

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

Message from the President

The 2015 National Professional Development Training (PDT) did not disappoint. New Mexico was represented by seven of the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC). The PDT agenda included 80 breakout sessions and 200 speakers with more than 1,700 in attendance representing all levels of government, nonprofits and the private sector.

I attended my first National Board of Director's Meeting, we voted to increase the member dues effective August 1, 2015 for new members and, during the Membership Renewals period for FY17 for existing members. New rates are:

Full Government	\$100
Private	\$160
Retired	\$35
No change early career	\$45 or Student \$30

We learned that AGA membership rates even with this small increase is quite the bargain. The rates are much less than other professional associations and AGA offers members a great value on continued professional education (CPE).

At the awards ceremony the New Mexico group was happy to cheer on both the New Mexico and Albuquerque Chapters in winning Platinum Awards.

We are off to a great start for program year 2015-2016, we plan another CGFM Day at the 2016 PDT, many luncheons with informative guest speakers and membership appreciation events.



Heather Prudhomme and Bryan Maestas at the Board of Director's Meeting



Donna Sandoval, CGFM

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

AGA Webinars CPE Simplified

October 21, 2015

Topic: Fraud Prevention

Sponsor: Office of Superintendent of Insurance

November 4, 2015

Topic: OMB Omni –Circular

Sponsor: Sponsor Needed

December 2, 2015

Topic: Ethics

Sponsor: Sponsor Needed

March 9, 2016

Topic: Grants

Sponsor: Sponsor Needed

March 23, 2016

Topic: Internal Controls

More Details on Locations coming soon!

Free to ALL that sign up!



Are you Connected?

- AGA Connects You With
- Networking Opportunities
- Education and Training
- E-Newsletter
- Professional Certification
- Professional Development
- Standards and Research
- National Events

What is my Membership Worth?

- Your AGA Membership Dues are a solid investment in your career, both now and for the future
- New Mexico & Albuquerque Chapter Events
- Continuous Networking with Peers and Colleagues
- Keep Active after you retire from your career – do not let your membership go inactive**

**Join or Renew at agacgfm.org
Questions?**

**Contact AGA at
800-AGA-7211 or
agamembers@agacgfm.org**

Want to know more about the “You Pass We Pay Program”?
Contact

Vince Lithgow, CGFM
at 670-3994
or
Luis Eres, CGFM at
690-3487



CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER NEWSFLASH

CONGRATULATIONS to ANDREW GALLEGOS, CGFM

The New Mexico Chapter would like to offer a salute to the newest member to earn the *Certified Government Financial Manager* designation. **Andrew Gallegos, CGFM** was a participant in the *You Pass We Pay Program*.

Did you know that the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation expands across all areas of government (federal, state and local)? This certification demonstrates a strong understanding that ties the relationship of government functions together, which strengthens a person’s expertise and knowledge of the responsibilities at all levels. The designation is applicable to those members of government and with the private sector.

So why earn the CGMF designation? Well, here is what CGFM’s are saying:

"In our arena, the CGFM is the only credential that adequately prepares you for a career in government financial management." — Audrey Duchesne (Senior Staff Accountant, U.S. Department of the Treasury)

"I think the CGFM distinguishes you amongst your peers. I can testify to the value of it." —Dave Swindell (CFO, City of Pocatello, ID)

"When we are hiring and we notice the CGFM next to a candidate’s name, we are more likely to offer them an interview. We have not made the CGFM a requirement for hiring or promotion, but if you have the

CGFM, it demonstrates to us the type of initiative that will make you successful in this practice." —Diane Dudley (Partner, KPMG, LLP)

"It assures me that as a financial professional I’m hitting the mark, and since this is such a broad field, there may be things that I don’t do on a day-to-day basis, but it keeps me in touch with those things. It keeps me in touch with my profession." —Cheryl Hall (Financial Manager, USAF)

"Earning the CGFM designation gave me a real feeling of accomplishment. It was an external validation that the investment I had made into my chosen career path had really paid off in terms of developing tangible, marketable

skills—and that really means a lot to me." — Stephen Blann (Senior Manager, Rehmann Robson)

"If you are planning a career in government fiscal management you need to earn this certification. It is the only program broad enough to measure the knowledge needed by today’s professionals at the federal, state and local levels." —William Brown (Business Manager, New Lisbon Development Center)

Chapter members who are interested in the CGFM program should contact Vince Lithgow, CGFM, Chapter Certification Coordinator at 505-670-3994 or at cvince3@q.com or Luis Eres, CGFM, Chapter Vice President at 690-3487.



The DATA Act and much more!!!

This is a follow-up on the July 2015 article on the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act). As I mentioned in part one of this series, I participated in a discussion at the National PDT in July. The session was designed to foster discussion among those who receive federal funds and federal officials who are responsible for implementing the DATA Act.

The DATA Act requires the federal government to establish government-wide financial data standards and simplified reporting requirements for entities receiving federal funds. It also calls for the establishment of a pilot program with a diverse group of recipients of federal awards.

The group split off into three sub-groups: auditors, auditees and use cases for DATA Act information. I participated in the auditee group led by Amy Haseltine, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Grants and Acquisition Policy and Accountability, US Department

of Health and Human Services. Our group included seven attendees from state agencies, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, North Carolina, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Nevada and of course New Mexico. The discussion revolved around the data to be submitted to the US Treasury that will be posted on USAspending.gov using a standard data exchange called the "Digital Accountability Transparency Act Schema" (DATA Act Schema). The DATA Act Schema will be composed of several schemas, standardizing the way federal awards and financial data (obligations and outlays) will be available. Our group leader Ms. Haseltine asked us how we prepare our Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) and how we standardize federal reporting, the SEFA and the data collection form required by the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. Availability of the information is one of the major concerns in implementing the DATA Act.

I also participated in a similar meeting on August 10, CliftonLarsonAllen and AGA presented a federal government roundtable in Albuquerque. AGA is conducting a research study to determine how Federal agencies can use information technology and drill down tools to increase the accessibility of financial information. The meeting was led by Harold Steinberg, CPA, CGFM; he is gathering views of a cross section of potential users of federal financial information as a basis for a White Paper for AGA. Ten representatives from state and local government provided their views on how federal agency financial information should be presented on the Internet.

Stay tuned, the New Mexico Chapter of AGA will provide developments on the DATA Act and other federal award requirements in upcoming newsletters.

Donna Sandoval, CGFM

Financial Summary of the 2015 Professional Development Training (PDT)

Receipts	80,848
Expenses	(53,125)
Revenues over Expenses	27,723

What did it cost? We wanted to share with our membership the cost of our annual PDT. The total cost of \$53,125 is made up of the cost of meeting rooms and food at Hotel Cascada, speaker costs, training materials and giveaways. Almost all of our speakers charged nothing for their presentations. As you can see we have receipts exceeding the expenses. What do the New Mexico and Albuquerque chapters do with this money? We use this money to sponsor FREE CPE events, membership appreciation events, graduate and under-graduate scholarships, donations to community service events and fund part of the luncheons (the amount we ask members to pay is much less than the actual cost). We are already planning the 2016 PDT, our location will be Buffalo Thunder and tentative dates are in mid-March. We are also planning another CGFM day—we had a full class in 2015!

September 16th

Luncheon

Speaker: Mark Medley

Topic: IT Security

Location and more details coming soon!

Chapter Executive Committee (CEC)

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Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership



The Chapter submitted a Citizen Centric Report (CCR) in 2014, and received a Certificate of Excellence. AGA presents the [Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting](#) for entities that prepare and distribute high-quality Citizen-Centric Reports. To be eligible for the certificate, governments must incorporate into their report the program's high standards of content, visual appeal, readability, distribution and timeliness in reporting.



Our website has undergone a makeover. Thanks to Elena Tercero, CPA, CGMA, CGFM the website is new and improved!

<http://agasantafe.org/>

