

AG⁺A Northern Virginia Chapter NEWSLETTER

FALL '25 | ISSUE PY-25-26-2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear NOVAGA members,

As the vibrant colors of fall paint a beautiful landscape, we are reminded of the constant cycle of change and renewal. Just as the seasons change, we too are in a continuous state of transformation.

We are proud of the positive impact we continue to have in government financial management, driving meaningful change and fostering a culture of trust and integrity.

Beyond the Trail: Highlights from the Season for Engagement

This season, we are honored that the NOVAGA State and Local Government (SLG) Committee, under the trailblazing leadership of Chris Horton, hosted its

inaugural Virginia Election Debrief. This event brought together a panel of veteran politicians for a lively and informative discussion. Other highlights of our fall activities include:

- An interactive event where the Honorable Irving ("Irv") L. Dennis, CPA, provided an updated status on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's initiatives to enhance operational effectiveness.
- In the spirit of partnership, a collaborative membership gathering with the Washington D.C. and MPG sister chapters.
- An engaging discussion with Dr. Jennifer Miller, a recipient of the Presidential Award for Distinguished Service, on her path and rise in Public Service.
- A members' bike ride along the scenic Washington

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& Old Dominion (W&OD) trail and a Northern Virginia autumn foliage and wine networking tour.

A Time for Gratitude

The crisp autumn air reminds us that the holiday season is just around the corner. This is a time for gratitude, for celebrating with loved ones, and for looking forward to the opportunities that the new year will bring. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our AGA board and committee members for their invaluable contributions. I would also like to extend my warmest wishes to you and yours for a happy and healthy holiday season. Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Sincerely,

Irfan Satriadhi

President, 2025-2026 AGA Northern Virginia Chapter



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UPCOMING NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS

Our **chapter meetings** are held in person at the Washington Golf and Country Club, located at 3017 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA. Parking is free, and attendees receive 1 CPE credit. For additional details and to register, check your email and the chapter's website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Northern-Virginia-Chapter/TrainingEvents/Event-Calendar.aspx>. Also, check the Chapter's LinkedIn page for more information on chapter meeting events.

NOVAGA has several chapter meetings scheduled for this upcoming program year, with great speakers. To our speakers, we thank you so much for giving us your time, energy, and providing us with insight into some great topics.



1/16/26

Junior Achievement Finance Park

8:45 am - 1:20 pm (includes arrival/check-in, 1 hour training, working with students, & debrief) • 4099 Pickett Rd, Fairfax, VA, 22032 • Spots available: 18 • AGA will provide lunch

To sign up, you can create an account and register for an upcoming day reserved for the AGA's Northern Virginia Chapter.

SIGN UP & REGISTER

During signup, you'll be prompted to enter a company name/address. Please use either your company/agency or AGA there (AGA National's address is 2208 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301). The JA volunteer registration system will send you a confirmation email when you sign up, with the details including timing, location, and what to bring. You will also receive a reminder email in advance of your volunteer day.

Although AGA is organizing these events, you do not have to be an active AGA member to participate – so please share with any friends or colleagues that may be interested, and please let me know if you have any questions.

To get a feel for the JA Finance Park experience, please watch this short video – enjoy!

WATCH VIDEO

For more information about Junior Achievement of Greater Washington, please visit their website.

LEARN MORE ABOUT JA



UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS AND TRAININGS

1/14/26

AGA's 2026 ERM Workshop

Virtual Event | 5.5 CPEs

This event provides participants with practical insight from Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) leaders. The workshop includes presentations as well as facilitated table discussions, where we move from academic discussions to "how-to" explanations and examples. The small, facilitated groups enhances opportunities for both hands-on work and Q&A.

2026 AGA/AFERM ERM Workshop agenda planning is underway.

Registration and Fees – \$120 AGA Members and Non-AGA Members by November 14, 2025, early bird deadline.

LEARN MORE



2/18–2/19/26

AGA's 2026 National Leadership Training (NLT)

Hybrid (DC) | 14 CPEs

National Leadership Training (NLT) is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find new solutions to challenges, network with peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. This training offers up to 14 CPE hours.

Registration and Fees – \$575 AGA Members / \$750 Non-AGA Members by January 30, 2026, early bird deadline.

LEARN MORE



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UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS AND TRAININGS CONT'D

3/17/26

Technology and Transformation Summit (TTS)

Hybrid (DC) | 6 CPEs

This event brings together over 1,000 government leaders and industry experts to explore the transformation of mission delivery through IT innovation, workforce development, cybersecurity, and cloud technology. Now more than ever, digital transformation is essential to achieving efficient and effective mission outcomes across government! **TTS is FREE for AGA Members.**

LEARN MORE



SEE AGA'S WEBSITE FOR
ADDITIONAL TRAININGS AND EVENTS



UPCOMING AGA WEBINARS

Check out AGA's Training & Events page for upcoming Webinars on AGA's website. Webinars marked with an asterisk (*) are free members-only events; all others include a registration fee.

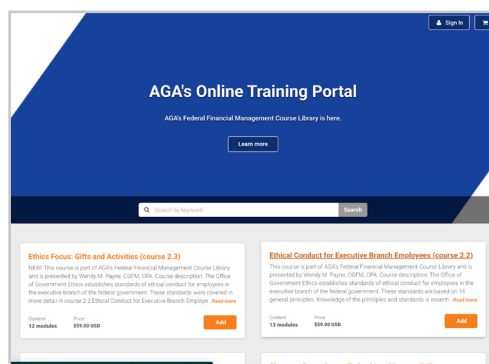
VIEW UPCOMING WEBINARS



AGA ONLINE TRAINING PORTAL

Check out AGA's Online Training Portal page for its Federal Financial Management Course Library contents. AGA's Federal Financial Management Course Library was developed and presented by Wendy Payne, former Executive Director of FASAB, and provides online, on-demand courses. For a nominal charge, AGA members can purchase any of the five courses currently available online.

ACCESS THE TRAINING PORTAL





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT LABIB DANGOL

Q1: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: Originally from Nepal, I lived in Yemen, Austria & India before moving to Lexington, Kentucky at age 15. After attending the University of Kentucky and starting my career at PwC, I began my 20+ year (and counting) Federal career, including roles with the Defense Finance Accounting Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense-Comptroller, and currently as Financial Accounting Operations Director at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Q2: What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?

A: My first job began in the hallowed halls of...Chuck E. Cheese. Yes, I braved the fur and sweat to become the Chuck E. mouse mascot himself, busting dance moves at birthday parties. Disaster struck one fateful day when, during a particularly enthusiastic rendition of the Chuck E. shuffle, my head DETACHED! Imagine the horror! Toddlers screamed, parents gasped, and my boss promptly showed me the door.

A child psychologist is probably still writing papers about that incident. The lesson? Keep your head on your shoulders. Also, I learned that I needed a job that involved less existential horror, so I went into accounting...a field where "losing" your head can still lead to major consequences, but usually just involves an audit!

Q3: How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?

A: I wanted to become a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and I quickly discovered AGA and became active with the AGA Indianapolis chapter. I got involved with recruiting new members and was recognized for that effort with a AGA coin presented to me by the Chapter president. I eventually moved to Washington DC and of course became involved with the local chapter there. During the pandemic, like a lot of folks, I flocked to the suburbs... and found my way to Virginia and recently joined the NOVA chapter!

Q4: How do you anticipate AGA will contribute in your career development?

A: It's all about who you know! I know the value of networking in the financial community, but I joined AGA not just for the potential career growth/networking aspect, but for the lasting friendships I have made over the years and hope to continue doing so.

Q5: Are there any membership benefits you are looking forward to?

A: I am looking forward to the social events! I recently did the AGA social bike ride, had a blast and met some great people! Looking forward to more of these social events...and of course the occasional CPE earning opportunities.

Q6: Do you have any advice for professionals in government?

A: These are trying times to be in government... but I still believe that working for the government and serving this great nation is a calling and I applaud all civil servants everywhere! Keep your head up, weather the storm and I will see you all on the other side 😊

Q7: What is something most people do not know about you?

A: I can speak 5 languages.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LIHONG GUO, CGFM, MBA

Q1: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: After graduating from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, I worked for several private companies (an insurance company, a bank, and a consulting firm) before joining the Department of Education about 19 years ago. My career has been centered on financial management. In private industry, I worked as a financial analyst handling pension retirement funds. In Department of Education, I perform oversight to ensure that grant recipients, such as the State and local Education Agencies, spend educational funds as intended to help students reach their educational goals.

Q2: What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?

A: My first professional job was a Pension Financial Analyst in Pan-American Life Insurance Company in New Orleans. I helped me set foot in the Pension Industry and learnt all the players and their roles. I later became a Pension Compliance Officer handling 401(k) plans in Wachovia bank's Pension Department in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Q3: How did you learn about AGA and what made you want to get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?

A: While working in Federal government, I was looking for a professional community in Federal Financial Management, and was introduced to AGA by a colleague.

Q4: How do you anticipate AGA will contribute in your career development?

A: With this ever-changing environment, we need some kind of one-stop shop for information to stay on top of what's going on in financial world of all levels of governments. I think AGA will play an essential role in this regard.

**Q5: Are there any membership benefits you are looking forward to?**

A: Networking opportunity is one.

Q6: Do you have any advice for professionals in government?

A: I will think about this.

Q7: What is something most people do not know about you?

A: I regularly practice yoga as a meditation tool.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT JASLIN CASTRO

Q1: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career.

A: I grew up in NYC and moved to Washington DC in 2023. Concurrently with earning a Master's degree in Public Accounting from Mercy University I worked as an assistant manager at a local auto machine shop in Harlem where I spent time developing my business skills and networking with small business owners. Both my parents are small business owners. I am currently an Audit associate at EY and studying to become a CPA. For fun, I like to read and travel to new places.

Q2: What was one of your first jobs and how did it shape your career?

A: My internship at KPMG Washington DC has shaped where I am now and has been very impactful to my career. It was great starting point and has introduced me to government accounting. From there I've shifted to EY and I am continuing to strengthen my skills in the public sector.

Q3: How did you learn about AGA and what made you get involved with the NOVAGA chapter?

A: As I started my role at EY, I wanted to get more involved in the networking and professional development opportunities that AGA provides. I began my involvement with AGA in Spring of 2024 and have met many amazing people which has led to lasting personal and professional connections.

Q4: What's been the best aspect with AGA with respect to your career development? Are there any membership benefits you have particularly enjoyed?

A: The best part of NOVAGA is the speakers at our monthly events who provide valuable insights into the government accounting industry. Additionally, the networking events are enjoyable! I'll never say no to good food, drinks, and chatting with others in the industry!

Q5: Why would you recommend AGA to someone with a career in government accountability?

A: It provides great opportunities to connect with other business professionals in the industry, a space to discuss important current event topics, and access to various resources such as Certifications programs (CGFM), as well as creating opportunities to connect with business professionals.

Q6: What is something most people do not know about you?

A: Something many people don't know is that I'm the first in my family with a master's degree and the first in my family to work in Public Accounting. It's been a meaningful journey for me and keeps me motivated to keep learning and growing.



NEW NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER MEMBERS

August 2025

Rosario Torres, Deisy Alvarez, St John Leck,
Kanokwan Pandaeng, Emilia Tebianian

September 2025

William Kaufman, Robert Klein, April Rhodes

October 2025

Zul Martinez, Anneli Connell, Shawna Hooke
Tracey Hopkins, Andy Rider, Jared Trusz

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ANNIVERSARIES – LIFETIME

Lifetime membership is bestowed upon individuals who have maintained active members status for at least 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. This means that as of today, NOVAGA's lifetime members have been active since at least 1981; in fact, NOVAGA has 36 lifetime members, with two that have been active since joining in 1965 – 58 years ago!

Our lifetime members have a combined 1,759 years of membership in AGA! Lifetime membership is bestowed upon individuals who have maintained active members status for at least 40 consecutive years, to recognize their distinguished service to AGA. This means that as of today, NOVAGA's lifetime members have been active since at least 1981; in fact, NOVAGA has 36 lifetime members, with two that have been active since joining in 1965 – 58 years ago! Our lifetime members have a combined 1,759 years of membership in AGA! Lifetime memberships are awarded each January, with the next slate of lifetime members to be awarded in early 2025. In January 2022, NOVAGA had three members attain lifetime status, bringing our total lifetime members to 36.

To all of our Lifetime Members, thank you for your continued support, and service to chapter, AGA. The NOVAGA Chapter recognizes congratulates chapter members on their milestone anniversaries from August 2025 through October 2025.

LIFETIME MEMBERS (40+ YEARS)

*Jackson W. Hufnagle
Thomas F. McCarty
B. Anthony Turner*

ANNIVERSARIES – CONTINUED

(25 YEARS)

*Courtney Filer
Estelle Tsay-Huang*

(20 YEARS)

Russell H. East

(15 YEARS)

*Robert Hoffman
David L. Jupiter
Gary Oswald
Carolyn Swanberry
Michael L. Wagner*

(10 YEARS)

*Mian S. Abdulrauf
Amy J. Boyles
Matthew L. Gyory
Ajay N. Rambhad
Robert A. Reigle
Angel Contreras*

(5 YEARS)

*Kevin Clark
Michael Crain
Jeremiah R. Hathorn
Ahmad Fahad Khawaja
Timothy B. Martin
Grace K. Milbank
Elisabeth M. Parker
Matthew J. Reeder
Robert Shea
Mark B. Stehmer
Marina Tersargyan
Joshua Williams
Nicole Scott*

(1 YEAR)

*Crystal Cecilia Jones
Martel Walker
Shahbaz Aftab
Feras Almoualem
Malwina Krystyna Derr
Christopher L.
Dickerson, Jr.
David Hendrix
Diana Huang
Alexander Kelley
Thomas Luong
Madhav Tummala*

**AGA NOVAGA NEWLY CREATED INSTAGRAM HANDLE!**

@AGANOVACHAPTER

Our AGA member Jaslin Madrigal Castro has created AGA NOVAGA Instagram Handle. Feel free to add, share and or contact Jaslin at Jaslin.S.Madrigal.Castro@ey.com to send anything you would like to add to our Instagram.

**AGA NOVAGA LINKEDIN PAGE**

Check the Chapter's LinkedIn page for more information on chapter meeting events.



IS YOUR AGA MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?

AGA's program year ends June 30th. Check your membership card or log into your AGA profile today to confirm your renewal date. If you haven't already renewed, consider doing so today!

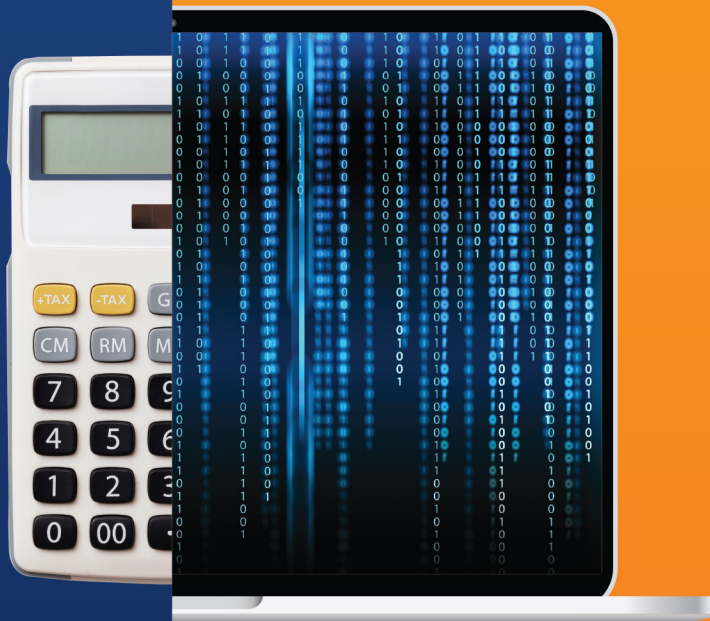
Your AGA membership gives you many benefits, including education and networking opportunities, discounts on chapter and national events, and access to many resources. In fact, each year, AGA members receive at least 14 hours of complementary training / CPE credit on a variety of topics – FOR FREE!

Membership in the NOVAGA chapter only increases this benefit! NOVAGA is one of 90+ AGA chapters nationwide and supports AGA's core values of service, accountability, integrity, and leadership. The NOVAGA chapter provides networking opportunities within and with other local chapters, CPE credit through chapter meetings and special events, and assists members in obtaining their CGFM® certification by offering study groups to its membership.

CHECK YOUR STATUS & RENEW TODAY ↗

AGA™ Northern Virginia Chapter

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The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM®) certification demonstrates competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state, and local levels. The CGFM® is unique because it not only encompasses a specialized focus on government financial management, but it also has broad coverage of various aspects of financial management at all levels of government.

NOVAGA recognizes and applauds our chapter members who have obtained their CGFM® certification since the last publication of the chapter's newsletter.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CGFM](#)

NEW CGFMs

Martel Walker
June 2025

Aaron Haile
June 2025

Mr. Jeffrey Ahn
August 2025

Mr. Thomas Daniel Coyne
September 2025

Melven Lundien
October 2025

CGFM CHANGES

New 2024 editions of the 3 CGFM study guides are now available!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Starting September 1, the CGFM examinations began following the updated content outlines.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The updated CGFM examinations are now in place (with immediate score reporting).

CGFM EVENTS

We held a CGFM Study Group on **November 6, 2025**, which covered state and local financial accounting and reporting. 11 attendees joined the event.

Please stay tuned for an upcoming CGFM Study Group on the final part of **Module 2 this winter!**

CGFM TIPS

Tip #1

Avoid cramming by studying a little each day.

Tip #2

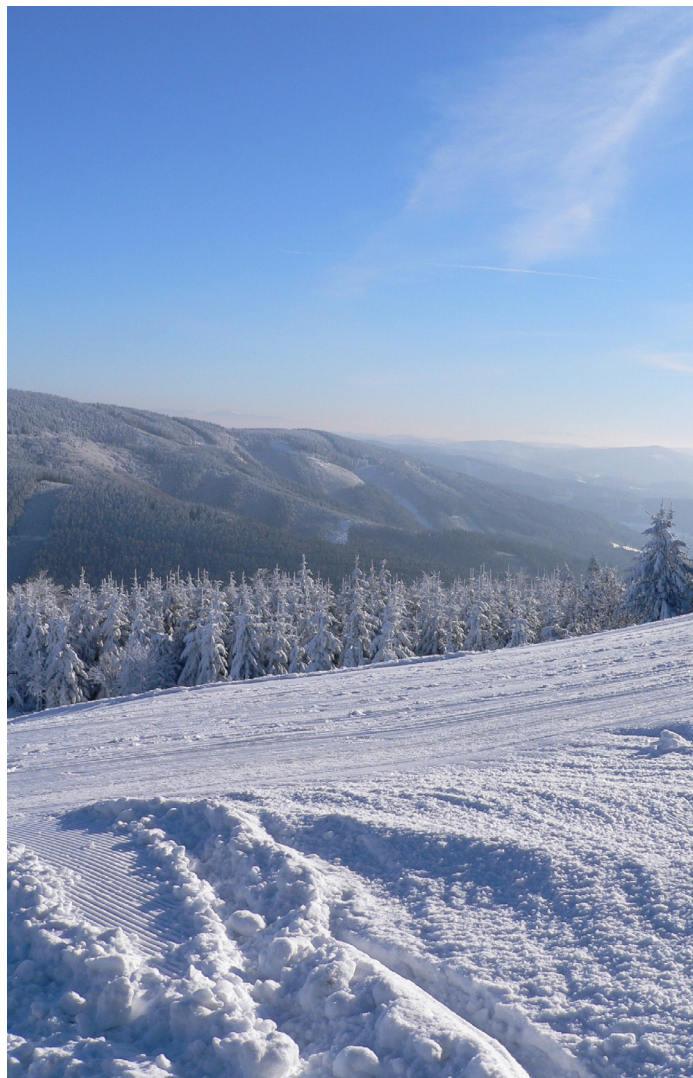
Reference AGA's exam content outline often.

EARLY CAREERS COMMITTEE NEWS

As we look ahead to winter, the Early Career Committee remains dedicated to helping you build genuine connections and make a meaningful impact within AGA. Through NOVAGA, there are always new opportunities—whether you're growing your network or learning alongside experienced leaders in both the public and private sectors, we're here to support your professional journey.

Our recent events brought fantastic energy to our group. The Young Professional evening at Topgolf National Harbor, hosted with the DC chapter, was a wonderful chance to relax, share some laughs, and enjoy a bit of friendly competition. We also came together for a memorable Bike & Brew tour on the W&OD Trail, where many of us gathered in Reston for a scenic twelve-mile ride with stops at three local breweries, enjoying the best of fall together.

Looking ahead, we'll continue organizing engaging ways to connect and get involved. Look out for an invite to a special AGA ski trip coming for January! If you have questions, want to lend a hand, or have ideas for future gatherings, please reach out to Rhett Raham (rraham@kpmg.com) or Dylan Gilbert (dygilbert@deloitte.com). Your involvement truly makes all the difference—stay tuned for more updates, and we look forward to seeing you at our next event!



NCC UPDATES

Hello all -

Jacob MacDonald here, your National Council of Chapters (NCC) representative and NOVA Chapter's Immediate Past President. The November 2025 National Council of Chapters meeting was very informative and engaging. I'm honored to represent our great chapter as the NCC representative, alongside AGA's other great chapters, as we collaborate with AGA National. The meeting first covered upcoming chapter deadlines - one occurring in December. The 2026 National Governing Board (NGB) is AGA's 17-member governing and oversight group, made up of volunteer member leaders. Additionally, we discussed the 2026 National Leadership Awards. The National Leadership Awards are presented annually at AGA's National Leadership Training (NLT). These awards recognize individuals for their contribution to the government financial management profession. Award nominations are due on 12/21/25, and awards are as follows:

- Elmer Staats Award (Federal)
- Distinguished Federal Leadership Award (Federal)
- Excellence in Government Leadership Award (State/Local)
- William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award (State)
- Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award (Local)
- Andy Barr Award (Private Sector)
- Private Sector Financial Excellence Award (Private Sector)
- Eleanor Clark Leadership Award (Public and Private)

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS HERE





All pictures taken during September Chapter Meeting.

PAST EVENTS

NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

We held our September Chapter in person meeting at the Washington Golf and Country Club, located at 3017 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA on **September 18, 2025**. We welcome back Honorable Irving ("Irv") L. Dennis with an updated status of the Department's initiatives to enhance operational effectiveness, streamline resources, and drive impactful reforms.

OCTOBER

We held our September Chapter in person meeting at the Washington Golf and Country Club, located at 3017 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA on **September 18, 2025**. We welcome back Honorable Irving ("Irv") L. Dennis with an updated status of the Department's initiatives to enhance operational effectiveness, streamline resources, and drive impactful reforms.

NOVEMBER

We held our September Chapter in person meeting at the Washington Golf and Country Club, located at 3017 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA on **September 18, 2025**. We welcome back Honorable Irving ("Irv") L. Dennis with an updated status of the Department's initiatives to enhance operational effectiveness, streamline resources, and drive impactful reforms.

BIKE & BREW

NoVA AGA young professionals enjoyed a morning biking along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail while enjoying some brews along the way. Biking a grand total of 12 miles while stopping by Lake Anne Brewery, Juicy Brewery, and Crooked Run Fermentation, we got our cardio in as well as our carbs!





PAST EVENTS CONT'D AGA MULTI CHAPTER PICNIC

Members of the AGA DMV Chapters joined us for our annual Multi-Chapter Picnic! They reconnect with colleagues, catch up with friends from other chapters, and make new connections in a casual and fun setting.



NOVAGA ANNUAL WINE TOUR

On Saturday, November 15th, 2025, NOVAGA members held its annual Fall Wine Tour. The group visited three local wineries/breweries in Loudon County. Members met at Courthouse Metro and took a charter bus to 8 Chains, Quattro Goombas, The Winery at Bull Run for a day of wine/beer tasting, food, and fellowship.





PAST EVENTS CONT'D

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The State and Local Government Committee of the AGA Northern Virginia chapter was proud to welcome Katie Cristol, Craig Fifer, and Clark Mercer to the beautiful Washington Golf and Country Club for a morning of rich insight into the short-term and mid-term future for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Northern Virginia, and the DC region.

Did you know that data centers make up 40% of the Loudoun County property tax base? I didn't either until our event. I also loved the poetic notion that in Northern Virginia we offer the entire world in a single zip code.

Thank you to AGA, especially Ann Ebberts for moderating the event, and Jonathan Stehle for

his support and assistance with conceptualizing the program. Thank you to all the sponsors who made this event possible, including CohnReznick; The Joachim Group; RMA Associates, LLC; Crowe; Castro & Company; and 2ndWave LLC. And thank you to all the people who came to attend, network, and learn at this First Annual event. I hope to see you next year!

Chris Horton
SLG Committee Chair

If you are interested in working with the SLG Committee please contact Chris Horton, SLG Committee Chair, at chorton@mgocpa.com. We would love to have you!



OFFICERS

President	Irfan Satriadhi
President-Elect	Kelsey Do
Immediate Past President	Jacob MacDonald
Secretary	Jasmine Trefzger
Treasurer	Kiera Murphy
NCC Representative	Jacob MacDonald

COMMITTEES

Accountability / Outreach	Brian Grega
Awards	Raymond Urias-Rivera
CGFM	Kevin Shers
Community Services	Diana Huang
Corporate Sponsorship	Chris Horton
Early Careers (Co-Chair)	Chad Willhite
Early Careers (Co-Chair)	Rhett Raham
Education	Kevin Love
Membership	Xiaolei Wang
Newsletter	Sonia Kessler / Nishit Kurani
Programs	Joseph Hungate
Special Events (Co-Chair)	Silas York
Special Events (Co-Chair)	Donna Canady
State and Local Government	Chris Horton
Webmaster	Zak Kennedy

SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to our corporate sponsors for supporting our Chapter and our members during this program year. Through your continued support, we can continue hold chapter meetings and CGFM® study groups, and other networking and membership events.

We are excited to announce a new initiative this year: a special discount for small businesses – Platinum, Gold, and Silver levels. We believe this will provide greater opportunities for diverse organizations to engage with our Chapter and contribute to our shared goals.

For information on becoming a corporate sponsor for the next program year (2026-2027), please contact the Corporate Sponsor Chair Chris Horton at c.horton@rmafed.com.

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The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (NOVAGA) is an association with members from the federal, state, local, public and private practices, with a mission statement to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability. We would love to hear from you! Feel free to email one of our board members directly, connect with us on LinkedIn, or check out our home page at agacgfm.org/Chapters/NOVAGA.



AGIATM
Northern Virginia
Chapter