# 2020 – 2021 CITIZEN -CENTRIC REPORT



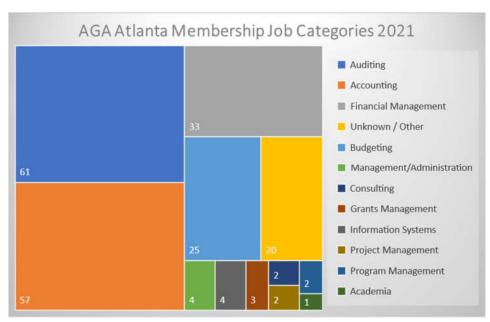


# Who Are We and Why Do We Exist?

The Atlanta Chapter is the local affiliate of the Association of Government Accountants, a national organization of accountability professionals concerned with promoting efficient, effective, and economical financial management at all levels of government—Federal, State, and Local. As seen in the exhibit below, our chapter's 214 members represent all levels of government and a wide variety of entities including state agencies, federal offices, local counties, local authorities, local school systems, private industry, and non-profits.



Our members are as talented and diverse as the city we call home. They represent all facets and professions that are essential to government accountability and financial oversight.



Our goal is to be the premier educational and networking organization for government financial accountability professionals in the Atlanta area. We hope accomplish this by building membership our increasing participation through virtual networking opportunities, community service events, virtual training events and outreach local educational institutions. We hope that these activities will allow our

members to get to know each other and make meaningful connections that are beneficial to them and are beneficial to government accountability.

# What Are We Doing?

This past program year (2020-2021). was very successful, and as seen in the following table, we had five primary goals we attempted to achieve.

AGA Atlanta's Strategic Goals			
*	Support our members and CGFMs during the COVID Panademic through virtual training and networking opportunities.		
	* Attract new members to our chapter		
	* Support and promote the CGFM certification		
* Gi	ive back to the metro Atlanta community combating the panademic through service events		
	<ul> <li>* Increase our involvement with AGA's National Office.</li> </ul>		

Some of the noteworthy accomplishments towards these goals this past program year were as follows:

## Virtual Chapter meeting on June 18, 2020:

Our Chapter's first virtual meeting was held on June 18, 2020 with 40 participants. The participation or attendance rate was a small increase as compared to the in-person attendance of our normal Chapter meetings. We offered 3 CPEs. Our speakers were Maureen Duddy, Deputy Assistance Inspector General for Audits for Department of Homeland Security (Leadership: We're on to Cincinnati), Amanda Noble, City Auditor, City of Atlanta (Independent Procurement Review to Rebuild Public Trust) and Patrick Cowan, Audit Manager, Tallahassee City Auditor's Office (Internal Controls).

## Virtual Chapter meeting on October 15, 2020:

• The second virtual meeting was held on October 15, 2020 with 98 participants. Jim Dawson serves as our Chapter President and personally promoted the October virtual meeting and the increase in participation represents a substantial increase for our normal Chapter meetings. Both Chapter members and non-members participated. We were honored to have Mr. Joel Black, GASB Chairman as one of the presenters. Mr. Black has presented to our Chapter in the past as a member of the local community. However, it was the first time as the GASB Chair. In addition to Mr. Black, Dr, Jeffrey Dorfman and Charles B. Hall presented for a total of 3 CPEs offered. The following topics were presented. Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman, State Economist, gave an economic update, Charles B. Hall gave a presentation on fraud and Joel Black gave an update on GASB and various GASB projects.

## Virtual Chapter meeting on March 18, 2021:

Our Chapter's third virtual meeting was held on March 18, 2021 with roughly 160 participants. The
participation or attendance rate was excellent and compared favorably to the October virtual meeting.
The event was provided at no cost to participants and we offered 3 CPEs. Our speakers were Ed Lugo,
Professor, College of Charleston "Ethical Leadership – The Search for the Ethical Leadership Factor",
Gerry Boaz, CPA, CGFM, CGMA, AGA National President-Elect, Technical Manager, Tennessee
 Comptroller of the Treasury "Leadership in the Virtual Age" and Heather Keister, CPA, CIA, Assistant

Director, Government Accountability Office "Understanding Ourselves and Others – Your Leadership Personality". We were pleased to note that 31% of the participants were chapter members.

## **Early Careers:**

 Harry Gatanis and Jim Dawson held a virtual meeting with students of University of West Georgia on November 3, 2020. Approximately 17 to 19 students joined the virtual discussion on the value of AGA membership. The Atlanta Chapter gained a couple of student members. Another virtual meeting is planned for next semester for another local university.

## **Community Service:**

 Members of our CEC delivered care packages to the medical personnel at six area health care facilities. The staff at the facilities were very appreciative. Our Chapter's current community service project is a virtual food drive for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The Atlanta Chapter will match donations up to \$250. Donations will be collected on our webpage. This project is still active.



#### **Chapter Treasurer:**

 Our chapter Treasurer (Jackie Neubert) and our Webmaster (James Shepard) placed our general ledgers and financial statements from 2019 and 2020 on our <u>Chapter website</u>. The information is searchable and can be displayed graphically. They championed this initiative to provide an open environment where members can see how the Chapter operates financially.

# **Our Finances**

We maintained our positive financial position, despite the disruptive impact of the COVID pandemic that began during the last quarter of the 2019-2020 program year. Overall, the pandemic caused the cancelation of two training events, including our May 2020 Professional Development Conference, which is our primary moneymaking event. The proceeds of this event fund chapter operations throughout the program year. Thus, we had an operation loss of \$5,067.88 for the year. After the end of the 2019-2020 chapter year, we received refunds of our venue deposits on the canceled March 2020 and May 2020 events. The total refund was \$1,875, which offset some of our loss.

We were able to stem the losses during the 2020-2021 cycle by pivoting to virtual events that were well attended and lower cost because we did not need a venue or catering for our attendees. As of May 15, 2021, we had a cash position of \$12,897. In addition to losing our training events, we also lost the accounting firm that typically performed our financial reviews, but we were able to contract with a consultant to perform an analysis of our finances. We are also pleased to receive a clean financial analysis for our management of the Chapter's 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 cycles.

# Revenue and Expenses 2019-2020

Revenue		Amount	
Registration Fees - Quarterly Lunch Meetings	\$	2,930.00	
Membership Dues	\$	2,053.35	
Sponsorship Payments	\$	500.00	
Interest Income	\$	0.05	
Transfers to/from Bank Accounts (1)		5,110.00	
Total Revenue 2019-20	\$	10,593.40	

Expenditures		Amount
Quarterly Lunch Meeting Expenses	\$	7,364.90
Scholarships	\$	500.00
Speaker Gifts	\$	30.00
Professional Development Conference Expenses	\$	1,250.00
Event Brite Service Fees	\$	343.92
Bank Service Fees	\$	477.89
Print, Postage & Supplies		71.15
Transfers to/from Bank Accounts (1)		5,110.05
Miscellaneous	\$	513.29
Total Expenses 2019-20	\$	15,661.20

Net Profit	5	(5,067.80)
NCCTIONC	Y	(3,007.00)

<sup>(1)</sup> Adjusting entries for opening a new bank account and transferring funds.

# Revenue and Expense Trends for the Last Five Years



Overall, our chapter was recognized as a Platinum level chapter in 2019-2020, which is the highest achievement any chapter can receive. This accomplishment puts the AGA Atlanta chapter in the position to do even more for our members in 2021-2022; to once again give back to the metro Atlanta community; and to champion government accountability at the local, state, and federal levels in our area. Going forward, the 2021-2022 program year presents us with certain opportunities and challenges as discussed below.

## Opportunities:

- Utilize a Membership Scholarship program to add four new officers to our Chapter Executive Committee
- Provide expanded attendee networking opportunities at our training events.
- Promote our chapter and AGA membership and, in the process, grow the Atlanta chapter by at least 10% this program year.
- Encourage our members to serve on the National Boards and Committees offered by AGA.



## Challenges:

- Attendance at events during the COVID pandemic.
- Supporting the needs of our members in a changed world.
- Effectively promoting our activities to the larger governmental accounting and finance community in the metro Atlanta area.
- Attracting more federal and local involvement on the Chapter Executive Committee.
- Attracting early career members to chapter activities and events.

# We want to hear from you!

We welcome all who want to help our chapter grow and thrive. If you haven't been to one of our events lately or if you want to give back to the community or to the accountability profession, please let us know by contacting Chapter Leadership at our website (AGA Atlanta) or via our Facebook page. You can also contact our National Council of Chapter's representative (Scott Owens) at <a href="mailto:owenss@audits.ga.gov">owenss@audits.ga.gov</a> if you have questions about AGA Atlanta and its activities.