

2023 Newsletter



Charleston
Chapter



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Message from the President



It's hard to believe we are almost into May! I would like to thank our members for their continued support.

There has been a lot happening this year. We look forward to sharing some of the highlights of the events with you.

As we go into a new program year, I would like to encourage you to get involved and let us know how we can help provide for your training needs.

CGFM Month



March was CGFM month. What is CGFM? The acronym stands for Certified Government Financial Manager.

Many who have attended our events know how excited we are about this certification. This is not an easy certification to obtain, but it is well worth it. In the certification process, candidates learn about the Governmental Environment, Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting, Budgeting and Governmental Financial Management Control.

This certification gives people who may not be familiar with governmental financial management a comprehensive overview of how the different components work for federal, state, and local government. For those who have worked in government for a while, it can help fill gaps one may have in their understanding and help them understand how everything works together. Have you ever wondered why something is done a certain way, or what happens before or after you do your process? In many cases, studying for the CGFM can help build that understanding.

Our chapter continues to provide our members with resources to help pass the CGFM. We facilitate study groups for the three different exam sections, which are lead by a CGFM. If you prefer self study, we also have a lending library which allows you to borrow a study guide so you can study on your own at your own pace. We also reimburse members who pay out of pocket (and are not reimbursed by their agency) once they successfully pass the exam.

As an added bonus, some people may get a raise for becoming a CGFM! The CGFM is listed as one of the approved Certifications under the Pay Plan Policy for Professional Skills/Competency Development. It is approved for up to 5%!

<https://personnel.wv.gov/sections/classcomp/Pages/PPI.aspx>

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CGFM Month Proclamation

Governor Justice signed a proclamation recognizing March as CGFM month!

You can find the proclamation at: <https://governor.wv.gov/proclamations/Pages/default.aspx>.



CGFM study group facilitators

Question: Why did you want to facilitate a CGFM Study Group



Response from Heather N. Gillenwater, CGFM, who facilitates the study group for Book 1: Government Environment:

I was asked to write an article on why I decided to lead a study group for the CGFM. I guess I need to start at the beginning of how I decided to sit for the CGFM.

I was asked by a friend if I wanted to join her in studying for the CGFM. At the time I thought... no way, I don't have time for this! I'm working full time, I have 2 very active children, one in high school & one in middle school, they keep me running all the time, plus I don't even know what CGFM stands for!! I was trying to self-study for the CPA as well. I had almost talked myself out of it, however my final deciding factor was when I attended the first study group meeting, I saw how excited the two organizing the group were about the material, so I figured, not only does the study material sound interesting, but being relatively new to state government, this credential could only benefit my career. Where some of the CGFM material is also material covered on the CPA exam, I figured it would help reinforce my self-study. I eventually talked myself into it & decided it was a win-win situation.

The classes started, it seemed like a lot of material, however I liked all the sections of the exam. Every section kept me intrigued & all were applicable to what I do on the daily, so I felt that I could apply my working knowledge to my studying and vice versa! The study group leader put so much effort and passion into the class, it made the classes more exciting!

Having that weekly accountability of a study group, that set schedule of material to complete, followed up by reinforcing the self-study with a weekly review of the material, was a large contributing factor in me passing the exam. The study group was small, and I felt that we had the ability to ask questions, discuss the material, and just have fun & be ourselves! The study leader was attentive and very knowledgeable.

After I joined the AGA and passed all sections of the exam, I wanted to give back and help others. I wanted to share the enjoyment that I had in the class and the material with others. I wanted to share the opportunities for career advancement & self-growth with other government employees. The material is so applicable to state, local, and federal government workers, I find it a very useful credential to any type of government employee. All these reasons contributed to me deciding to help lead a study group.

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CGFM Experience

By: Corey D. Wade, CGFM



Earning the CGFM designation is one of my proudest accomplishments. Throughout my time as an accounting student, I learned very little about accounting and auditing for government entities. After settling into my job as an auditor for the West Virginia Department of Transportation, I knew the government sector is where I belong. A year ago, I was informed about a CGFM study group and joining was one of the best decisions I could have made for my career. The knowledge I have obtained from the CGFM has given me the confidence and skillset to further advance in my career.

Being out of school for five years, I was nervous about studying and taking the exams, but my experience couldn't have been better. AGA has easy to follow study guides full of reference material and practice questions. There are also self-paced online courses that include prerecorded lessons that follow along with the study guides, practice exams with 175 practice questions for each exam, and online study groups led by licensed CGFMs. Being an AGA member, I was able to join the study group and borrow copies of each study guide free of charge. After passing each exam, I was reimbursed by the Charleston AGA Chapter for the cost of the exam. I couldn't be happier with my experience. I want to thank the Charleston WV AGA chapter, Betsy Chapman, and my superiors at the WVDOT for shining the light on this designation.

-Corey Wade, CGFM

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Congratulations to our newest CGFM!!!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Completion Month</u>
Londa M. Sabatino, CPA, CGFM	February 2023
Corey D. Wade, CGFM	January 2023
Susan E. Kuhn, CGFM	January 2023
Karla G. Harris, CGFM	July 2022
Elizabeth A. Farley, CPA, CGFM	July 2022
Brandy M. Whittington, CPA, CGFM	February 2022
Jennifer L. Snow, CPA, CGFM	December 2021
Heather N. Gillenwater, CGFM	July 2021
Cristine D. Watson, CPA, CGFM	June 2021

Welcome to our new members!!!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>
Vinutha Vishnu	4/13/2023
Lisa Beth Wensil	3/14/2023
Althea Greenhowe	3/9/2023
Gary W. Riffle	2/28/2023
Robert W. Stewart	2/28/2023
Maxine D. Johnson	2/28/2023
Patricia Griffith	2/28/2023
Douglas R. Wilson	2/28/2023
Michael Francis Powell	2/20/2023
Mrs. Nancy F. Gray	1/25/2023
Barbara Kay Akers	1/20/2023
Joshua W. McClung	10/14/2022
Bradley R. Bailey	6/1/2022

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Spring Conference

Information was provided on ethics, becoming audit ready, GASB updates, wvOASIS, and West Virginia's Economic Outlook. Feedback provided from the event evaluation surveys was very good.

Thank you to our speakers and our attendees!



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Community Service

Thank you to everyone who provided a donation to Manna Meals during the conference!



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2022-2023 Board

Here to serve you!



Position	First Name	Last Name	Designation
Chapter President	Jamie	Chambers	MS, CGFM, CIA, CGAP
Chapter President-Elect	Betsy	Chapman	CGFM
Secretary/Chapter Historian	Judith	Strawderman	
NCC	Jane	Caswell	CGFM, CIA, CGAP
Chapter Treasurer	Angela	Leshon	CGFM
Accountability	Marie	Long	CPA
CGFM/Professional Certification	Jamie	Chambers	MS, CGFM, CIA, CGAP
CGFM/Professional Certification	Betsy	Chapman	CGFM
CGFM/Professional Certification	Heather	Gillenwater	CGFM
Community Service	Elizabeth	Farley	CPA, CGFM
Communications	Taylor	Cole	
Early Career	Kathy	Anderson	CGFM
Education/Meetings & Events	Alan	Clemans	
Education/Meetings & Events	Emily	Fleck	CPA, CGFM
Education/Meetings & Events	Roger	Townsend	CGFM
Membership	Betsy	Chapman	CGFM
Recognition	Lisa	Rutherford	CIA, ISA, CRCM
Newsletter Editor	Samantha	Chapman	CGFM
Newsletter Editor	Catherine	Hanna	
Webmaster	Jane	Caswell	CGFM, CIA, CGAP