

Association of Government Accountants
Baltimore Chapter

www.agabaltimore.org

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Upcoming Events

March Training

March 16, 2016
Matthews 1600

Easter Egg Hunt

March 19, 2016
Catonsville High School

April Training

April 20, 2016
Matthews 1600



**March is CGFM Month. Visit
our CGFM corner to learn
about the certification and its
benefits!**





Staying Connected with AGA



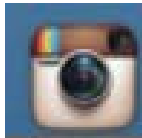
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Just One Click Away

AGA Membership

AGA National

AGA D.C.

AGA Northern Virginia

AGA Montgomery/PG

AGA Mid-Atlantic Region

AGA CGFM

AICPA

MACPA

ISACA

GASB

ASMC



March Training Information

Register
Online

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

11:30am - 2:30 pm

Matthews 1600

1600 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228

2 CPEs

Early Careers Meeting:

Topics:

Mentoring Through the Gap: Breaking Through the Generation Divide

Olga Mason, Grant Thornton

Generations at Work: How to Manage Them

Nat Alston, The Horizon Group

**Cost \$25 Members
\$35 Non-Members**

Reservations: www.aqabaltimore.org

****Sorry—No Refunds for Cancellations****

Menu

- ♦ Caesar Salad
- ♦ Vegetable Medley
- ♦ Chicken Parmesan
- ♦ Beef Stroganoff
- ♦ Pasta Meghan over rice
- ♦ Dessert Sampler

Directions to Matthews 1600

From I-95

Take exit number 47B toward Catonsville/UMBC
Merge right onto MD-166 Rolling Road
Proceed to dead-end and take left onto Frederick Road
Located on right hand side of road.

From I-695

Take exit #13 Frederick Road west (MD 144) towards
Catonsville. Proceed thru Catonsville past public library and
thru Rolling Road (MD 166) intersection traffic light. Located
on right had side of the road.



March Speakers

Nat Alston is the President & Founder of The Horizons Group, LLC, a human capital consulting firm specializing in human resources strategic planning, talent acquisition, management development training and succession planning. Nat has over 35 years of executive level and mid level human resources experience in a variety of positions covering such industries as financial services, health care, hospitality, food service, food distribution, higher education, local and state government.

Prior to the December 2000 founding of The Horizons Group, Nat was the Vice president of Human Resources for State Employees Credit Union of Maryland. In that capacity he directed the overall human resource function for the largest credit union in the State of Maryland. With over 450 employees and one billion dollars in assets, Nat was part of the senior management team that set the strategic direction for the credit union.

In 1998, Nat along with twelve other senior human resources' executives founded the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources. In 2001 he was elected as the National President and in 2013 he was elected Chairman of the National Board of Directors of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources.



Olga Mason Ms. Mason has seven years of experience in financial and information system (IS) audit and attest services for government agencies. She has extensive experience with A-123 Reviews, GAGAS and FISMA Audits. She has experience with planning, executing, reporting phases of testing. Ms. Mason is knowledgeable about controls testing, in particular Federal Information Systems Control Audit Manual (FISCAM) Information Technology (IT) general and application controls specifically NIST 800-53. Ms. Mason additionally has experience in the areas of

compliance and substantive testing.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday March 19 at 3pm.

Behind Catonsville High School, in the Lurman Woodland area.

Four age groups, children to age twelve

Prizes for each age group.

Rain date is March 26th at 3pm



Volunteers Needed



Interesting in helping at the East Egg Hunt?

Contact [Susan DeLabio](mailto:susan.delabio@ssa.gov), susan.delabio@ssa.gov

Community Events



Join the AGA Baltimore Chapter in Raising Money for ALS

Dear Friends and Family,

We will be participating in the Packard Center's 10th Annual Fiesta 5K & Fun Run on May 7, 2016. To make a difference, we need people like you on our team to help raise funds for The Robert Packard Center for ALS Research. The money we raise will go to The Robert Packard Center for ALS Research at Johns Hopkins. The Center is working hard every day to unlock the mysteries of this disease by understanding the causes of ALS, investigating effective treatments for it, and finding a cure. The Center needs your help and we would truly appreciate your support. Please do anything you can to participate by joining our team, registering as an individual, or making a donation on our behalf.

Thank you very much for working with us on this important project. Your support really means a lot to us. See you at the Packard Center's Fiesta 5K and Fun Run!

Lori Lee is our AGA Baltimore Team Captain for the Fiesta 5K. If you are interested in participating or wish to make a donation and have questions, please contact [Susan DeLabio](mailto:susan.delabio@ssa.gov), susan.delabio@ssa.gov

Race Information:

http://support.alscenter.org/site/TR/Runs/General?pg=informational&fr_id=1281&type=fr_informational&sid=1091

Donate:

http://support.alscenter.org/site/TR/Runs/General?fr_id=1281&pg=pfind

Join Our Team: https://secure2.convio.net/rpc/site/TRR/Runs/General?fr_id=1281&pg=tfind

Team Name AGA Baltimore

2015-2016 Calendar of Events

Date	Location	Topic/Speaker	CPE'S	Member Cost	Non-Member Cost
3/16/2016 Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Matthews 1600	<u>Early Careers Meeting</u> Topic - Mentoring Through the Gap: Breaking Through the Generational Divide Speaker: Olga Mason, Grant Thornton Topic: Generations At Work: How to Manage Them Speaker: Nat Alston, The Horizon Group	2	\$25	\$35
4/20/16 Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Matthews 1600	<u>Awards Meeting</u> Topic: TBD Speaker: Beverly White -Seals, Community Foundation of Howard County	1	\$10	\$20
5/18/16 Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Maritime Institute	<u>All Day Ethics and Fraud Training</u> Speaker: Gary Bauer Topic - Ethics Speaker - John Homan, National President of AGA Topic - Issues & Challenges in Government Accountability Speaker - John Grasso, SSA, OIG Topic - SSA's Operation Recoil Case Speaker - Jesse Morton, KPMG Topic - Federal Government Related Fraud Issues: Prevention and Detection	4 1 1 2	\$160	\$200

Early Careers News

The Young Professionals Focus Group (YPPFG) annually selects five young professionals to attend AGA's Professional Development Training (PDT) in July. This program is for individuals under the age of 30, working directly for government or a nonprofit, who have never attended PDT.

The program provides:

- Complimentary registration for PDT (\$775 value)
- Five hotel nights (\$875 value)
- Up to 24 CPEs
- Lots of opportunities to network

In exchange, we ask for assistance in the AGA booth during breaks and receptions in the exhibit hall. Participants in this program are expected to attend sessions and collaborate with the Young Professionals Focus Group post-PDT.

- **Details and application** are available here: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Awards-Recognition/Young-Professionals-PDT-Scholarship.aspx>
- **The PDT website** is available here: <https://www.agacgfm.org/PDT-2016.aspx>
- **Deadline to apply is March 1**, however we may extend it a few days



November Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2016 **Time:** 2:00-3:00 **Location:** Social Security Administration

Call to Order

Approval of prior meeting minutes

The December meeting minutes were approved



Budget Review

The checking account has a balance of \$10,000 and there is a balance of \$15,000 in our CD

Committee Updates

Activities – The next reporting of points for January, February, and March plus any points missed on the prior report are due March 31st. We currently have 850 out of 4,000 points for membership. To date we have earned 14,175 points; however, only 13,350 are allowable.

Awards – The scholarship letters are to be sent out to colleges in the Metro area early February.

By-Laws & Procedures – Minor comments were provided by the board and there was a 2/3 vote to approve the updated By-Laws. The revised By-Laws will be submitted to National.

CGFM – Committee is working on setting up 3 study groups based on the portion of the exam being taken. March is CGFM month. Planning to get CGFM ribbons for name tags for the fraud conference.

Communications – Meeting registration and the member survey were sent out.

Editorial – The newsletter for January and February was sent out. Committee is working on upcoming newsletter.

Education and Programs – The meeting with ASMC is set. There is no word on the registration for their members on the AGA Baltimore website. May is the ethics and fraud training. One more speaker is still needed.

Meetings – The ISACA members complained about the food at the December meeting; we still do not have a speaker for the early careers meeting in March. April is the awards luncheon.

Membership – The member survey was sent out. The committee contacted University of Maryland Accounting Department and is awaiting a response. Arranging a happy hour for early careers.

New Business – Received information about the scholarships for the PDT in California. Any interested board members should let Kelly know.

FY2015 Statement of Activities

Period Ending February 29, 2016

Proceeds:

Miscellaneous Receivables	-
Membership Dues	589.82
Meetings/Conferences Proceeds	9,192.27
Interest on Checking/CDs	61.95
CGFM Training Proceeds	-
Corporate Sponsorship	6,000.00
Miscellaneous Proceeds	-
	<hr/>

Total Proceeds **\$ 15,844.04**

Administrative Expenses:

Administrative	150.00
Bank Charges	-
Director's Expenses	287.42
Charitable Donations	1,057.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	-
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,494.42

Committee Expenses:

Awards/Scholarships	-
CGFM	-
Community Service	43.08
Early Careers	-
Editorial/Newsletter	-
Meetings/Conferences	9,931.75
Membership	75.00
Education/Programs (Speakers)	1,895.39
Webmaster	3,611.41
	<hr/>
	\$15,556.63

Total Expenses **\$17,051.05**

Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets **\$ (1,207.01)**



ANNUAL ETHICS AND FRAUD TRAINING 8 CPEs (including 4 for Ethics)

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Registration 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Presentations 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Maritime Institute of Technology

692 Maritime Blvd.

Building #3 Auditorium

Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1952

FEATURED SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

Gary Bauer, Gary Bauer Ethics
(Ethics)

John Homan, National President of AGA
(Issues & Challenges in Government Accountability)

John Grasso, SSA, OIG, Office of Investigations
(SSA's Operation Recoil Case)

Jesse Mortin, KPMG
(Federal Government Related Fraud Issues: Prevention and Detection)

PRICING

Price includes lunch buffet, continental breakfast, and two snack breaks

AGA Members*: **\$130** if paid by **April 22, 2016** **\$160** after **April 22**

* IIA – CFE – ISACA – ASMC Members receive the member rates.

Non-Members: **\$160** if paid by **April 22, 2016** **\$200** after **April 22**

REGISTRATION

Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted at the door but need to send an e-mail to agabaltwebmaster@yahoo.com (State name of attendee/member or non-member/employer).

You may also pay using a credit card at <http://agabaltimore.org/cpe-events/>

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

AGA WEBINARS

Looking for convenient and affordable training? AGA webinars make earning CPE hours easy.

These live events feature experts speaking on emerging issues in the field to help you stay informed on topics including auditing, ethics, governmental accounting, internal controls and performance. Each webinar is held on a Wednesday from 2– 3:50 p.m. ET and is worth up to 2 CPEs.

AGA members pay just \$49. Group registration options are available.

March 9—Grants

Information coming soon....

AGA NATIONAL 2015-2016 WEBINAR SCHEDULE

March 23	Internal Controls
April 13	DATA Act
April 27	Fraud Prevention
May 11	Ethics
June 1	Government Financial Management



AGA Networking Event

For all Baltimore Chapter Members that are interested in a great opportunity to network with other fellow members and University of Baltimore students.

Cost:
FREE!

Where:
City Café
1001 Cathedral St, Baltimore, MD 21201

When:
Thursday, March 24th | 5:30 pm-7:00pm

If you plan to attend, please **RSVP by March 18th** to [Kelly Stankus](mailto:kelly.stankus@ssa.gov) , kelly.stankus@ssa.gov

"... a local favorite with a citywide following., serving you delicious food with warm service in a relaxed, modern setting. City Café looks forward to providing you with an experience that will turn you from a first-time guest into one of our family of regulars"

www.citycafebaltimore.com





Member Spotlight: Graylin Smith

What do you do and how long have you been doing it?

I am the Managing Partner of SB & Company, LLC, a certified public accounting firm headquartered in Hunt Valley, MD which the founding partners and I started in 2005. I obtained my CPA license in 1981 and have approximately 35 years of public accounting experience. I am also a board member of the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB).

What was your first job?

Upon graduation, I started my professional accounting career as a Staff Auditor at Arthur Andersen in its Baltimore office.

Where did you complete your formal education?

I graduated from Hampton University (located in Hampton, VA) with a BS in Accounting

How long have you been a member of AGA and why did you join?

I have been an AGA member since April 1999. I joined for the opportunity to network with finance professionals as well as for training opportunities.

What is your favorite perk of AGA membership?

As a CPA with a focus in the State/Local and Federal government sector, AGA connects me to other finance professionals in the industry. AGA also offers several training conferences annually (notably the Professional Development and National Leadership trainings) which are very informative and provide critical industry news/updates which I can share with my colleagues and our clients. It is one of the best sources for knowledge of what is current in the government accounting/finance areas and to network with other related professionals.

What is something most people do not know about you?

As a child growing up, I wanted to be a pilot.

If you did not have to work any longer but still received your current income, what would you do with your time?

I would spend more time with my family as well as spend time traveling around the world, golfing, reading and devote a significant amount of time to one of the causes I care a lot about.

What is your favorite travel destination and why

Nice, France or Key West, Florida because both locations are very relaxing, you meet a lot of interesting people and the pace is more relaxed so you don't have to do a lot.

What is the quality you most admire in others and why?

I most appreciate honesty; to say what you think and believe and to have the courage to stand behind and act on those beliefs.



Hear the latest and greatest about AGA

[Register](#) for the winter quarterly CEO Chat with Ann Ebberts, scheduled for March 8 at 2 p.m. ET. Please [email](#) any advance questions by March 4.

Renewals, renewals, renewals!

The first renewal email went out Jan. 27 to all members and CGFMs due to renew. Please encourage your members to renew online or login and print an invoice to submit with their dues by March 31. Paper invoices will be mailed in late February, but renewing online saves AGA time and money! [Renew](#) | [View membership/retention tools](#)

March is CGFM Month — time to celebrate!

If you haven't already, contact your state and local government now to declare March CGFM Month with an official proclamation.

- Sample documents can be found in the CGFM section of [Chapter Resources](#). [Contact us](#) if you need additional information
- When you receive the proclamation, send a press release to the local paper and [send us](#) a copy of the proclamation to post on the national website. We will have a sample press release available for you to send.
- Celebrate CGFM Month by holding a special CGFM-focused event and by recognizing your chapter's CGFMs. See the [CGFM Month page](#) for additional ideas.

Young professionals PDT Scholarship Program

This is a wonderful opportunity for young professional members to attend PDT. The Young Professionals Focus Group annually selects five young professionals to act as ambassadors of attendees and assist in the AGA exhibit booth and other activities throughout the event. AGA provides five hotel nights and complimentary registration. [Applications](#) deadline is March 1.

Members-only Webinar

If you missed the recent hit webinar “Managing in a Multi-Generational Workplace”, the slides are available in the [member resources](#) section of the website. Next member-only webinar is scheduled for May 25.

WELCOME

The AGA Baltimore Chapter would like to welcome some new members that have recently joined the 2015-2016 program year. We look forward to showing you what this chapter has to offer in the upcoming months. Please feel free to contact any of the board of directors, contact information located on last page of this newsletter, if you have any questions or wish to get involved further in this very active chapter.

- ◆ Deborah Carter, HUD
- ◆ Elliot Castillo, Social Security Administration
- ◆ Walter Federowicz, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
 - ◆ Colleen Folan, KPMG
 - ◆ Peggy Haynes, DHS
 - ◆ Bethany Liese, KPMG
- ◆ Kevin McCarthy, Social Security Administration
- ◆ Angela Moore, Howard County Government
 - ◆ Annie Park, KPMG
- ◆ Gale Stone, Social Security Administration

MARCH IS CGFM MONTH!!



The Value of CGFM

Since its inception in 1994, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals.

More than 15,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand—the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession. We look forward to adding your name to our distinguished list of Certified Government Financial Managers.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the employment of accountants and auditors is expected to grow 22 percent between 2008 and 2018, which is much faster than the average of all occupations. Accountants and auditors that hold a college degree or certification will have the best job prospects.

For more information, [click here](#).

Did You Know...?

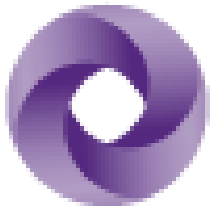
To retain the CGFM certification, all CGFM's must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics. In addition, to continue using the CGFM designation after their name, CGFM's must be in an active status.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



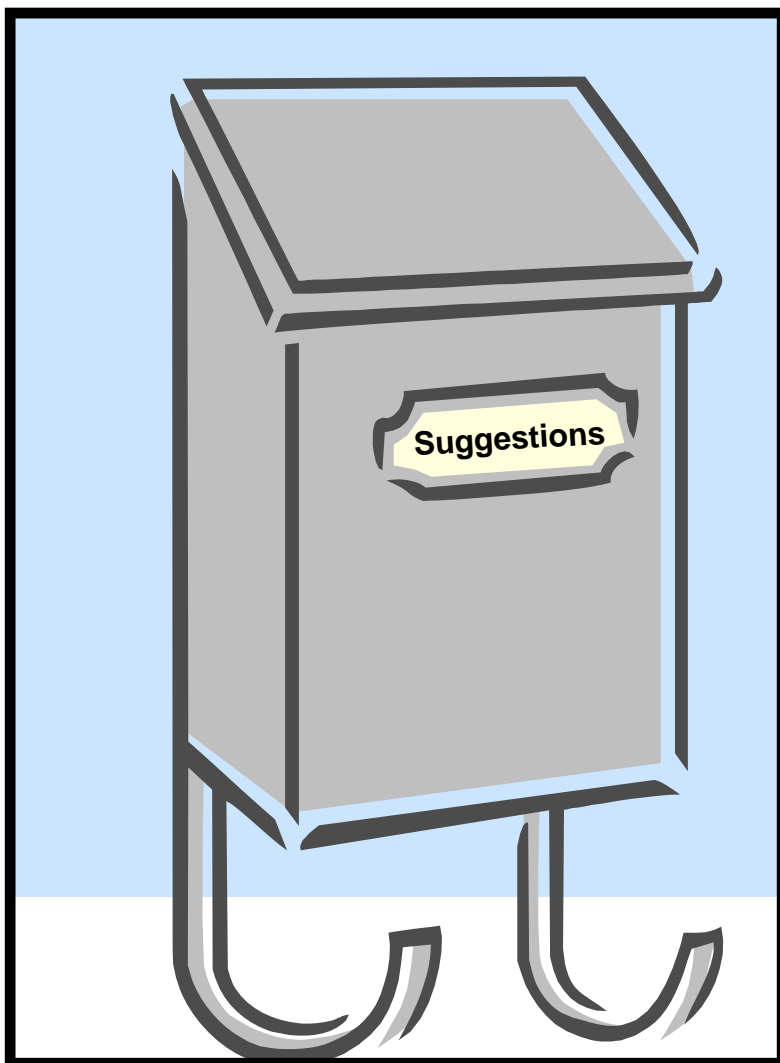
Grant Thornton

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact [Chante Brady](#) for more information.

Requests for Newsletter Submissions or Suggestions

Do you have any submissions or suggestions for the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you traveled to any interesting places?



If so, email [Tamekia](#) Davis or [Renee](#) Rawlins

AGA Board Members 2015 -2016

Officers:

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Thank you to all of
our volunteers and
board members.
The Baltimore
chapter's success
would not be
possible without
your dedication.

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Thank You!