



Quarterly Newsletter

New Year New Opportunities

As we begin a new year, we are reminded that a new year means new opportunities. Our chapter is starting off strong with several exciting events on the horizon. From professional development trainings and webinars to networking events and community service projects, there are endless opportunities for you to get involved with something you are passionate about.

One of the biggest benefits of being a member of the AGA Charleston SC chapter is the opportunity to network with other professionals in your field. This year, we hope to host several networking events, which provide our members with valuable opportunities to connect with others, share ideas, and build relationships.

We are always looking for members who are passionate about continuously advancing their personal development and growing their skills. Whether it's serving on a committee or taking on a role with the Executive Committee, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and make a difference. We look forward to working together to make 2024 a successful year for the AGA Charleston SC chapter!

For more information about joining a committee or taking a leadership role in the chapter please contact Megan Jones or Victoria Clark.

Upcoming Events

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
(PDT): FEBRUARY 22

CGFM LIVE, VIRTUAL
COURSE 3:
GOVERNMENTAL
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
AND
CONTROL ENVIRONMENT:
MARCH 5-7

WEBINAR:
CYBERSECURITY/ERM:
MARCH 6

WEBINAR: RPA/AI:
MARCH 6

WEBINAR: ETHICS:
APRIL 10

2024 Charleston PDT

Our chapter is partnering with local sponsors to hold a professional development training for the Charleston area. This event will be held on Thursday, 2/22. The event will feature leaders and experts from various industries that will speak on matters that are currently affecting the professional environment.

Attendees will gain valuable insights that can help them navigate the challenges of the modern workplace. Speakers will cover a range of topics such as leadership, communication, innovation and technology. This will be a wonderful opportunity to grow your skills and your network with other professionals in your career field.

Community Corner

The Community Service Committee has been given the opportunity to support a few non-profit groups in our local area of North Charleston. It is our goal is to support organizations who have the greatest impact on local community members. Here are a few things the committee has been up to:

Volunteering at Mary Ford Early Learning Center, where members have signed up for weekly tutoring sessions. We also helped support the classroom and teachers by providing snacks and seasonal party items. We have also set up an Amazon Wishlist for the classroom with the teachers' classroom needs. If you would like to help support this group and this wonderful school, please check out this [Amazon Wishlist](#) and consider how else you can become involved.

We are working with local community leaders to install a "blessing box" in a North Charleston area neighborhood. We are excited to take this step with this local community! To learn more about the Low Country Blessing Box Project, please see [here](#).

A group of members participated in a "Show Our Neighbors Some LOVE" event just in time for Valentine's Day. We volunteered at Neighbor's Together and assisted by prepping vegetables and serving meals to local neighbors.

Want to join the fun? There are plenty of opportunities to put your talent, skills, and heart to work. If you are interested in playing a role in the Community Service efforts of the AGA Charleston SC Chapter, please reach out to our Director of Community Service, Sonya Willemse, at WillemseSP@state.gov.



Holiday Happy Hour Networking Event

The Holiday Happy Hour that was held in December was such a fun an event. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet both members and prospective members. The attendees also donated eight bags of groceries to stock a local blessing box. Thank you to all who were able to attend. We look forward to hosting another event in the Spring.



New Member Spotlight

Ned Forney



Ned Forney joined IFAS in 2023 as a contract employee with the US Department of State, where he currently serves as the Onboarding and Training Coordinator for Global Compensation. Ned is a Citadel graduate, veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and career educator with over 25 years experience as a teacher and school principal. He recently returned from 12 years overseas as an international educator in Cairo, Dubai, Beijing, and Seoul. He is married and has a son, who is getting his Ph.D. in Seoul, and a daughter, who is a nurse in West Ashley.

Ned looks forward to meeting new people through AGA and participating in community education programs. He is currently a reading volunteer at Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Center.