

Calendar of Events Boston Chapter

Local

August 9, 2011
Boston Chapter
Executive Committee
Meeting



August 26 & 27, 2011
Boston Chapter
Community Service
Event
"Stand Down"
Dorchester, MA



National

September 19 - 20, 2011
Internal Control &
Fraud Conference
Ronald Reagan Building
and International Trade
Center
Washington, D.C.



Nov. 3-4, 2011
Performance
Management
Conference
W Hotel
Seattle, WA



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President's Message



It must be August - the Patriots are making pre-season roster moves that will hopefully assure another Super Bowl victory and the Red Sox – Yankees rivalry has reached the point where they are tied for first place as we go to press.

Despite the excitement surrounding the local sports teams, the work of the Chapter continues. This month will be focused on solidifying the goals for the year and preparing for the work in the upcoming months.

During this month, the Executive Committee will be working on several goals that will continue to support the long term growth and success of the Chapter. These goals include:

- Developing a plan that will increase membership by 10% this year and establish a process for future increases.
- Developing a plan to increase member involvement in the Chapter's activities.
- Developing a plan to increase the number of CGFMs in the Chapter by 10% this year and establish a process for future increases.
- Playing an active role in helping at least 50 Federal, State and Local governments or agencies to produce Citizen Centric Reports.
- Continuing to promote community service and member outreach efforts.

Meeting these goals will require a great effort from the Chapter's officers as well as support from all its members. As we begin to work through the details of these goals and the development of action plans, the Executive Committee will begin looking for assistance from you, the members, to help ensure success. If you'd like to help out, please contact a member of the Executive Committee. Otherwise, we will be contacting many of you for help.

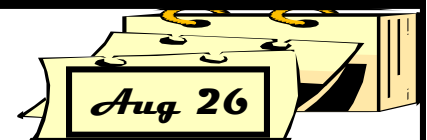
It is the membership that makes the Chapter a success. Let's make this year a year of increased member participation.

One final note - if you haven't done so already this summer, please make sure you take some vacation this month to spend time with your family and friends.

Shawn Warren

Save the Date!

Community Service Event
"Stand Down" Dorchester, MA.



Community Service Notes

The Boston Chapter donated Legal Seafood Certificates and 2011 Stanley Cup Champions Boston Bruin's apparel to the National Community Service Raffle which was held at the AGA National PDC in Atlanta in July.

The raffle annually collects over \$35,000 for a number of worthwhile charities.

Volunteers Wanted for Stand Down Help Local Veterans



This year, the Boston Chapter's Community Service Committee is again supporting the region's annual "Stand Down." This event will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 26th and 27th in Dorchester. Information explaining this event can be found at <http://www.voamass.org/Services/VeteransServices/OperationStandDown/tabid/8082/Default.aspx>.

Stand Downs are part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide services to homeless and at risk veterans. They provide services to homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, etc. The event is a collaboration between local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies who serve the homeless.

Currently, we are trying to determine how many members might be willing to donate their time to this worthwhile event. Please contact Joe Valchius at JValchuis@doe.mass.edu if you require more information or to volunteer. Please consider joining in this worthwhile effort.

Member News

Bill Conroy of the Massachusetts Workforce Development Office has passed the first section of the CGFM Exam.

Congratulations Bill!!!!

NASACT 2011 Annual Conference August 13-17, 2011



This year's annual conference will be held in the Green Mountain State of Vermont on August 13-17, 2011 at The Hilton Burlington in Burlington, Vermont. The Burlington area offers outdoor activities from lake-based kayaking, fishing and sailing to mountain-based hiking and cycling and everything in between.

The negotiated conference rate for this year's conference is \$158/night plus applicable taxes. To book your room, call (802) 658-6500 and reference the NASACT Annual Conference.

Social events for all conference attendees will begin on Saturday with a golf tournament and a hospitality suite "open house" where attendees will be able to grab a bite to eat and relax before heading out for dinner or retiring to their rooms.

Sunday begins with the annual 5K fun run/walk followed by brunch and ending the day with a reception at the Barn at Lang Farm. After Monday's sessions, all attendees will be welcome to attend a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain. Tuesday will conclude with the State Night Dinner in the Hilton Burlington's Ballroom. Activities planned for registered guests include visits to Stowe Village, The Trapp Family Lodge, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory and Shelburne Farms and Museum.

Proposed Calendar of Training Events Program Year 2011 - 2012

September 28, 2011

**Audio Conference - Fraud
JFK Federal Building, Boston
3 CPEs**

Members: Free Non-Members: \$25

October 5, 2011

**Audio Conference - Internal Controls
JFK Federal Building, Boston
3 CPEs**

Members: Free Non-Members: \$25

October 20, 2011

**Fall Seminar - Fraud
Lombardo's, Randolph, MA
7 CPEs**

Members: \$90 Non-Members: \$125

November 17, 2011

**Fall Workshop -
TBD
4 CPEs**

Members: \$TBD Non-Members: \$ TBD

December 14, 2011

**Audio Conference - Fraud
JFK Federal Building, Boston
3 CPEs**

Members: Free Non-Members: \$25

January 19, 2012

**Winter Seminar -
Volpe Federal Building, Cambridge
7 CPEs**

Members: \$75 Non-Members: \$100

March 7, 2012

**Audio Conference - Data Mining
JFK Federal Building, Boston
3 CPEs**

Members: Free Non-Members: \$25

March 13, 2012

**Regional Professional Developmental Conference
Bentley University, Waltham, MA
8 CPEs**

Members: \$90 - \$100 Non-Members: \$130 - \$155

April 18, 2012

**Audio Conference - Auditing Tools
JFK Federal Building, Boston
3 CPEs**

Members: Free Non-Members: \$25

April 26, 2012

**Spring Seminar -
TBD
7 CPEs**

Members: \$ TBD Non-Members: \$TBD

May 10, 2012

**Spring Workshop -
TBD
4 CPEs**

Members: \$TBD Non-Members: \$ TBD

May 23, 2011

**Audio Conference - Ethics
JFK Federal Building, Boston
3 CPEs**

Members: Free Non-Members: \$25

Any individual that may require special accommodations for the disabled at any Boston Chapter Training should communicate this and include the information in their registration prior to the event.

AGA 2011 National Professional Developmental Conference in Atlanta



Chapter CGFM Director **Joe Valchuis** accepting the Group B CGFM National Certification Award From National President Lisa Casias



Speakers at the PDC were Massachusetts Undersecretary of ANF Matt Gorzkowicz and Boston Chapter President Bill Kilmartin, CGFM



Former All Pro tackle of the New England Patriots Brian Holloway was a Keynote Speaker



The Boston Chapter's 2nd place National Award for it's Web Site



Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming the following new members to the Boston Chapter:

Barbara Latham
Massachusetts State Auditor's Office

Kevin Moran
Massachusetts State Auditor's Office

Taneka Simmons
Massachusetts Office of the State Comptroller



Membership Update

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

- 256 Active Members
- 28 New Members
- 25 Suspended Members

The Boston Chapter recognizes and thanks the following new member sponsors since January 1, 2011:

- Howard Olsher , CGFM..... 8
- William Conroy..... 8
- David LeBlanc, CGFM..... 7
- Anthony Rufo..... 1
- Frederick Beebe, CGFM..... 1
- Michael Gagan..... 1
- Ronald Twing..... 1
- Diane Ledwell, CGFM..... 1
- Judith Blodgett..... 1
- Elaine Silva..... 1

From the Editor...

Do you know someone in the Boston Chapter who has recently received promotion, accepted a new position, retired or won an award? Would you like to share your good news with fellow AGA members? Or maybe you're interested in writing a technical article for an upcoming issue of *Boston's Beacon*.

Please forward submissions for the next issue of *Boston's Beacon* to dleblanc@doe.mass.edu.

Thanks!



SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | 9 | 2 | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | 5 | | | | 6 |
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| 3 | | | | 7 | | | | 8 |
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Chapter Recognition Program

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

Boston Chapter credits as of July 31, 2011 are:

| Categories | Maximum Credits | Credits Earned | Credits Allowed | % of Avail |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Leadership, Planning & Participation | 3,000 | 3,525 | 3,000 | 100% |
| Education & Professional Development | 4,000 | 100 | 100 | 3% |
| Certification | 4,000 | 1,525 | 1,525 | 38% |
| Communications | 3,000 | 1,515 | 1,515 | 51% |
| Membership | 3,000 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 47% |
| Early Career | 2,000 | 375 | 375 | 19% |
| Community Service | 2,000 | 600 | 600 | 30% |
| Awards | 1,000 | 1,850 | 1,000 | 100% |
| Total | 22,000 | 10,890 | 9,515 | 43% |

Boston Chapter Balance Sheet July 31, 2011

| Assets | |
|---|------------------------|
| Cash | |
| Checking Account | \$10,297 |
| Savings Account | 9,976 |
| Certificates of Deposit | <u>0</u> |
| Total Cash | \$20,273 |
| Total Accounts Receivable | <u>\$ 500</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>\$20,773</u> |
| Liabilities and Fund Balance | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 0 |
| Current Fund Balance | <u>20,773</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance | <u>\$20,773</u> |



*Boston Chapter
Corporate Sponsor*

Speaker Database

The AGA-Boston Chapter is building a speaker database. Do you know a dynamic speaker who you would like to see at an upcoming educational event? Are you a speaker who would like to be included in the database?

Please send the speaker's name, address, phone number, e-mail address and potential topics to the Chapter's Vice President of Education - Julia Burns, CGFM at Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us



Powers & Sullivan
Certified Public Accountants
*Boston Chapter
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August Quote

"Work is less boring than amusing oneself."

**Charles
Baudelaire**

SUDOKU ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 |



TRIVIA QUESTION!

What multi million copy selling book has only 50 different words?

Answer found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Websites of Interest

- American Society for Public Admin (ASPA) www.aspanet.org
- MA Chapter of ASPA www.massspa.org
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) www.cfenet.com
- Greater Boston Chapter of CFE www.acfe-boston.org
- Association of Government Accountants www.agacgfm.org
- AGA Boston Chapter www.aga-boston-chapter.org
- AGA Aroostook County Chapter www.agaarostookcounty.org
- AGA Hartford Chapter www.agahartford.org
- AGA Maine Chapter www.gwi.net/~aga/
- COSO www.coso.org
- First Gov www.firstgov.gov
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board www.gasb.org
- Government Executive www.govexec.com
- Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) www.theiia.org
- IIA Greater Boston Chapter www.theiia.org/chapters/index.cfm/home.page/cid/13
- Intergovernmental Audit Forum www.auditforum.org
- International Accounts Payable Professionals (IAPP) www.iappnet.org
- National Assoc of State Auditors, Comptrollers & Treasurers www.nasact.org
- National Assoc of State Comptrollers www.nasact.org/community/nasc.html
- National Assoc of State Treasurers www.nasact.org/community/nast.html
- National State Auditors Association www.nasact.org/community/nsaa.html
- National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council www.ec3.org

Boston's Beacon is published by the Association of Government Accountants—Boston Chapter.

Comments should be forwarded to dleblanc@doe.mass.edu

GASB Proposes Major Revisions for Pension Reporting

In July, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued two Exposure Drafts proposing major revisions to financial reporting of pensions by state and local governments. The first Exposure Draft, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* (Employer ED), primarily relates to reporting by governments that provide pensions to their employees. A second related Exposure Draft, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*, (Pension Plan ED), addresses the reporting by the pension plans that administer those benefits. The documents propose amendments to the existing pension standards that significantly change how the costs and obligations associated with the pensions that governments provide to their employees are calculated and reported.

The Employer ED proposes that governments be required to report a *net pension liability* in their statements of financial position (balance sheets prepared under the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting). The amount of this liability would be the difference between the total pension liability (analogous to the accrued actuarial liability) and the net assets of the related pension plan held in trust to pay pension benefits, both measured as of the employer's fiscal year-end. The Employer ED also proposes significant changes to how a government would calculate its total pension liability and pension expense. These changes include:

- Use of a blended discount rate that applies (a) the expected long-term rate of return on plan investments to projected benefit payments expected to be paid from projected plan assets that are able to be invested using a long-term investment strategy and (b) the interest rate on a tax-exempt 30-year AA-or-higher rated municipal bond index to projected benefit payments for which projected plan assets that are able to be invested using a long-term strategy are not expected to be available.
- Use of a single actuarial cost allocation method—"entry age normal"—rather than the current choice among six actuarial cost methods.
- Requiring governments participating in cost-sharing, multiple-employer pension plans to recognize a net pension liability equal to their proportionate share of any net pension liability for the cost-sharing plan as a whole.
- Immediate recognition of more components of the change in net pension liability as pension expense than is currently required, including the effect of changes in benefit terms. Certain components of the change in net pension liability, however, would be reported as deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources in the statement of net position and amortized into pension expense over a period of future years.

The Employer ED also proposes more extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information for governments participating in all types of pension plans, most notably, disclosures regarding the determination and impact of the discount rate and the components of net pension liability and pension expense.

The Employer ED does not propose any notable changes to how pension benefits are recognized in the financial statements prepared under the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting.

The Pension Plan ED, which addresses financial reporting for plans that are administered through qualified trusts, outlines the basic framework for the separately issued financial reports of defined benefit pension plans. Changes from current standards mainly relate to note disclosures and required supplementary information, including presentation of more extensive information on actual rates of return on plan investments.

The Exposure Drafts propose that final pension standards would be effective for most employers and pension plans for fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2013. For certain employers and pension plans, however, the final standards could be effective for fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2012.

The Exposure Drafts, including instructions on how to submit written comments, are available for download at www.gasb.org. The deadline for submitting written comments is September 30, 2011.



CEC Meeting Highlights

The Boston Chapter Executive Committee met on Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Please note the following:

Education: The calendar of events for the next program year was discussed and locations are being reserved. The October session on Fraud is coming together nicely.

Treasurer: The budget for Program Year 2011 - 2012 was discussed identifying current and future sources of revenue, along with anticipated expenditures.

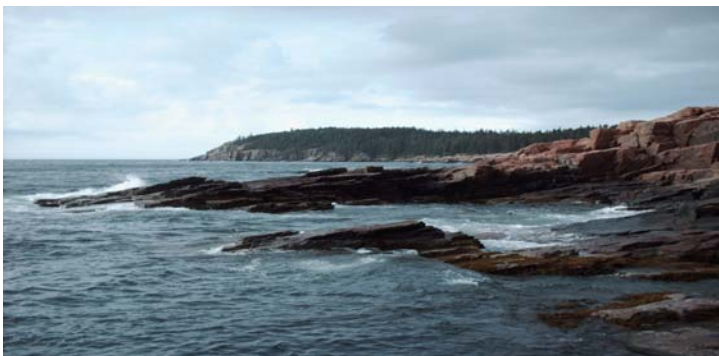
Community Services: We discussed the donation for the National Community Service raffle and plans for the upcoming year, including the “Stand Down” scheduled for the end of August.

Accountability: The chapter is working on a draft Citizen Centric Report.

Awards: The Chapter received four awards at the AGA National PDC this year.

CGFM, Membership, and Early Careers: Membership renewals started in April. We are contacting suspended members via letters and telephone with the goal of making their status active again. Five universities/colleges were contacted to participate in the early careers initiative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2011.



Member News



Longtime Boston Chapter member John Wilkes is retiring from the Massachusetts State Auditor’s Office.

John has been an AGA member for almost 35 years. He is currently a member of the Education Committee and is a past winner of the Chapter’s Annual Achievement Award.

John’s plans are to still remain active in AGA and we all wish him well in his retirement.



Are you using social media? The Boston Chapter invites you to follow us on Twitter, like our Facebook Fan Page, and/or join our LinkedIn Group. Our moniker is – you guessed it – Boston AGA! We plan to provide periodic updates regarding education sessions, community service events, etc.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julia Burns at BostonAGA@gmail.com.

Boston Chapter AGA Website



The Boston Chapter of the AGA has a new and improved website. Please change your browser favorites to the following:

www.agaboston.org

Take a tour around the site and send your feedback, suggestions and thoughts to the webmaster or any chapter Officer or Director. Check the site often for updates and valuable information.

Trivia Answer

Green Eggs and Ham
by Dr. Suess

News from National

AGA's Sixth Annual Internal Controls & Fraud Conference

Join AGA for its Sixth Annual Internal Control & Fraud Conference, to be held September 19–20, 2011, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

With an unprecedented emphasis on transparency and accountability by the Obama administration, the public's expectation for efficiency and effectiveness from their governments has never been greater.

Do your part to boost public confidence in the integrity and professionalism of government financial managers by learning the latest information on deterring and detecting fraud, waste and abuse.

AGA's "Fraud Conference" offers 14 CPE hours and focuses on the responsibilities of all accountability professionals in ensuring a good system of internal controls to lower the risks of wrongdoing.

Hear from leaders in government, academia and private industry discuss latest discovery techniques and lessons learned from various schemes; how poor internal controls can lead to fraud, waste and abuse; and how different levels of government are cooperating to improve services to citizens. The conference will also cover various aspects of the Recovery Act from an internal control and fraud perspective.

In addition to an excellent technical education program, this event is packed with opportunities to network and connect with colleagues from around the country. [Register Today!](#)

AGA has reserved a block of rooms at the [Four Points by Sheraton](#) in downtown Washington, D.C. The room rate is \$211 (plus tax) for single and double occupancy.

Rates are guaranteed until August 21, 2011, *or until the block is sold out*. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

AGA Accepting Applications for Director of Research Position

AGA is seeking an enthusiastic self-starter to fill its director of research position.

Individual seeks out and directs funded research projects leading to reports and other publications that will be useful to AGA's constituency. Responsible for tracking and preparation of written materials and briefings and other monitoring on government financial management issues. Provides technical assistance to AGA members and conference technical committees. Keeps the membership informed on legislative and regulatory developments.

Requirements: A bachelor's degree in accounting or financial management and a minimum of five years of experience in government financial management. CGFM designation preferred. Must also have excellent writing and oral communications skills, interpersonal skills and computer proficiency. We offer a competitive salary/benefits package and a team environment. Send resume and salary requirements to [Susan Fritzlen](#).

AGA's Two-Day Ethics Course Can Provide Valuable Feedback

The recent failures and frauds that have consumed organizations have a common problem--ethical lapses. Setting appropriate ethical standards, adhering to these standards and providing the correct tone throughout your organization can help prevent problems. AGA offers a course that can help in this area, "Ethics In the Workplace." This course examines the components of ethical behavior, the influence of tone at the top and doing the right thing when there is no guidance. If properly used, this course can also provide valuable feedback on your organization's ethical well-being.

For example, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Kansas City recently held two days of "Ethics in the Workplace" training, one for staff and one for managers. During the staff training, time was set aside for staff to provide anonymous feedback on the organization's ethics. The second day covered the usual topics, but also included time for managers to receive the anonymous comments. The result was training provided with feedback.

New England Regional News

New England Region Vice President Team



Jane Gustowski, CPA
Regional Vice President
Boston
jgustowski@charter.net

Linda Gover
Regional Vice President-Elect
Aroostook
Linda.Gover@dfas.mil

Jenny Boyden
Immediate Past Regional Vice President
Maine
Jenny.Boyden@maine.gov

New England Regional Coordinators

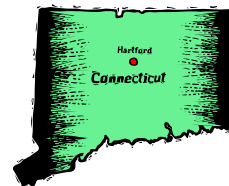
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Regional Coordinator for Education
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dleblanc@doe.mass.edu

Meetings for the Hartford Chapter



These are generally held at 6:00 p.m.
on the third Wednesday of each
month from September to May.

The meeting location is the Marco Polo Restaurant, 1250
Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, CT.

Hartford Chapter at www.agahartford.org

Aroostook County Chapter



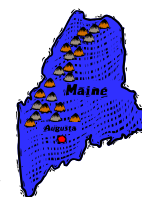
On June 3rd the Aroostook County Chapter partici-
pated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.
This event had 68 relay teams with 847 participants
that camped out at the Caribou High School as team
members walked or ran around the track. This event
went from 6:00 PM to 10:00 AM the next morning.
The event raised over \$72,000.

On June 22nd the Chapter held their First annual
membership appreciation banquet. The Chapter
honored their scholarship winner, Casey Nichols and
Milie Poiesz, who was the winner of the membership
incentive program.

Members also had a chance to review the Chapter's
Citizen Centric Report.

Aroostook County Chapter at
www.agaarostookcounty.org

Maine Chapter Meetings



Held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month,
September-May, at the Senator Inn. Meet-
ings include a social lunch, chapter meeting/
announcements, and an informational speaker.

Maine Chapter at www.gwi.net/~aga/



Membership Application

New Member Check here if renewing

I. Name & Mailing Address

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Prof.

male / female

Preferred Address

Name FIRST LAST MIDDLE

Address Apt/Suite#

City State/Province

Zip/Mail Code Country

Home Office Address

Business Phone Business Fax

Home Phone

E-mail

Second Address

Address Apt/Suite#

City State/Province

Zip/Mail Code Country

II. Business Information

Job Title Dept.

Organization

Employer: (Government):

- Federal State County City International
 Private Academia Student Retired Private International

Responsibility Area:

- Accounting Budgeting Financial Management Management Academia
 Contract Management Grants Management Program Management Administration Consulting
 Information Systems Retired Auditing Finance Legal
 Student Other

How did you hear about AGA?

- Friend/Co-Worker AGA/Chapter AGA Conference Employer AGA Website
 CGFM Program Internet Search Chapter Meeting AGA Publication Direct Mail

Age:

- Below 20 21 – 25 26 – 30 31 – 35 36 – 40 41 – 45 46 – 50 51 – 55 56 – 60 61 – 65 66+

Please list any other financial management or accounting associations you are a member of:

Education: Highest degree attained: Accreditation and Certificates:

III. Sponsor's Name

(if applicable) Member ID #

IV. Membership Data/Dues

Please choose a membership category and fill in the appropriate dues from the list on the back of this application. Retired? Call the AGA Customer Satisfaction Center at 800.AGA.7211 to find out about our retired membership category.

- Full Government**—\$90/year—This class of membership requires three or more years of government experience, involving the professional performance of financial management activities in an operational, administrative and/or supervisory capacity. This class is also available to individuals with similar experience outside the government who are engaged in educational activities having the same objectives as the Association, or who have made a contribution toward the improvement of government financial management.
 Private Sector—\$150/year—This class of membership is available to individuals working for commercial activities/ventures that are actively engaged in and support AGA's purpose and objectives.
 Early Career—\$45/year—This class of membership is available to government employees with less than three years experience.
 Student—\$30/year—This class of membership is available to college/university students.

Primary Chapter Dues

Additional Chapter Membership(s) Optional Dues

Dues

(please refer to list on the reverse side)

V. Method of Payment

Check enclosed (make checks payable to AGA)

Charge to my: VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover

Total Amount Enclosed

Card Number Expiration Date

Signature

Advancing
Government
Accountability

Association
of Government
Accountants

2208 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

PH 703.684.6931
TF 800.AGA.7211
FX 703.548.9367

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Career Day Chair
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www.agaboston.org

