



## Quarterly Newsletter

### Charleston PDT A Training Triumph

In February, our chapter hosted a highly anticipated Professional Development Training (PDT), and what an event it was! The event exceeded all expectations, drawing in over 70 attendees from various sectors and industries. The success of the event was a testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit of our chapter members.

The PDT featured an impressive lineup of speakers who shared their expertise and insights on various topics that are driving today's business. Attendees heard from several distinguished speakers such as Ann Ebberts, CEO of AGA National, Chris Holdorf, Assistant Professor at CSU, and Dan Klingshirn, Deputy Director with the Army Corps of Engineers. The roster also featured accomplished professionals like Kevin Beck from Deloitte, Kyle Brooks, Vice President of MIL Corporation, Matt Simiskey, Deputy Comptroller at the Department of State, and Phil Padgett, CFO at the South Carolina Ports Authority. Each speaker brought their unique perspective and experiences to the discussions.

The diverse range of speakers ensured that attendees gained comprehensive insights into the latest trends, challenges, and best practices in various fields. From government agencies to private corporations, attendees had the opportunity to glean insights from leaders across various sectors, enriching their understanding and expanding their professional networks.

### Upcoming Events

CHAPTER 17TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION: MAY 22ND  
4:30PM - 6:30PM

WEBINAR: PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT (FREE):  
MAY 15

WEBINAR: LEADERSHIP: MAY  
16

PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING  
(PDT24): JULY 14-17

INTERNAL CONTROL & FRAUD  
PREVENTION TRAINING: SEPT  
19-20

The success of the Charleston PDT underscores the growing importance of professional development opportunities in today's rapidly evolving business landscape. Attendees had the chance to network, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and gain valuable insights that will undoubtedly enhance their careers.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the speakers, attendees, and volunteers who contributed to making this year's PDT a memorable and enriching experience. Members are already eagerly anticipating next year's event!



# Community Corner

In a heartwarming display of community solidarity, our AGA Chapter has joined hands with the Accabee community of District 10 in North Charleston to introduce a much-needed blessing box initiative. The partnership stemmed from the AGA Chapter's keen observation of a local need and the receptive response from Accabee residents, who recognized the potential benefits after witnessing the success of the Lowcountry Blessing Box Project.

The Blessing Box, a beacon of hope and support, will be strategically located next to 2916 Appleton Ave. in North Charleston, serving as a lifeline for those facing food insecurity and other challenges. This collaborative effort reflects the collective commitment of AGA and the Accabee community to uplift and empower their neighbors in times of need.

Inspired by the transformative impact of similar projects, the Accabee community eagerly embraced the idea of the Blessing Box, recognizing its potential to foster a stronger sense of community and alleviate hardships for those facing adversity.

The decision to partner with AGA Charleston SC Chapter underscores the power of collaboration in addressing social issues and building a more compassionate society.

For easy access and visibility, the location of the Blessing Box can be found online at [www.chsblessingbox.org](http://www.chsblessingbox.org) under the 'Who We Are/Locations' tab, ensuring that individuals in need can readily locate and benefit from its contents. This digital accessibility enhances the reach and impact of the initiative, inviting broader community participation and support.

As the Blessing Box takes root in the heart of Accabee, it symbolizes not only the tangible support provided but also the intangible bonds of empathy, solidarity, and shared humanity. Together, AGA Charleston SC Chapter and the Accabee community stand united in their commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of their neighbors, embodying the spirit of compassion and community service.



# Celebrating 17 Years of AGA in Charleston

As we mark our 17th year since establishment, we reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of our chapter and its members. Over the years, the chapter has organized impactful events, fostered knowledge exchange, and built a strong community of like-minded individuals committed to advancing personal and professional development.

Like many organizations, we faced a significant hurdle in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this period, AGA underwent a rebranding process that reimaged the organization's identity and vision for the future.

With a fresh perspective and renewed energy, our chapter reaffirmed our commitment to growth and development. Our rebranding efforts have invigorated the chapter, attracting new members and broadening our reach.

As we look to the future, we are filled with optimism and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. With a revitalized sense of purpose, we are ready to embark on new initiatives, collaborations, and opportunities. Here's to 17 years of growth, resilience, and renewal, and to many more years of success and impact ahead!

## 2024 New Members

Melissa Alexander  
Dreher Anderson  
Alan Bahadori  
Brandi Burbage

Paul Derrell  
Stacey Detweiler  
Ariana Fields  
Ned Forney

Beau Johnson  
Regina Mack  
Shellee Myers  
Tymasha Strong

Lindsay Stuart  
Tonya Walker  
Leandria Washington  
Stephanie Kelley-Boatwright

## New Member Spotlight

**Tymasha  
Stong**



Tymasha Strong, a St. Louis, MO native, has lived in Charleston since 2020. She joined IFAS LLC in 2023 as a contract employee with the US Department of State, where she currently serves as the Senior Global Compensation Project Lead. Before joining IFAS LLC, she spent many years working in Passports, Human Resources, and Procurement. She heard about AGA from current members and saw it as a great way to expand her network. She is extremely excited about the leadership and growth opportunities available through AGA. She is also looking forward to attending the many webinars and trainings that are offered.



**AGA**<sup>TM</sup>

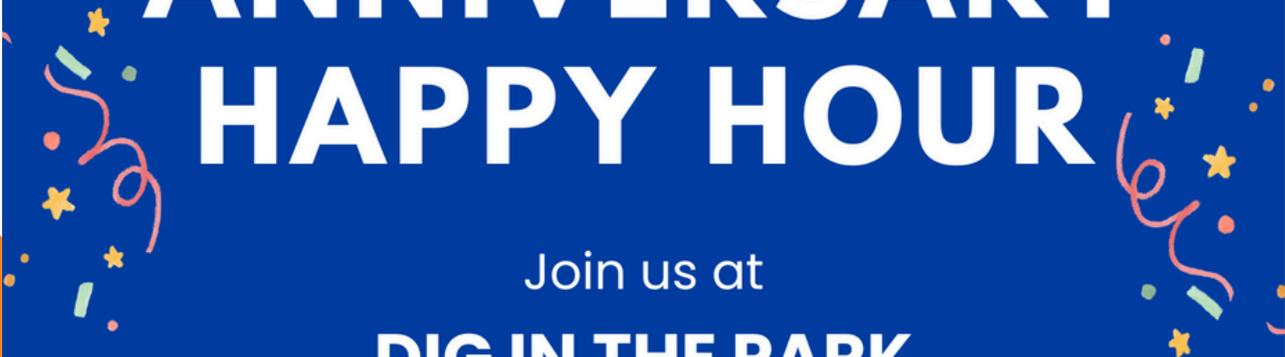
Charleston, SC  
Chapter

**RSVP BY**  
**5/17/24**

**FOOD**  
**RAFFLES**  
**SWAG**

*Let's Celebrate*

# ANNIVERSARY HAPPY HOUR



Join us at

**DIG IN THE PARK**

to celebrate 17 amazing years of the AGA  
Charleston Chapter



May 22nd

4:30PM - 6:30PM

1049 E. Montague Ave

