

Boston Chapter Calendar of Events

Local

January 17, 2008

Winter Seminar
Computer Forensics,
E Commerce & Credit
Card Fraud
Volpe Transportation Building
Cambridge, MA



National

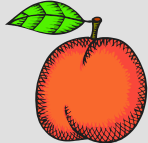
Feb. 21-22, 2008

National Leadership
Conference
Washington, DC



July 27-30, 2008

AGA National
Professional
Developmental
Conference
Atlanta, GA



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President's Message

As 2007 comes to an end and the new year begins, we now begin the process of paying off all those holiday bills and to completing the 2nd half of my term as President of the Boston Chapter. Susan Perna-Damon sent me a Christmas card and wrote that she "hoped there is no regret that you took the presidency again." My reply to Susan was that there has been no regret and although it has been a lot of work, being President has enabled me to stay in touch with many friends and former co-workers since my retirement.

I want to thank all those who braved the impending weather and attended our Holiday Party in December. We raised over \$700 for Christmas in the City along with the many toys which were donated by our members. In addition, the Chapter also added \$350 to the amount donated. The luncheon was a success and it appeared that all in attendance had a great time. As is usual for this time of year, the weather really hindered people's commute home. It only took me 3 ½ hours to get to Natick (which is usually only 30 minutes) to drop off two passengers, and another 2 hours from Natick to Lancaster, which should normally take 35 minutes. The last two hours of my commute was with only the driver's side windshield wiper working because the passenger side wiper failed at Natick and nothing was open to fix it. I know of others who's commute took as much as 8 hours but thankfully, everyone I've spoken to made it home safely.

Our upcoming winter seminar will be held at the Volpe Federal building in Cambridge on January 17th. Our topics for the day will be Computer Forensics, Credit Card Fraud, and E Commerce.

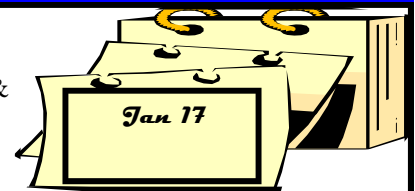
January is the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.; American clergyman and Nobel Peace Prize winner, one of the principal leaders of the American civil rights movement and a prominent advocate of nonviolent protest. Dr. King's challenges to segregation and racial discrimination in the 1950s and 1960s helped reinforce the cause of civil rights for all in the United States. After his assassination in 1968, King became a symbol of protest in the struggle for equality and justice for all Americans, regardless of race, creed, or national origin. May Dr. King's dream of equal rights live on and continue to become reality for all people.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all for a happy, safe, healthy and prosperous 2008 to you and your families.

Wallace Alan Franklin

Save the Date!

Winter Seminar - Computer Forensics, E Commerce &
Credit Card Fraud.
Volpe Transportation Building Cambridge, MA



To register please contact Howard Olsher, CGFM at Howard.Olsher@sao.state.ma.us or via phone at 617-727-6200.

Community Service News

The Boston Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants held it's annual Holiday Party / Charity Fundraiser on December 13'th at Maggiano's Little Italy in Boston.

Chapter members and guests braved an oncoming snowstorm, and an ultimate five hour traffic jam to donate toys and raise over seven hundred dollars for a local charity, Christmas in the City.

The attendees had a great meal and festive time and also were addressed by Jake Kennedy, the founder of Christmas in the City. This charity provided for over 4,000 individuals this holiday season. We are proud to be associated with this worthy endeavor.



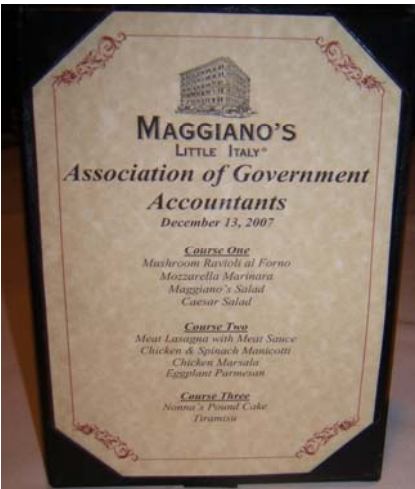
Joe Valchuis, and Wallace "Al" Franklin, CGFM



Some of the toys collected for Christmas in the City at the annual Holiday Party / Charity Fundraiser



Boston Chapter members **Maria Mamakos, Kelly Lanier** and Community Service Director **Kathy Cushing, CGFM**



The menu from Maggiano's Little Italy welcoming the Boston Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants for their annual Holiday Party / Charity Fundraiser



Boston Chapter Education Recap

On December 12, 2007 over twenty Boston AGA Chapter Members and guests attended our Audio Conference at the Federal Reserve Building in Boston.

The subject of the audio conference was Anatomy of Fraud: Case Examples of Greed, Collusion & Override of Controls.

Sharing their expertise was the wonderful team of **David L. Cotton, CGFM, CFE, CPA**, Chairman of Cotton & Co. and **David R. Hancox, CGFM, CIA**, Director in the Division of State Government Accountability, Office of the New York State Comptroller

All of the attendees were well informed, entertained and enlightened. Two (2) CPEs were awarded for this educational event.

Things to think about.

From a headhunter who presented an outstanding manager candidate (or at least she thought) for a position. During the interview, the candidate was asked why he was leaving his employer, and his response was that his employees were circulating a petition to fire him. Needless to say.....

A Texan convicted of robbery worked out a deal to pay \$9600 in damages instead of a two-year prison sentence. For payment he provided a forged check. He got the prison term back plus eight more years.

School age kids answers – What's the difference between Moms and Dads?

Moms work at work and work at home, dads just got to work at work.

Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

Moms have all the real power cause that's who you ask if you want to sleep over your friend's house.

Upcoming Training Event Winter Seminar

Computer Forensics, Credit Card Fraud & E Commerce

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2008

Time: Registration 8:00
AM Session 8:30 - 12:00
Lunch is not provided
PM Session 1:00 - 4:30

Location: Volpe Federal Building
Cambridge, MA

Cost: Members \$ 60.00
Non-Members \$ 75.00

CPEs Offered: 7

Speaking will be:

Fred Howell
Bose Corporation
Computer Forensics

Bruce Sullivan
VISA
Credit Card Fraud

Pat Davis
Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller
PCI Compliance

Linda Hamel
Massachusetts Information Tech Division
Digital Rights Management

Additional E-Commerce speakers are invited

**Registration information for this session is
available on the newsletter cover page and on
the Chapter website.**





Planned calendar of events Program Year 2007 - 2008



August 8, 2007

**Audio Conference - Performance Management
& Reporting
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA
Room AV-1
2 CPEs**

September 20, 2007

**Chapter Lunch Meeting - VA Fraud Case Study
The Harp Restaurant, Boston, MA
1 CPE**

October 11, 2007

**Fall Seminar - Investment, Lottery and
Medicaid Fraud and Financial Crimes
Lombardo's, Randolph, MA
7 CPEs**

November 8, 2007

**Fall Workshop - Data Mining / Identity Fraud
JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA
4 CPEs**

November 14, 2007

**Audio Conference - Tools for Performance
Audit Efficiency
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA
Room AV-1
2 CPEs**

December 12, 2007

**Audio Conference - Anatomy of Fraud
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA
Room AV-4
2 CPEs**

December 13, 2007

**Annual Holiday Party
and Charity Fundraiser
Magianno's, Boston, MA**

January 17, 2008

**Winter Seminar Credit Card Fraud/ Computer
Forensics
Volpe Transportation Building, Cambridge, MA
7 CPEs**

February 6, 2008

**Audio Conference - Internal Controls
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA
2 CPEs**

February 14, 2008

**Winter Workshop - Homeland Security Issues
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA
4 CPEs**

March 5, 2008

**Audio Conference - Environmental Fraud
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA
2 CPEs**

March 11, 2008

**Regional Professional Development Conference
Bentley College, Waltham, MA
8 CPEs**

April, 10, 2008

**Spring Workshop— Immigration / Customs
Enforcement
TBD
4 CPEs**

May 7, 2008

**Audio Conference - Ethics
Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA
2 CPEs**

May 2008

**Chapter End of Year
Appreciation Dinner
TBD, Boston, MA**

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



Joyce Blackman
Massachusetts Office of
the State Auditor

Justin Cole
Town of Uxbridge

Go for Growth! Membership Update

The Boston Chapter membership includes:

- 241 Active Members
- 16 New Members
- 1 Members Transferred In
- 0 Members Transferred Out
- 19 Suspended Members

The Boston Chapter recognizes and thanks the following new member sponsors since May 2006:

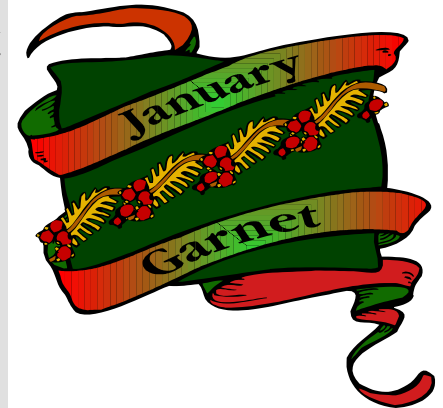
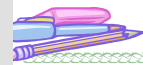
- David A. LeBlanc, CGFM 3
- Joseph Valchuis.... 2
- Howard Olsher, CGFM.....1
- Susan Perna-Damon, CGFM 1
- John Piccuch..... 1
- Patricia Raymond 1
- Kathleen Cushing 1

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!



Member News

Jennifer (Newcaster) Wierl was married on October 13, 2007. We offer our congratulations and best wishes.

Margaret (Peggy) Carr has recently become engaged.

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 April 1st and concludes on March 31st.

Boston Chapter credits as of December 31, 2007 are:

Categories	Maximum Credits	Credits Earned	Credits Allowed	% of Avail
Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,000	4,125	3,000	100%
Education & Professional Development	4,000	3,350	3,000	84%
Certification	4,000	2,925	2,925	73%
Communications	3,000	6,766	3,000	100%
Membership	3,000	4,900	3,000	100%
Early Career	2,000	900	900	45%
Community Service	2,000	3,450	2,000	100%
Awards	1,000	3,500	1,000	100%
Total	22,000	29,916	19,175	87%

Boston Chapter Balance Sheet December 31, 2007

Assets

Cash	
Checking Account	\$ 2,667
Savings Account	26,168
Certificates of Deposit	<u>13,365</u>

Total Cash \$42,200

Total Accounts Receivable \$ 510

Total Assets \$42,710

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Current Fund Balance	<u>42,710</u>

Total Liabilities and Fund Balance \$42,710

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, She can receive e-mails at Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us

January Quote

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

Albert Pike (1809-1891)

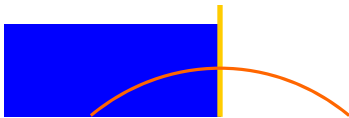


TRIVIA QUESTION!

This was known as Clinton's Folly.

What was it?

Answer found elsewhere in the newsletter.



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

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



Why do We?



Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "Lisp"?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.

Websites of Interest

- American Society for Public Admin (ASPA).....www.aspanet.org
- MA Chapter of ASPA.....www.massaspa.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 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
- Information Systems Audit & Control Associationwww.isaca.org
- 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

News from National



AGA's Education Department Announces New Single Audit Course

Many entities have questioned the quality of Single Audits that are conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. In June 2007, the Audit Committee of the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency and the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency issued a report to OMB on the results of its National Single Audit Sampling Project. After reviewing a statistical sample of 208 Single Audits, they found that more than half the reports were either unacceptable or "of limited reliability."

AGA is offering a two-day course that focuses on the needed areas of improvement identified by the project. *Single Audits (A-133): Bridging the Expectation Gap* will cover many concerns about Single Audits, internal controls, federal crosscutting requirements and specific program requirements. Bring this course, which can be customized to meet your needs, to your local organization by calling Joe Jozefczyk at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 307



2008 National Leadership Conference

Make plans to attend the Sixth Annual National Leadership Conference (NLC) Feb. 21 – 22, 2008 in Washington, D.C. This year's theme, "Dynamic Leadership for Changing Times," will explore the ever-changing field of government financial management.

Staying up to date on new regulations, while maintaining a clear vision of government transformation, can be accomplished through the best training.



Governing Focuses on Using Performance Measures to Improve Efficiency

Two articles in *Governing* magazine about performance reporting are worth reading. The first, by **Shelley Metzenbaum**, talks about how agencies can improve effectiveness and efficiency using performance measurement by exploring the possibilities afforded by problem counting and characterization. Her article is titled, [Count Your Blessings? Sure, But Count Your Problems Too.](#)

A second article by **Jonathan Walters**, [Data on the Beat](#), focuses on how the Chicago Police Department uses an extensive database to gather, store, cross-reference and retrieve massive amounts of information on crime and criminals. Walters, a staff correspondent for *Governing*, introduced his new book, *Measuring Up 2.0*, at the PMC.

Case Challenge Under Way

The AGA National Office has begun marketing its first-ever Government Finance Case Challenge to colleges and universities, began October 15. AGA aims to educate colleges about career options in government financial management; inform colleges about AGA and invite them to participate in this free event.

We need your assistance with this effort. If your chapter has a connection with a local college or university, please consider contacting the institution to introduce this competition. Find more information on [AGA's website.](#)



News from National

AGA's 2007–2008 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign *We Have a Dream*



We have a dream at AGA, and you can help make it happen and be rewarded in Atlanta. We have a dream of a stronger, more visible Association with more power to help you achieve your professional dreams. Participate in the *We Have a Dream* campaign and become eligible for fantastic prizes, including AGA Dollars, Bose audio equipment, meeting registrations and getaways.

We invite each AGA member to recruit at least one new member in this year's recruitment campaign. Show your enthusiasm with firsthand accounts of how your AGA membership has been a great investment in your professional development and career. The excitement is contagious. AGA is on track to enjoy positive net growth for the third year in a row, and with your help we can do it.

Remember, EVERYONE who sponsors a new member is eligible for prizes and recognition in the *We Have a Dream* campaign. We encourage all of our members to get involved and be a sponsor during this campaign.



2008 PDC Hotel Now Accepting Reservations

It's time to look ahead to the 2008 PDC in Atlanta! Next year's conference will take place July 27 – 30 at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis.

Everyone attending the conference will be housed in this hotel; AGA's room block is now open. Be sure to mention that you are attending the AGA PDC when making your reservation.

Once again, AGA will be offering two hotel scholarships to each AGA chapter.

Chapter Challenge—Promote Government Accountability to the People and Earn Bonus Chapter Recognition Credits

AGA needs your help encouraging governments to produce and publish four-page Citizen-Centric Reports. The Citizen-Centric Reporting Initiative has become one of AGA's hallmark programs. The reports, designed to be visually appealing, provide understandable information to citizens about the performance and financial condition of the government as well as demographics and future challenges. The reports answer the question, "Are we better off today than we were last year?"

So far, AGA has assisted Virginia Beach, VA; Portland, OR; the state of Oregon; Saco, ME; and Maricopa County, AZ, with pilot reports. In addition, the District of Columbia has completed a report using tools provided by AGA for guidance. Other governments are showing strong interest in the initiative.

Tools Make It Easy - AGA has developed a Content Guidelines Template outlining what information should be included on each page as well as a Design Guidelines Template outlining the physical layout of the report.

Pilot Funding Available - The Sloan Foundation also believes in this initiative and has awarded a grant to AGA to help fund additional government entities to produce citizen-centric reports. Please contact Susan Fritzlen for more information about the possibility of becoming a pilot.



New England Regional News



The Maine Chapter of the National Association of Government Accountants serves government accounting professionals by providing quality education and fostering professional development and certification. Monthly meetings provide a chance for State of Maine and local government accounting employees to meet and network, discussing pertinent accounting and management issues.

2005 marked the 55th anniversary of the national AGA while the State of Maine Chapter will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2007. The Maine Chapter has nearly 150 members as of November 2006 with several members holding professional certifications such as CGFM, CPA, CIA and CFE.

Monthly lunchtime meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May of each year, featuring keynote speakers discussing timely topics.

Throughout the year, Maine AGA members perform several community service events, providing support to local children, veterans and homeless citizens.

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



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

Chapter Contact:

Michael Grip Jr., CGFM, CFE

Phone: 860.240.4271

E-mail: info@agahartford.com

New England Region Vice President Team

Jody L. Breton, CGFM
Regional Vice President
Jody.L.Breton@maine.gov

David A. LeBlanc, CGFM
Regional Vice President-Elect
dleblanc@doe.mass.edu

Julia P. Burns, CGFM
Immediate Past Regional Vice President
Julia.Burns@osc.state.ma.us

New England Regional Coordinators

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Regional Coordinator for Certification
Joseph.Valchuis@sao.state.ma.us

Jane Gustowski, CPA
Regional Coordinator for Chapter Development & Assistance
j_gustowski@mwcc.mass.edu

Walter Carlow, MBA
Regional Coordinator for Education
Walter.Carlow@maine.gov

Althea Harris
Regional Coordinator for Membership
althea.harris@maine.gov



New AGA Chapter in New England!

Boston AGA congratulates Chapter President Colette Cormier and everyone in the new Aroostook County Chapter.

This is AGA's 91'st chapter, based in Limestone, Maine. They are already off to a fantastic start with 33 members.

We welcome our northern neighbors to the AGA New England Family.





CEC Meeting Highlights

The Boston Chapter Executive Committee met on December 11, 2007. The following items were discussed.

- Final Preparation and details were made for our Holiday Luncheon at Maggiano’s Little Italy. All CEC members will donate an item for the raffle table. All attendees will be asked to bring a toy or item for Christmas in the City. The non member price was changed to \$25.
- The Training Committee is finalizing the speakers and locations for the Regional Professional Development Conference in March and Workshops in February and April.
- Discussions were held about gifts for members attending the Regional PDC
- The CGFM report was read and approved.
- The Treasurer’s report was read and approved.
- The Membership report was read and approved.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008.



Trivia Answer

The Erie Canal.

[The main supporter of the canal was New York Governor DeWitt Clinton]



Certified Government Financial Manager

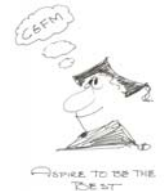
Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals.

More than 13,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand - the CGFM mark of excellence in your profession.

The Boston Chapter offers reimbursement scholarships to members that pass the exam on their first attempt.

Questions regarding the scholarships can be directed to :

Joseph Valchuis, CFE
 Chapter Director of Professional Certification
 Phone: 617-727-0025
 E-mail: joseph.valchuis@SAO.state.ma.us



Overheard this Holiday Season

An elderly woman was walking through the mall with her granddaughter.

After a while of walking by the stores and listening to the other shoppers, the woman said “It sounds like everyone just wants Blueberries and Pea Pods this Christmas”!

The granddaughter thought about this comment for a while and finally said, “Nana, do you mean Blackberrys and I Pods”?





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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agamembers@agacfm.org

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Mary T. Leyden, CGFM

Career Day Chair
Tel: 617-236-1630



Association of Government Accountants
Boston Chapter
c/o 17 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA

www.aga-boston-chapter.org

