



President's Message

CGFM Month and Nominations!

What is a CGFM? The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. A CGFM title lets employers know that you have a broad base of knowledge in governmental auditing, accounting, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels. The month of March is CGFM month and National AGA is offering 50% off the application to apply for the CGFM certification. That means that if you are an AGA member, the cost to apply through March 31st is reduced from \$70 to \$35. I completed my application today. Please join me in the challenge.

It is nomination time. The CEC will present current nominations during the March meeting. If your name is not on the list but you would like to run for an open position, please let us know before voting during the April meeting.

I need to thank the officers and directors of our Chapter Executive Committee. Without them we could not function. They do a lot of the behind the scenes processes that we don't see. I really do appreciate the work they do for our Chapter.

Thank you CEC members!!!!

Respectfully,

Shirley Browne, CIA, MBA



VOLUME 2016-2017

ISSUE 8, MARCH 2017

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Upcoming Events

***Check out our
member bio!
See Page 3!***

Are you using social media? The Maine Chapter AGA invites to you like us on Facebook





NOTICES...

- Do you have an idea for an upcoming speaker for the next program year? Please contact a CEC member. Your insight to help the Chapter is welcome.
- Are you interested in joining the CEC? We are holding open nominations for the upcoming 2017-2018 program year. It's a great opportunity to network and boost your resume. Contact a CEC member today!



TRIVIA

What are Ireland's
nicknames?

AGA Maine Chapter

Our Chapter has received the Certificate of Excellence for our Citizen-Centric Report. The CCR Report can be found on our Website.



New England Region AGA

The Aroostook Chapter holds CEC meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month. General meetings are held as necessary.

The Hartford Chapter meetings are generally held at 6:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month from September to may.



The Boston Chapter holds monthly meetings and trainings September through June.

AGA National

Check out the latest edition of the Journal!

To view the latest journal, please visit:

<https://www.agacfm.org/Resources/Journal-of-Government-Financial-Management/Read-the-Latest-Issue.aspx>



Member Bio

Rena Blanchard

Department of Administrative & Financial Services,
Accounting Associate I

I honestly never imagined I would end up pursuing an occupation in accounting. When I was a child, I had big dreams of being a famous singer. Music and singing was always a comfort to me—soothing for my soul, as it was then, is today, and always will be. It became apparent through my school years that life would steer me in a different direction. In High School, in the little town of Lincoln, Maine, I became very fascinated with the human body and leaned my attention toward the medical field. I became a "Candy Striper" at our town's hospital. It gave me great joy and a sense of satisfaction to enter a patient's room, find them with a frown, and often leave their room with them smiling (or at least in a better mood). This interest led me down a nursing path after graduating high school with such employment positions as CNA and Medication Technician at private nursing homes and the Department of Veteran Affairs (Togus) in Augusta, Maine. The final stop on this medical journey was as an EMT and Ambulance Driver for Liberty, Maine Volunteer Ambulance Service. I had all but purchased my books for going to college to pursue an LPN license when a nagging feeling told me to back up and reassess my future plans. This was a scary decision to make, as I would be totally "switching gears" in my early forties!

I took a job at a local convenience store, working virtually every role there imaginable. This led to my being asked by the convenience store owner if I would like to manage a new store he was opening. I accepted his offer and enjoyed that role for almost two years, learning much about small business through governing staff, handling payroll, keeping cash drawers balanced, placing merchandise orders for the store, and recording sales among many other tasks.

I took a short break from employment, at this point, to take care of my Mom who needed spinal surgery. Once my Mom was doing okay and I was ready to return to the work force, I was informed of the possibility of attaining a state government job in the accounting field. Between my work experience in small business and my love of mathematics, I thought, "Why not?". I enthusiastically pursued this opportunity and reached my goal of securing an accounting position with the State of Maine.

As of today, I've been working as an Accounting Associate at the Burton M. Cross building in Augusta for close to nine months now and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. I love what I'm doing and consider myself an "accounting knowledge sponge", wanting to learn and grow all I can in this bright, new accounting future of mine!



NEW MEMBERS!

*We would like to welcome
some new members to our
Chapter:*

Vicki Roy

From the

Maine Revenue Services

WELCOME!



RECRUIT A MEMBER

LET'S START RECRUITING TODAY!

As a valued member, you can impact the future of AGA by sharing your experience with your peers, your staff and others in your organization with an interest in government financial management. No one knows better how beneficial AGA membership is to advancing government accountability than current AGA members.



Did you know that a large percentage of new members join AGA simply because someone invited them? Consider sharing your AGA membership experience and get rewarded for doing so. Recruit a member today!

Super Recruiters Club

Once you have recruited 10 members, you become part of the Super Recruiters Club! Super Recruiter status affords many exclusive rewards including recognition at a private reception at the annual PDT. Other rewards include: a lapel pin, certificate, VIP status at all national events and logo wear apparel.

End of Year Sponsor Achievement Awards and Recognition Awards are presented at the annual national training event, the PDT, each summer.

Recruiter of the Year (one winner)—The member who recruits the most new members from May 1 through April 30 will be presented with the Recruiter of the Year distinction and receive a complimentary AGA national meeting registration.

Top Sponsor (two winners)—The next two members who recruit the highest number of new members from May 1 through April 30 will each be bestowed with the Top Sponsor distinction and each will receive a complimentary AGA national meeting registration

Chapter Overall Growth (six winning chapters)—Those six chapters achieving the highest overall growth percentage in their chapter size grouping for the membership year will each win a complimentary AGA national meeting registration. Chapters decide who receives the registration. Each chapter president and membership chair will be presented with an achievement plaque as well.

Start Recruiting Today!

[Download a membership application](#). You can also order applications by calling AGA at 800.AGA.7211 and/or emailing agamembers@agacgfm.org.

Tell your peers and co-workers about AGA. Simply encourage them to fill out AGA's membership application or apply online. Be sure to include your name in the sponsor's name category on the application to receive credit.

MARCH

Upcoming Community Service Opportunity

Our community service project for the remainder of the program year is the Bowl-For-Kids-Sake. Let's get some teams together to support the Mid-Maine Big Brothers/Big Sisters

“The greatest joy in life comes not from winning but from giving.”

~ Debasish Mridha M.D.



Support the Augusta Food Bank



The August Food Bank welcomes eligible residents of Augusta and Manchester and provides them with groceries to help bridge the gap between their current circumstances and adequate nutrition. Any non-perishable food items or cash donations are welcomed.

Items in **HIGH** need:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Soups
- Canned Fruits
- Tuna Fish
- Rice & Rice Mixes
- Spaghetti
- Canned Tomato Sauce

Items always needed:

- Cereal
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Baked Beans
- Canned Vegetables
- Coffee and Tea
- Baking Mixes (cake, brownie and muffin)
- Canned Meats
- Canned Milk
- Personal Care items (especially toilet paper)

The Maine Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is sponsoring this Community Service event and we invite anyone reading this to help out. Donations being accepted through January and February!

Thank you for your support!

Contact Andrea McKay @ andrea.mckay@maine.gov
or 626-8411 if you have any questions.

UPCOMING TRAINING

AGA is pleased to announce its latest web conference on “**Uniform Guidance: Doing Things Differently**”.



Three years after its issuance, how is the Uniform Guidance living up to its stated promise of promoting a 21st Century government that is more efficient, effective and transparent? This session will look at progress in implementing a government-wide framework for grants management. Experts will examine grants management changes that have been made to implement the Uniform Guidance and discuss progress in achieving key objectives, ranging from strengthening oversight to streamlining federal requirements. Speakers will also examine how AGA tools, which are available online to anyone at no cost, can help implement key provisions of the Uniform Guidance.

Speakers:

- **Jeffrey Johnson**, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grants, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Merril Oliver**, Director, Maryland Governor’s Grants Office
- **James Taylor**, Managing Director, Global Public Sector, Grant Thornton LLP

Learning Objectives: Learn how implementation of the Uniform Guidance is proceeding, gain insight into changes in order to grant administration and acquire knowledge relative to successes in streamlining and strengthening grant oversight.

Prerequisite: None

Date: March 8, 2017

Time: 2 – 3:50 p.m. Eastern Time

CPE: Two credit hours

Field of Study: Accounting





Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Direct Hire Vacancy Announcement

OCFS DATA ANALYST

MANAGEMENT ANALYST I

CODE: 0392 RANGE: 21 (Pro/Tech Svcs) \$16.34 - \$22.03/hr.

Value of State-paid Health & Dental Insurance: \$386.73 biweekly (90% State contribution)

Value of State's share of employee's retirement: 15.85 % of pay.

Opening Date: March 7, 2017

Contact: S.Smith

Closing Date: March 24, 2017

Telephone: (207) 287-1877

Location: Augusta, ME

Agency Information

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides supportive, preventive, protective, public health and intervention services that protects the public health and assists our customers in meeting their needs; and that assist families in providing for the developmental, health and safety needs of their children. DHHS strives to provide these programs and services while respecting the rights and preferences of individuals and families. The Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS), within DHHS is responsible for ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children and families through community networks, local resources, and life-long family connections throughout Maine. OCFS fulfills its mission through: Children's Behavioral Health Services, Child Welfare Services, Early Intervention and Prevention Services and Operations. We have a current vacancy in our Augusta office within Operations on the Information Services Team.

Job Duties

As a Management Analyst I in Accountability and Information Services you will support and monitor the Information Data Systems within the Office of Child and Family Services. You will also provide support and assistance to the Management Analyst II (MA II) positions within the Accountability and Information Services Team. To be successful, you must be detailed oriented and able to effectively manage and meet deadlines. Your duties will include:

Assisting MA II's with required data collection, data query development, data and report generation and distribution, and special projects.

Acquiring a thorough knowledge of internal and external customers business use of data systems and recommending enhancements and changes that will support the continuous quality improvement of the system users business workflow.

Working collaboratively with MACWIS (Maine Automated Child Welfare Information System) Information Technology staff in verification of necessary changes and system enhancements.

Reviewing, prioritizing and managing customer data requests and participating in their timely and vetted completion.

Reviewing system and report data for accuracy and completeness; and performing data investigation and audits as necessary.

Assisting in the management and distribution of encrypted voice recorders used by OCFS.

Requirements

In order to qualify, you must have six (6) years of education, training, and/or experience analyzing, evaluating, and/or developing improvements to organizational and/or managerial systems, programs, and practices. The background of well-qualified candidates will demonstrate the following competencies:

1. A thorough knowledge of and recent experience utilizing Information Data Systems to produce data and reporting.
2. A general knowledge of database fundamentals and understanding of relational database structure.
3. Advanced knowledge and specific experience with the use of Microsoft Excel software, including creation of datasets, charts, graphs, and pivot tables
4. A record of exceptional customer service, organizational skills and the ability to manage deadlines.

Application and Information

For additional information about this position please contact Steve Smith, Personnel Officer at (207) 287-1877 or by e-mail @ stephen.smith@maine.gov. To apply, please forward a completed State of Maine application form and cover letter addressing the four competency areas identified in the Requirements Section by e-mail as an attached Word, RTF or PDF file; or to the following address by regular mail. Applications must be received by the closing date.

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Human Resources Attn: S. Smith
32 Blossom Lane, #11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

The Department of Health and Human Services is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.
We provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.



Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence



CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.



How Do I Obtain My CGFM?

Initial Certification Requirements

To earn the CGFM, candidates must apply for the CGFM Program and meet the following requirements:

- ◆ **Ethics**—read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics.
- ◆ **Education**—have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have completed at least 24 credit hours in financial management or related topics.
- ◆ **Examinations**— pass three comprehensive CGFM Examinations.
- ◆ **Experience**— have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.

[Learn more about the process of earning the CGFM designation.](#)

CGFM Application—If you are ready to start the process of earning your CGFM, [click here](#) to apply for the CGFM Program.

Interested in study group? Contact a CEC member today!

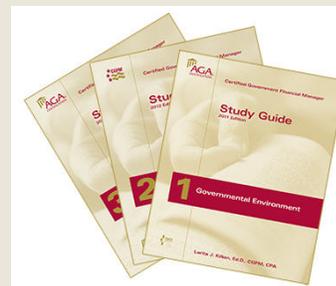


AGA CGFM Study Guides—

ONLINE!

New from AGA! You can access the CGFM Study Guides on the go!

Read, search and review the study guide content on your laptop, tablet or phone — a convenient way to prepare for the CGFM Examinations. Upon purchasing the online version of each guide, you'll have immediate access to the entire publication for a period of 12 months.

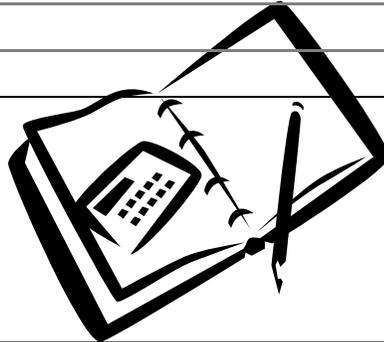


In addition, if a newer version of this study guide is published within this period, you'll also have access to the new version! As with the printed version, the online study guides feature textbook-like format with learning objectives, a chapter summary and a reinforcement quiz for each chapter. In addition to the relevant resources, the appendices contain a glossary of terms, a list of reference materials, answers to reinforcement quizzes with explanations and end-of-course review questions. Those ordering the study guides can purchase the option of earning Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours upon passing an online CPE examination.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Maine Chapter AGA Balance Sheet as of 2/28/2017

ASSETS		
	<u>AGA Cash</u>	\$40.00
Cash and Bank Accounts	<u>AGA Checking</u>	\$11.54
	AGA Savings-Share Account	\$7,240.03
Total Cash and Bank Accounts		\$7,291.57
Other Assets	Customer Invoices	\$686.00
Total Other Assets		\$686.00
Total Assets		\$7,977.57
LIABILITIES		
Other Liabilities	Sales Tax & Business Bills	\$0.00
Total Other Liabilities		\$0.00
Total Liabilities		<u>\$0.00</u>
Overall Total		<u>\$7,977.57</u>



Maine Chapter AGA Income Statement as of 2/28/2017

INCOME	
Dividend Income	\$9.91
Education—Webinars	\$1,832.00
Gifts Received	\$114.00
Membership Income from National	\$195.00
Monthly Meetings	\$4,153.00
Other Income—50/50	\$96.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,399.91
EXPENSES	
Charity	\$109.00
Education—Webinars	\$1,720.00
Membership Recruitment	\$145.80
Monthly Meetings	\$5,538.00
Legal Prof Fees—Annual Reporting Filing	\$0.00
Utilities—Internet	\$9.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,522.20
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$1,122.29)

CHAPTER RECOGNITION PROGRAM - 2nd Quarter Points

The Chapter Recognition Program is designed to support, encourage, and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission and to provide flexible non-competitive guidelines for a well-rounded chapter. The Chapter Recognition Program year begins on June 1st and concludes May 31st.

SECTION	MAX POINTS	TOTAL POINTS	% OF POINTS
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	5000	1775	36%
Education & Professional Development	4000	600	15%
Certification	4000	400	10%
Communications	3000	1845	62%
Membership	4000	900	23%
Accountability	2000	400	20%
Community Service	2000	350	18%
Awards	1000	800	80%
TOTAL	25000	7070	28%
GOAL TOTAL	19501	7070	36%
ALLOWED POINTS TOTAL	25000	7070	28%



OUR CEC

For more information, visit our website:
<http://www.agamainechapter.org>

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Shirley Browne
shirley.browne@maine.gov

Immediate-Past President

Derek Gorneau
derek.gorneau@maine.gov

President-Elect

Angela Dickinson
angela.l.dickinson@maine.gov

Secretary

Alesia Francis
alesia.francis@maine.gov

Treasurer

Kimberly Hall
kimberly.hall@maine.gov

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Awards

Vacant

Bylaws & Procedures

Tony Gorneau
james.a.gorneau@maine.gov

Communications—Co-Directors

Angela Dickinson
angela.l.dickinson@maine.gov
Mitchell Boynton
mitchell.boynton@maine.gov

Community Service

Andrea McKay
andrea.mckay@maine.gov

Early Careers

Bethany Perry
bethany.m.perry@maine.gov

Education

Vacant—Please contact CEC, if interested

Membership

Tammy Chase
tammy.chase@maine.gov

Professional Certification

Will Korth
will.korth@maine.gov

Programs & Technical Meetings

Philip Platt
phillip.platt@maine.gov

March, 2017

No Meeting was held this month.

Attendees: None



Past Meeting Recap

On February 14, 2017, the Maine Chapter of the AGA met, for the monthly luncheon, at the Senator Inn located in Augusta. Chapter President Browne welcomed the Chapter and mentioned that Chapter Board elections were upcoming and that members should consider nominations.

State Controller, Doug Cotnoir, was kind enough to introduce our speaker, Ernest Almonte, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGFM. Mr. Almonte is a partner at RSM and is a firm-designated government, not-for-profit, litigation support, and higher education specialist with more than 37 years of experience. Ernie works in the Boston Not-For-Profit/Public Sector Industry team. He has managed the audits of numerous public sector and not-for-profit organizations, and has provided technical assistance on accounting and financial reporting issues to these organizations. Ernie is a frequent speaker on industry related topics.

Prior to joining RSM, Ernie spent 16 years as the R.I. Auditor General where he was responsible for the State of Rhode Island financial, performance and fraud audits, In that role, Ernie was responsible for the \$8 billion dollar CAFR and overseeing the audits of the quasi public agencies and municipalities. Ernie provided training nationally on topics such as the Yellow Book, GASB and FASAB accounting standards, and fraud risks for federal, state and local professionals serving government, not-for-profit and higher education clients. He has served in numerous positions as Chairman of audit committees including universities and the Department of Defense Audit Advisory Committee at the Pentagon.

Mr. Almonte presented on fraud. Please visit the below link for the power-point presentation.

http://www.agamainechapter.org/documents/education_training/2016-2017/RSM_FraudpresentationforMaine.pptx

Janet Bujold was our 50/50 raffle winner.



MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

The Maine Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants' monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, **March 21st** at the Senator Inn.

Our speaker will be Ryan Neale from the Maine Development Foundation. He will be presenting on the Annual Measures of Growth Report.

On the menu will be:



Soup of the Day
Wrap Buffet
Tossed Salad
&
Bakery Squares

TRIVIA ANSWER:

The "Emerald Isle" is the most common nickname, but it is also referred to as "The Old Sod", "Four Green Fields", and "The Bower".

Websites of Interest

- American Society for Public Admin (ASPA)www.aspanet.org
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE).....www.acfenet.com
- Greater Boston Chapter of CFE.....www.acfe-boston.org
- Association of Government Accountantswww.agacgfm.org
- AGA Boston Chapter.....www.agaboston.org
- AGA Hartford Chapterwww.agahartford.org
- AGA Maine Chapter.....www.agamainechapter.org
- COSO..... www.coso.org
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board..... www.gasb.org
- Government Accountability Office.....www.gao.gov
- Government Executivewww.govexec.com
- Government Finance Officers Association..... www.gfoa.org
- Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)www.theiia.org
- Intergovernmental Audit Forum.....www.auditforum.org
- International Accounts Payable Professionals (IAPP).....www.financialops.org
- National Assoc of State Auditors, Comptrollers & Treasurers.....www.nasact.org
- National Association of State Comptrollers..... nasact.org/nasc
- National Association of State Treasurers.....www.nast.org
- National State Auditors Association.....www.nasact.org/nsaa
- National Association of State Budget Officers.....www.nasbo.org
- USA Gov (Frmly FirstGov)..... www.usa.gov

MARCH

Brings

"MAD FOR PLAID"

month.

Let's dig out some plaid and celebrate!

