia  
Chapter: 2024  
Chapter  
Leadership**

**Chapter President:** Layna Holmes-Butler

**Chapter Treasurer:** Layna Holmes-Butler

**National Council of Chapters Representative:** Kyle Smith

**ACE Reporting:** Teri Lewis

**Membership:** Clarence Johnson

**Social Media:** Kyle Smith

**Webmaster:** Kyle Smith



**03/10**

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## **AGA Philadelphia Chapter Leadership:**

**On behalf of the AGA Philadelphia Chapter, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions to our community. Your hard work and perseverance have been instrumental in shaping the future of Certified Government Financial Managers (CGFMs) and the field of accounting as a whole.**

**As the forefront leaders of our chapter, your commitment to excellence sets a high standard for professionalism and service. Your passion for advancing the knowledge and skills of CGFMs inspires us all to strive for continuous improvement and innovation.**

**We would also like to extend an invitation to those interested in joining our chapter leadership. If you are eager to make a meaningful impact and contribute to the growth and success of our community, please reach out to our esteemed Chapter President, Layna Holmes-Butler, at *hlayna@hotmail.com*. Layna's leadership and guidance are invaluable, and she will be delighted to discuss opportunities for involvement with you.**

**Thank you once again for your dedication, passion, and hard work. Together, we will continue to elevate the standards of excellence in the accounting profession and support the professional growth of CGFMs across Philadelphia.**

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**04/10**

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# CGFM®

## Certification

### **What is a CGFM?**

The CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) credential, awarded by AGA, showcases expertise in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting across different government levels. It's a respected certification that highlights specialized knowledge and experience essential for effective government financial management. CGFM opens doors to new career prospects and sets you apart as a distinguished professional in the field.

### **CGFM Certification Benefits:**

1. Enhanced marketability across government sectors.
2. Networking opportunities with fellow government financial managers.
3. Boosted confidence in your role.
4. Potential for employer incentives like raises, promotions, and bonuses.
5. Increased value as an employee, both in reality and perception.
6. Support for ongoing education to stay updated with the latest developments and technologies.

Use this link to  
learn  
more about  
CGFM  
memberships!

[www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

### **How Do I Become a CGFM?**

1. Fill out an online application and agree to AGA's Code of Ethics.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
3. Pass three CGFM examinations.
4. Gain at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.



For any additional questions,  
please contact the Office of  
Professional Certification:  
800.AGA.7211 (703.684.6931) or  
[cgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:cgfm@agacgfm.org)

05/10

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**Don't Forget to  
Renew your  
AGA  
membership by  
March 31st,  
2024!  
[Renew Here!](#)**

**MARCH IS CGFM MONTH!**

**30 YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE:  
CELEBRATING  
OUR CGFMS!**

**The New Year brings reason to  
celebrate — 30 years of CGFM®!**

AGA created the Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM) program in 1994 to fill a need in the government financial management community. Through preparation and exams encompassing governmental accounting, auditing, internal controls, budgeting, and financial reporting at all levels of government, CGFMs become well versed in the knowledge and skills needed for the rigors and complexities of their duties. Furthermore, coverage of federal, state and local government financial management allows CGFMs to expand their career opportunities throughout the United States.

**Clarence Johnson Jr.**

**Jason Kuntz  
Wesley Johnson  
Teri Lewis  
John Kelly  
Erich Lutz  
Joseph Martirone  
Leyna Magdon  
Harry Feldman Jr.  
Lisa McCowan  
Alexander Storoz  
Bruce Phillips  
Grazyna Nykiel  
Jeffrey Roundtree  
Layna Holmes-Butler  
Trisha Smith  
Charles Hubbs  
Mary Storoz  
Harry Snyder  
Eric Strauss  
Martin Ward  
Tresa Templeton**

**Charles Afolabi  
Karen Boruta  
Barry Bruner  
John Carlucci  
Christina Chepel  
Joseph Colozza  
Kenneth Cox  
Magdalene Cunningham  
Thomas Deitzler  
John Falk  
Andrew Freta  
Vincent Gallo  
Regis Garris Jr.  
Joseph Girardi Jr.  
Robert Glass Jr.  
John Willet  
David Jonas  
Harry Feldman Jr.  
Thomas Karn**

**Thank you to all of our  
CGFMs!**

**Your dedication and  
expertise in  
accounting and  
finance are truly  
appreciated here at  
AGA Philadelphia.**

We honor and celebrate  
all your hard work. Thank  
you for your contributions  
to our community!

**06/10**

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# Upcoming Webinars & Events

*You Do Not Want to Miss Out!*

SAVE THE DATE



WEBINAR



Discover a pathway to professional excellence with AGA's exclusive professional development sessions, designed to elevate your skills and knowledge from March through June 2024. Delve into one-hour virtual presentations crafted around AGA's acclaimed "Professional Polish in the Public Sector" course, curated to empower CGFMs like you. Led by the renowned expert Kimberly Jones, these webinars promise insightful strategies and practical insights to enhance your capabilities and succeed in the dynamic realm of government financial management. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and propel your career forward – join us for these enriching sessions!

07/10

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**SAVE THE**

**DATE!**



## **Embracing Criticism: Using Negative Comments to Propel You Forward**

**April 17, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM ET**  
**\$30 per Person**

An enlightening webinar led by Kimberly Jones, designed to transform how you perceive and harness criticism in your professional journey. Join us for an engaging session that explores the power of negative feedback in propelling personal growth and career success. Discover valuable strategies to extract meaningful insights from criticism, gain a fresh perspective on challenges, and leverage feedback to reach your full potential. This session promises to be both amusing and insightful, offering practical tools to turn negative comments into stepping stones for professional advancement. Don't miss this opportunity to embrace criticism and unlock new pathways to success!

**[Register Here!](#)**

**Deadline to Register or Cancel is April 15, 2024**

## **Cybersecurity Webinar: Trends in Ransomware and Identity Theft**

**March 27, 2024, 2:00 PM – 3:50 PM ET**

**Free to Attend for Members**

This event will focus on the latest trends in ransomware and identity theft, providing valuable insights into protecting your organization and personal information.

**Here's what you can expect from the webinar:**

- Understand the impact and costs of ransomware attacks, including statistics and projections.
- Explore the prevalence of identity theft and its implications for businesses and individuals.
- Learn about resources available to combat ransomware and identity theft at all levels of government.
- Get practical advice on safeguarding your data and making informed decisions in cyber threat situations.

Our panel of experts will delve into these critical topics, offering valuable knowledge and strategies to enhance your cybersecurity defenses.

**[Register Here!](#)**

**Deadline to Register or Cancel is March 25, 2024**

## **Increase Your Confidence, Enhance Your Career**

**May 9, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM ET**

**\$30 per Person**

A transformative webinar dedicated to enriching your professional life by boosting your self-confidence. Join us for an entertaining and insightful session where you'll discover practical strategies to develop a deeper appreciation for your abilities and qualities. Learn how increased confidence can positively impact your presentation skills, communication effectiveness, and overall interactions in the business environment. Gain valuable insights and actionable tips to project confidence, handle challenges with ease, and elevate your career trajectory. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your full potential and take your professional journey to new heights!

**[Register Here!](#)**

**Deadline to Register or Cancel is May 7, 2024**

**08/10**

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## How to Find "Happy"

June 24, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM ET

**\$30 per Person**

A captivating webinar led by Kimberly Jones, designed to guide you through moments when happiness feels elusive. Join us for an entertaining journey filled with humor, personal stories, and practical step-by-step instructions that will help you gain a fresh perspective on both your personal and professional lives. Discover valuable insights and strategies to make finding your 'happy' easier and more achievable. This session promises to uplift and inspire, offering tools to navigate challenges with positivity and embrace joy in all aspects of life. Don't miss this opportunity to embark on a journey towards a happier and more fulfilling existence!

**[Register Here!](#)**

**Deadline to Register or Cancel is June 22, 2024**

## Important Details:

- **Registration and payment:** Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 2 days before the class start date. Space is limited. Payment is required by credit card at the time of registration. POs are not accepted.
- **Cancellation deadline:** The cancellation deadline for each session is 2 days before the start date. If the registrant does not attend the presentation, AGA will not issue credit toward any future training.
- **Login instructions and connectivity:** All sessions will be taught via Zoom. Upon registration, participants will receive a separate email with Zoom link information.
- **CPE credit:** During the opening remarks of each presentation, AGA will explain how you can receive your CPE certificate. In compliance with NASBA, AGA employs an attendance monitoring system. You **MUST** be able to view the PowerPoint slides on a device to verify your attendance.

## CPE Information

**Program level:** Basic

**Delivery method:** Group internet-based (virtual)

**Course prerequisite:** None

**Advance prep:** None

**CPE credit:** 1 (per session)

**Field of study:** Personal Development

### Learning Objectives:

- Increase your personal and professional confidence.
- Learn to let go of the past, center yourself and find happiness from within
- Recognize the importance of making and implementing a success plan to achieve your goals.
- Learn that criticism is often a form of love that can help you grow personally and professionally.

**09/10**

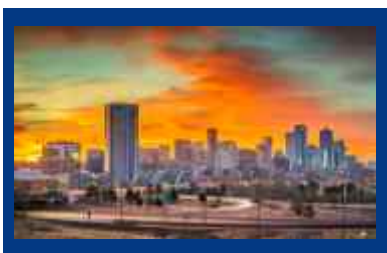
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# Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

Save the Date for AGA's future Professional Development Training (PDT) events!



## Denver, Colorado

**July 14-17, 2024**

**Sheraton Denver  
Downtown Hotel**



## Nashville, Tennessee

**July 27-30, 2025**

**Gaylord Opryland Hotel**



## Dallas, Texas

**July 26-29, 2026**

**Gaylord Texan Hotel**



## Chicago, Illinois

**July 18-21, 2027**

**Hyatt Regency Chicago**

### AGA's Premier Training & Networking Event

*July 14-17, 2024 | Denver*  
24 CPEs

#### Registration & Fees:

**Early Bird Deadline -  
June 14, 2024**

	Online	All Other
<b>AGA Members</b>		
Early Bird	\$925	\$950
Standard	\$1,025	\$1,050
<b>Non-members</b>		
Early Bird	\$1,125	\$1,150
Standard	\$1,225	\$1,250

**Register Now!**

**Join AGA Now to Save \$200!**

**10/10**

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