

Association of Government Accountants – Olympia Chapter

Board Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Present:

Stefanie Niemela
Heidi Algieri
Maryam Jacobs

Ron Buford
Sam Lord (Guest-Seattle
Chapter)

Absent:

Bret Broderson

Denise Nguyen

Guest from Seattle Chapter-Sam Lord

Sam from AGA's Seattle Chapter joined the meeting to discuss the possibility of partnerships with other AGA chapters, to include the Seattle Chapter, and to see if he could offer any help in any area to the Olympia Chapter. Items discussed were as follows:

- Ron noted that he still hadn't been able to access the chapter's website and needed help in that task and Sam offered to contact Ron and help him with that work.
- Board members asked Sam if the Seattle Chapter had changed the Seattle chapter's Washington State Secretary of State filing last year following the restructuring of the organization. Sam stated that he believed the name of the organization was changed from AGA to Association of Governmental Accountants and that there may have been some changes to the Articles of Incorporation and type of organization the group was considered under new Washington rules, but he wasn't sure of all that had been required. He stated he was still researching what type of organization the chapters should be classified as for the business license and that he would send the result of his research back, along with the other changes required to the Chapter's state business license filing.
- Sam also informed the board that the name on the chapter's bank account and Federal IRS filing needs to be changed. He stated he believed there was an option to make the change with the IRS when filing the chapter's annual 990 report.
- Stefanie gave a summary of the issues the chapter was facing. She stated that there had been little interest by members in any live trainings and gave an overview of members signing-up for virtual training, but not showing up. Sam reported that these issues, along with difficulty in recruiting board members, were being experienced by many other chapters including Seattle. The group discussed that these changes may be partially due to the fact that governments were hiring less individual with certifications and the availability of more free virtual training.
- The board also noted that training offered by the national office was repetitive and uninteresting. Those present asked Sam to suggest the National office consider adding some virtual sessions

with new topics. Sam noted that the National office usually catered to those who attended training and also tried to go over topics that were required for governmental accountants, but he would pass the suggestion on. He recommended the board make recommendations for other training topics to submit to the national office. The group discussed the possibility of sending out a survey to FMAC and AGA members. Heidi stated she would discuss this possibility with Brian to see if a survey could be sent out from OFM.

- Finally, Sam noted that he was looking forward to more collaboration and shared training with other chapters in the coming year.

President's Report (Stefanie Niemela)

- Stefanie reported that 48 individuals had signed up for the GASB training offered in the previous month. Since it had been a shared training, she did not have any information on member participation.
- Stefanie asked Ron to contact Denie and let her know how he would prefer to be reimbursed for his AGA membership fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 12: 55 p.m.

Next meeting location and date:

August 15, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual