

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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AGA
Philadelphia
Chapter

March 2025

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

Welcome esteemed AGA members!
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!



Check out these CGFM Live Courses! (PG. 6).



Upcoming AGA Professional Development Trainings! (PG. 13).

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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.



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AGA Philadelphia Chapter: 2025 Chapter Leadership

Chapter President: Layna Holmes-Butler

First Vice President: Kyle Smith

Chapter Treasurer: Layna Holmes-Butler

National Council of Chapters Representative: Kyle Smith

ACE Reporting: Teri Lewis

Membership: Clarence Johnson

Programs, Meeting, & Events Chair: Stephanie Sowalsky

Social Media/Webmaster: Erin McAlinney



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Join the AGA Philadelphia Chapter Leadership Board!

Are you an AGA Member eager to make a difference in your community? Here's your chance! The Philadelphia Chapter is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Leadership Board. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a college student seeking valuable internship experience, we welcome you to be part of our dynamic team.

Why Join Us?

- **Community Involvement:** Make a meaningful impact in Baton Rouge and beyond.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your skills and network with industry professionals.
- **Retired Members:** Stay active, share your expertise, and continue making a difference.



www.agacgfm.org



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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

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

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CGFM LIVE COURSES



AGA is pleased to offer TWO options for CGFM live (real-time) courses for individuals:

- **virtual courses** – live instruction via Zoom.
- **in-person courses** – live class with students and instructor onsite in Alexandria, VA.

Looking for other CGFM course options? AGA also offers [self-paced CGFM courses](#) and [CGFM training for groups](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION

Virtual Courses

Course 1: Governmental Environment

April 3-4, 2025, 10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation deadline – March 27

Course 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting

June 3-6, 2025, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation deadline – May 27

Course 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control

July 15-17, 2025, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation deadline – July 8

Live Courses

In-person course:

Course 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control

May 6-7, 2025, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Alexandria VA

[Register here](#)

Registration or cancellation deadline – April 22

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Don't Forget: Join or Renew Your AGA Membership!

Benefits:



- **Connect, Collaborate, & Network:**
 - Expand your network, participate in our online mentoring program!
 - Volunteer to serve on AGA committees and boards.
 - Find a position or look for qualified candidates on AGA's Job Board
 - Join the conversation on LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook.
- **Continuous Learning:**
 - Participate in educational events — learn from and meet the experts.
 - Save money with registration discounts on national and chapter training events.
 - Sign up for four (4) complimentary members-only webinars.
 - Attend the Transformation & Technology Summit for FREE!
 - Attend the Women's Forum for FREE!
 - Leverage discounts on CGFM renewal and application fees.
- **Stay Informed & Find Solutions:**
 - Access online tools, developed by government experts to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration.
 - Stay up to date through the quarterly Journal of Government Financial Management.
 - Learn about and share best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
 - Get the latest innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.

**JOIN
NOW**



Don't Hesitate!
Register Now!

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Student Membership Opportunities



Why AGA?

Considering a career in government financial management? Want to meet government professionals in the federal, state, or local government levels?

Join AGA for FREE! Student membership in AGA provides you access to resources to develop your skills and expand your knowledge. Become a part of AGA to build professional connections and discover your future career while positively impacting your community and country.

**APPLY
NOW**



Scholarships

Academic scholarships, National Collegiate Leadership Scholarship, Government Finance Case Challenge, Datathon



Career Coaching & Professional Community

Mentoring Programs & Local Chapters



Tools & Resources

'Accountability Talks' Podcast & Guest Speakers



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ACCOUNTABILITY TALKS



PODCAST
Show



Discover '**Accountability Talks**,' a podcast delving into the government accountability community. Hear from thought leaders, gain career insights, and join our vibrant community!

[Click here to listen!](#)

About the Host



Meet **Paul Marshall, CPA, CGFM, CIA, CICA, PMP, VP at MIL Corporation and dedicated AGA member with 20+ years in government accountability.** He champions best practices in audits, financial reporting, and more, serving on AGA boards at local and national levels.

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GAO Highlights 2025 High Risk List to Improve Government Efficiency



The **U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)** has released its **2025 High Risk List**, identifying 38 areas vulnerable to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. The biennial report highlights progress in 10 areas, resulting in \$84 billion in financial benefits, while also adding a new area—Improving the Delivery of Federal Disaster Assistance. Three areas, including DOD Weapon Systems Acquisition and IT Acquisitions, regressed.

GAO's list underscores opportunities for cost savings, with improper payments in high-risk programs totaling \$2.8 trillion since 2003. Key focus areas include **modernizing IT, strengthening cybersecurity, addressing public health risks, and tackling human capital challenges**. Congressional and executive action remains critical to resolving these long-standing issues.

Read the full report here: [GAO 2025 High Risk List](#)

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AGA Announces New National Governing Board Officers



AGA is pleased to announce the election of new National Governing Board (NGB) officers. The NGB confirmed **Melinda DeCorte, CGFM, CPA, as national president-elect; Atisha Burks, as national treasurer-elect; and Bill Colbert, CPA, as director (at-large)**. The three leaders will serve two-year terms beginning July 1, 2025.



DeCorte is a Principal at Sikich and has over 25 years of expertise in auditing, accounting and government financial management. She has played key leadership roles in groundbreaking financial statement audits for the Department of Defense and has extensive experience advising government agencies on risk, internal controls, and audit readiness. In addition to her client work, DeCorte serves on the Sikich Board of Managers and leads the firm's federal government industry vertical and audit practice. She is a member of AGA's Dallas chapter.



Burks is the Deputy Director (CFO), Financial and Program Management Directorate, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and oversees financial operations, budgeting and risk management for the Federal Protective Service (FPS). She directs procurement, resource management, and internal controls while ensuring fiscal accountability and supporting congressional inquiries on financial matters. She is a member of AGA's Washington, D.C. chapter.



Colbert is a Senior Partner, Client Account Leader, Finance & ERP at EY. He has over 35 years of experience driving organizational transformation and improvement. After nearly three decades in the commercial sector, he transitioned to EY's Government and Public Sector practice, applying private-sector insights to help government leaders tackle complex challenges. His work has earned industry recognition, including the Association of Management Consulting Firms' Spotlight Award and a featured case study on his transformation efforts at HUD. A dedicated mentor, Bill actively supports Black and Latino entrepreneurs and has held multiple leadership roles at EY, guiding finance, technology and public sector practices. He is a member of AGA's Northern Virginia chapter.

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Upcoming Webinars & Events

You Do Not Want to Miss Out!



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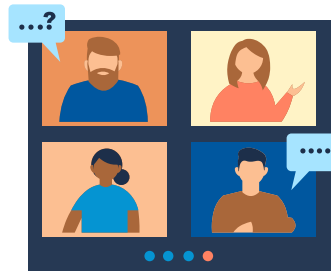
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VIRTUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



Join us on Zoom for our virtual membership meetings to discuss the future of financial management and beyond! Let's connect, collaborate, and propel our profession forward together. Don't miss out! Mark your calendars and join the Zoom meeting for insightful discussions and networking opportunities. Links to meetings will be shared as the dates approach. See you there!

**TBD - Stay Tuned for Emails
from Us!**

**If you have any questions, please contact our Chapter
President, Layna Holmes-Butler at hlayna@hotmail.com**

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National Events



Webinar: Ethics

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Behavioral Ethics (BETH)

**[Click Here to
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Webinar: Fraud/Data Analytics

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Auditing - Governmental (AUDG)

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Webinar: Risk Management

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Business Management and Organization (BMO)

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National Events



Webinar: FREE-Members Only

Wednesday, May 14 , 2025

2:00–3:15 PM ET | 1.5 CPEs

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Personal Development (PD)

**[Click Here to
Register Now!](#)**



Webinar: Leadership

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Personal Development (PD)

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Future Professional Development Trainings (PDT)

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



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

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Premier Group is a full-service CPA firm founded by Joye Sistrunk in 2005, embodying a passion for numbers, community purpose, integrity, and a mission of trust.

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Risk Management: Identification, assessment, and mitigation of risks to safeguard financial assets and operations.

Litigation Support: Professional assistance in legal matters involving financial disputes, providing expert testimony and analysis.

Tax Advice and Preparation: Strategic tax planning, compliance, and preparation services to minimize tax burdens and optimize financial outcomes.

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