

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter NEWSLETTER

WINTER '25-'26 | ISSUE PY-25-26-3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In an era of rapid technological advancement and evolving regulatory landscapes, our collective mission to uphold public trust through sound financial stewardship has never been more critical. The dedication to fiscal

integrity and public trust remains our cornerstone, even as we adapt to new challenges and embrace new opportunities. Amidst these changes, our commitment to the core principles of our profession—accountability, transparency, and stewardship—is more important than ever. The work you do every day is fundamental

to maintaining the public's confidence in government financial management.

As we welcome the new season, it's the perfect time to reflect on a successful winter. This past season was marked by professional growth through several valuable Continuing Professional Education opportunities. It was also, a great pleasure to connect with so many of you at our holiday party. To cap off the winter, we're excited to present the 2026 issue of our newsletter. We hope you find the articles insightful and wish you all a productive spring ahead.

Sincerely,

Irfan Satriadhi

President, 2025-2026 AGA Northern Virginia Chapter

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE (SLG) UPDATE

Save the date!

The SLG Committee will hold its next in-person networking and training session on Wednesday, May 20. This will be a breakfast event beginning at 8:15, with a panel presentation from 8:45 – 9:45 (1 CPE). The event will be held at 4201 Wilson Blvd in Arlington, which has plenty of parking and is located two blocks from the Ballston Metro station. The topic will be Capital Projects, which is a topic of continuing importance for states and localities. The SLG Committee will provide more information, including confirmed speakers, in a marketing push beginning in March. We will open registration around the beginning of April.

Looking ahead.

The SLG Committee plans for a virtual webinar in the August/September timeframe, and will have our Second Annual Virginia Election discussion in

November. Save the dates for those events will be available in time for the next newsletter.

Leadership opportunity.

We welcome new members of the SLG Committee. We want to find ways to provide value for state and local government practitioners and would particularly love to have representatives from state or local governments on the committee. The committee works on planning events, but also on looking for ways to better share the value of Northern Virginia Chapter of Association of Government Accountants (NOVAGA) and AGA with state and local government professionals. If you are interested in being on the committee, or have ideas for ways to reach out to state and local government practitioners, please contact Chris Horton, SLG Committee chair, at chorton@mgocpa.com.



UPCOMING NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETINGS & EVENTS

NOVAGA has several chapter meetings scheduled for this 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.

5/14

AGA Chapter Meeting (In Person)

Washington Golf & Country Club • 6–9pm

Details and registration link to follow.

5/20

NOVAGA State and Local Government Breakfast

4201 Wilson Blvd., 2nd Floor • 8:30–10am

Details and registration link to follow.

7/11

Annual NOVAGA Awards Gala

Washington Golf & Country Club • 6–9pm

Gala details and registration link to follow.

9/17

AGA Chapter Meeting (In Person)

Washington Golf & Country Club • 6–9pm

Details and registration link to follow.

Keeping Accountability on Track

PDT 2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (PDT) 2026 SCHOLARSHIP

We're excited to share an opportunity for your members to attend PDT 2026 through the **First-Time Attendee Scholarship**. We encourage you to promote this scholarship within your chapter and identify members who would benefit from attending PDT for the first time.

Scholarship Includes

- Complimentary PDT 2026 registration
- Four (4) nights of hotel accommodations (check-in Monday, July 20 through check-out Friday, July 24, 2026)

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a first-time PDT attendee
- Must be an active chapter member

[APPLY HERE](#)



Application Deadline: March 31, 2026

Notification: Five (5) winners will be notified in April 2026

Please note the scholarship is not transferable to another person or another training event.

We appreciate your support in sharing this opportunity with your members and encouraging strong candidates to apply. [Apply here.](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Best regards,

Dana Rodgers
Chapter Services Manager



UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS AND TRAININGS

3/17

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



SAVE THE DATE

7/21-7/23

Professional Development Training 2026 (PDT)

Hybrid (DC) | Up to 20 CPEs

PDT 2026 will bring together 3,000+ financial professionals in Washington, D.C. and online July 21-23, 2026, to explore cutting-edge strategies in government financial management. Earn up to 20 CPEs, engage with leaders in the profession, and discover solutions to boost government accountability, efficiency, and innovation.

LEARN MORE



SEE AGA'S WEBSITE FOR
ADDITIONAL TRAININGS AND EVENTS



Keeping Accountability on Track



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 (\$59 for AGA members and \$99 for non-AGA members).

[VIEW UPCOMING WEBINARS](#)

3/12

How to Maintain Your CGFM (FREE)

2:00-2:45pm

3/25

Process Intelligence

2:00-3:50pm • 2 CPEs

3/26

Strategies for Success for CGFM Candidates (FREE)

2:00-2:30pm

4/15

Ethics

2:00-3:50pm • 2 CPEs

4/22

Fraud and Data Analytics

2:00-3:50pm • 2 CPEs

4/30

Strategies for Success for CGFM Candidates (FREE)

2:00-2:30pm





UPCOMING AGA WEBINARS CONT'D

5/6

Risk Management

2:00–3:50pm • 2 CPEs

5/13

Members-Only Webinar

2:00–3:15pm • 1.5 CPEs

5/27

Leadership

2:00–3:50pm • 2 CPEs

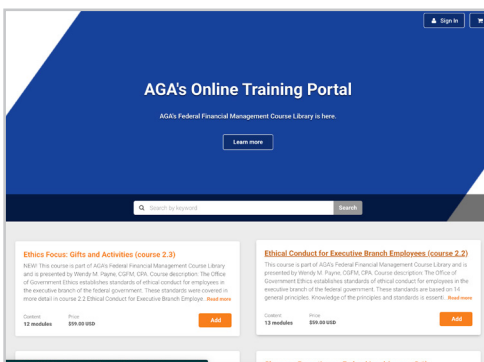
5/28

**Strategies for Success for CGFM
Candidates (FREE)**

2:00–2:30pm

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 ROSARIO TORRES

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

A: I was born and raised in New York City and started my public service journey by enlisting in the military right after high school. I had the opportunity to serve in both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army, and those experiences shaped my work ethic, resilience, and mission-first mindset that still guide how I lead today.

While on active duty, I began taking college classes and quickly discovered a passion for accounting and auditing. After leaving the military, I interned with a small CPA firm in Lawton, Oklahoma, and soon after entered federal service as an Army intern in the Internal Review Office at Fort Sill.

My government career has focused on improving accountability, internal controls, and audit quality across large and complex organizations. At the National Guard Bureau, I served first as a Senior Auditor and later as Branch Chief for the Internal Review Office. In that role, I helped lead the Audit Quality Control Program and provided oversight and guidance for the audit liaison function, audit follow-up, and the training and development of more than 300 auditors and analysts nationwide.

I later joined the U.S. House of Representatives Office of Inspector General (OIG), where I worked on performance audits aimed at improving operations

and strengthening stewardship of public resources. I then returned to the executive branch as a GS-15 and Assistant Inspector General for Auditing at the U.S. AbilityOne Commission OIG, where I was responsible for the full audit portfolio, including financial statement audits, Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 evaluations, and performance audits. During that time, I also earned my CPA license.

Today, I'm the Founder and CEO of RT3 Business Solutions, where I support government and nonprofit organizations in areas such as audit readiness, risk management, and internal controls. My first engagement as a business owner brought me full circle, working with the Army National Guard to advance audit remediation and Risk Management and Internal Control efforts nationwide.

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

A: One of my first roles was serving as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate in the U.S. Navy. That experience taught me how to operate in high-pressure environments, rely on a team, and stay focused on the mission no matter the circumstances. The Navy's core values, Honor, Courage, and Commitment, have stayed with me throughout my career and continue to shape how I lead, how I work with clients, and how I mentor others.

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

A: I first learned about AGA during a lunch conversation with a trusted colleague and fellow CPA when we were talking about the importance of building strong professional networks. He shared that the NOVAGA is a community of professionals who are passionate about government accountability, continuous learning, and sharing ideas. I joined that same evening!

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

A: AGA brings together professionals from across government and the private sector who share a strong commitment to accountability, transparency, and good stewardship of public resources. For me, it's a great opportunity to keep learning, exchange ideas with peers, and stay current on the issues and emerging risks that are shaping our profession. The training, events, and ongoing dialogue will help me continue to grow as both a practitioner and a leader. I'm also looking forward to giving back by sharing

Continued on Next Page ➤

ROSARIO TORRES CONT'D

perspectives from my experience in the military, the legislative and executive branches, and the Inspector General community.

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

A: I'm especially looking forward to the professional development opportunities, the CPE offerings, and the chance to connect with a network of professionals who are truly passionate about improving government operations. The NOVAGA chapter's events create a great space for meaningful conversations about emerging risks, audit innovation, internal controls, and data-driven oversight. I also value the opportunity to both mentor and learn from others, because strong professional communities are built on shared knowledge and a willingness to support one

another.

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

A: Look at challenges as opportunities to step up and make an impact. Some of the most rewarding roles are the ones others shy away from. Take the time to really understand your people, your stakeholders, and the mission you support. As your career grows, the shift from technical expert to leader is about providing clear purpose, direction, and motivation for your team. Stay open to new ideas, keep learning, and never lose that service mindset; those are the things that create lasting results. At the end of the day, it's all about making the organization better and helping the people around you succeed.

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

A: I am now, thanks to my little ones, an avid gamer. Minecraft is my jam!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT GIHO YANG

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

A: Hello! My name is Giho Yang and I currently live in Northern Virginia and work at Ginnie Mae (GNMA) in Federal Reporting. I am also part of the District of Columbia Army National Guard. I have a CPA and CGFM and have been working in the federal accounting/reporting area for about 9 years. Outside of work I enjoy hiking, camping, and going on road trips with my wife and two dogs.

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

A: First job was at a bank, and it really taught me how to be detail orientated through the mistakes I made. After that I became an auditor in the federal space and my career has been in federal area ever since.

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

A: I first heard of AGA when I wanted to get my CGFM but I got involved once I joined GNMA to network with fellow professionals in the government sector.

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

A: Through continuing professional educations and updates on trending new regulations and policies that will affect my sector.



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

A: To be honest I haven't really looked at membership benefits but that's something I plan on looking into.

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

A: Get your CGFM if you want to stay in federal accounting/reporting area. It helped me understand basic fundamentals of the federal reporting, accounting, and budgeting process.

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

A: That I practice Brazilian jiu jitsu for little over 3 years.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JASMINE TREFZGER

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

A: I took a somewhat unconventional path to where I am today. My background is heavily rooted in customer service, so when I decided to pivot into accounting and auditing, it definitely caught a few people by surprise. It was a big shift, and I knew I was stepping into something very different from what I was used to.

What I didn't expect, though, was how much my customer service experience would carry over into this field. Communication, problem-solving, and building relationships are just as important in auditing as they are in customer-facing roles. That realization made the transition feel not only manageable but exciting. I've really come to enjoy the challenge and constant learning that comes with being an auditor. Making that leap was one of the best decisions I've made, and it's been incredibly rewarding to see how all the pieces of my journey fit together.

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

A: My first official job was a lifeguard at my community pool in Miami Shores.

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

A: I just graduated with my BA in Accounting, and I learned about AGA after joining RMA as a staff Auditor. As someone just beginning my career, I really wanted to surround myself with people who understood the work and could share their experiences. Getting involved with the NOVAGA chapter felt like a great way to learn, grow, and build meaningful connections early on.

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

A: Being a part of AGA has already contributed to my career in so many ways. Through chapter meetings and serving on the NOVAGA board as Secretary, I've been able to connect with professionals who bring so much knowledge and real-world experience to the table. Those conversations have helped shape how I approach my work today and have given me a clearer picture of what my career path could look like. Being involved has pushed me to grow professionally and step outside of my comfort zone in the best way.

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

A: I always look forward to the chapter meetings. I really value the discussions and the chance to hear different perspectives. Every meeting feels like a chance to learn something new.

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

A: My biggest piece of advice is to get involved and connect with others. There's so much you can learn just by having conversations with people who have different experiences and backgrounds. The public sector is full of opportunities, but building relationships is what really helps you grow. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there; you never know where a conversation might lead.

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

A: Most people don't know that I'm not a fan of iced coffee.



NEW NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER MEMBERS

November 2025

Danny Lee, Amos Atibila, Marshall Blair,
Fadi Ghanem, Sunitha Ravi, Quineka Roberts,
Frederick Schad, Sedra Sediqi, Richard Sproull, Jr.

December 2025

Joshua Williams, Jennifer Minix, Roman Napoli

January 2026

Alaysha Drake, Khaled Alkurd, Nikita
Chandrasing, Mariam Debas, Lakshmi
Doodala, Habiba Etemady, Teresa Story,
Andy Yaro

February 2026

Khriss Corpuz, Kevin Mocknick, My Truong,
Robert Wancea, Sr.



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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 34 lifetime members, with two that have been active since joining in 1965– 61 years ago! Our lifetime members have a combined 1,709 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. Lifetime memberships are awarded each January, with the next slate of lifetime members to be awarded in early 2027. In January 2026, our total lifetime members rose to 34. 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 November 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026.

LIFETIME MEMBERS (40+ YEARS)

*David W. Bieritz
Dennis K. Black
Charles L. Cipolla
Geoffrey B. Frank
Edward C. Gillen
Richard L. Jackson
Charles J. Roy
Douglas R. Smith
Dale C. Williams
Shelton R. Young*

ANNIVERSARIES – CONTINUED

(30 YEARS)

Milton H. Hatcher
Michael B. Minnehan

(25 YEARS)

Mary Jo Rubino

(20 YEARS)

Susan P. Cash
Hillary W. Harms
Jacqueline Elizabeth Lynch
Wanda Scotland

(15 YEARS)

Steven P. March
Richard P. Armstrong
Helen Bae
Kathleen Bienick
Coleen Copen
Troy Alan Dewitt
William Matthew Fava
Kelley Grow
Bora Kim
Dan Lam
Christie A. Pugnetti

(15 YEARS CONT'D)

Tracy Schnarrs
Zelda Z. Woods

(10 YEARS)

James J. Canny
Brett O. Champion
Zachary P. Coho
Daniel A. D'Anglada
Lamonte M. Henderson
Joseph I. Hungate, III
Sarah Mirzakhani
Heather L. Rasmussen
James P. Richards
Ali R. Yousefi

(5 YEARS)

James Davila
Heather L. Dixey
Anna K. Elias
Adelaide A. Feukam-Reid
Miracle R. Hempel
Alejandro Lloreda
Erika McCormick
Jeremy Lk Miller
Lisa A. Mitchell

(5 YEARS)

Dakota T. Morris
Brian Rozental
Brian J. Sledz
Sara Smith
Bridget K. Tolan

(1 YEAR)

Brianna Matthews
Kevin J. Young
Thanh Hau Ly Thi Tran
Amy Coleman
Himadri Bhandari
David N. Beard
Kevin Bernard
Karla Gracias
Elena Hillenburg
Rasia Khan
Melven Lundien
Matthew Padgett
Sean Thomas Redd
Julisa Sanchez
Robert Sandidge
Sakib Tauhidul
Steven R. Brand
Hongkuan Liu
Mary Grace Hawley

**AGA NOVAGA 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.





CGFM CORNER

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.

NEW CGFMs

Amos Atibila
November 2025

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CGFM](#)

CGFM CHANGES

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

[LEARN MORE](#)

The CGFM examinations have begun following the updated content outlines.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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



CGFM EVENTS

Our CGFM Study Group on the final part of Module 2 is planned for **May 6th!** The registration link will be available soon.

March is CGFM Month! Celebrate, recognize and promote this valuable certification!



CGFM TIPS

Tip #1

For wordy questions underline the ask and practice identifying qualifiers (except, not, most, least) when studying.

Tip #2

Many wrong answers come from mixing concepts so focus some studying on the separations such as governmental funds versus government-wide statements.



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IS YOUR AGA MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?

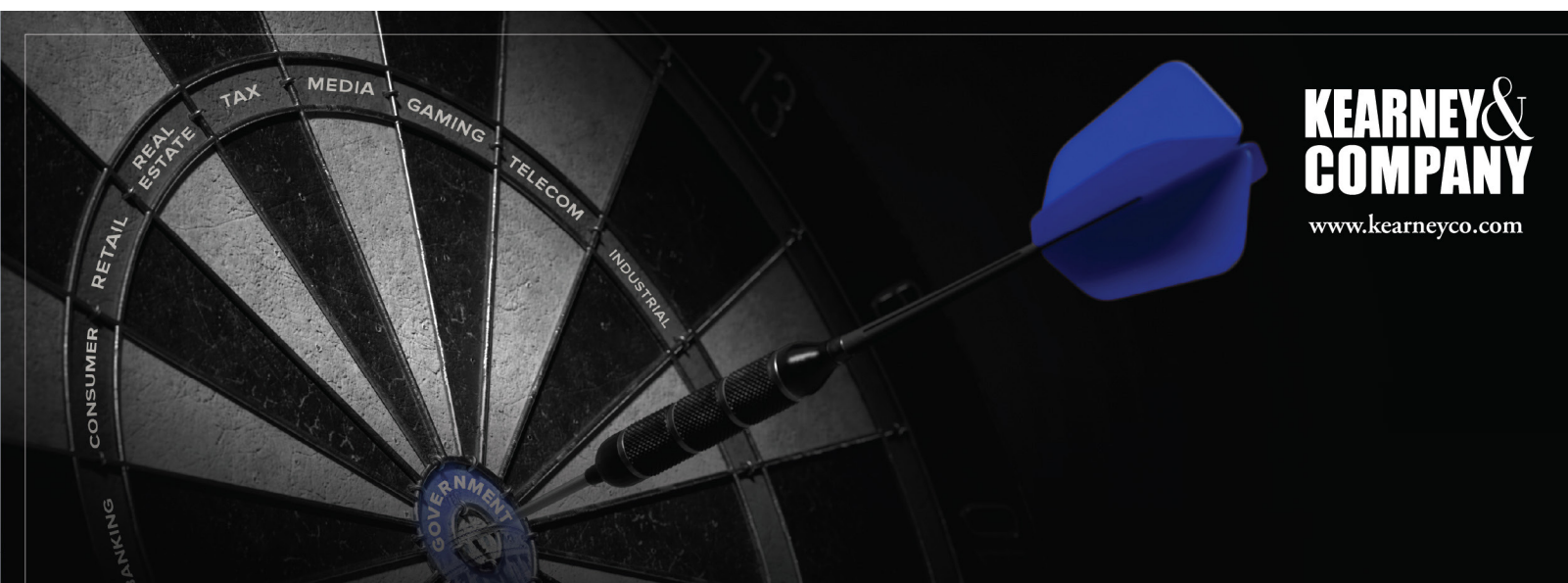
AGA's program year ends June 30th. Check your membership card or log into your AGA profile today to confirm your renewal date. If you haven't already renewed, consider doing so today!

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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PAST EVENTS

NOVAGA CHAPTER MEETING (FEBRUARY 12, 2026)

We held our February Chapter virtual meeting on **February 12, 2026**. Michael Helme, Tax Manager, Forvis Mazars shared insights on the 2025 Tax Update. This event was attended by 22 members, who earned a collected 25 hours of CPE.



NOVAGA HOLIDAY PARTY (DECEMBER 10, 2025)

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter hosted the 2025 Holiday Event at the Ragtime Restaurant on December 10, 2025. The evening was filled with holiday cheer, networking, good food and drinks, and ended with a fun white elephant gift exchange. Special thank you to our Sponsors RMA Associates, LLC and Kado Executive Operations. Your support is greatly appreciated.



PAST EVENTS CONT'D NOVAGA JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT EVENT (JANUARY 16, 2026)

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter hosted Junior Achievement Event that was an enjoyable event in which members were able to work together with the children in teaching them the importance of how to budget for the month with what they got. They learned how to balance their wants with their needs. One example was when one kid realized he could not

afford pants for his kid and needed to cut back on vacation time. Members realized how expensive kids can be on their budgets and found newfound appreciation for their parents. All in all, it was an enjoyable experience in which the kids could practice and learn how to manage their money in a fun activity.



NOVAGA SKI TRIP (FEBRUARY 21, 2026)

AGA Northern Virginia Chapter hosted a professional ski retreat designed to support connection, well-being, and collaboration in an inspiring alpine setting.

This experience brought together professionals for a balanced blend of outdoor activity and internal networking, offering a refreshing alternative to traditional professional events.

EARLY CAREERS COMMITTEE NEWS

As the snow thaws from our winter festivities, I am filled with gratitude for everyone who has been active in this season's events. We celebrated the holiday season at our holiday party at Ragtime, and hit the slopes together in the return of our annual ski trip. Looking forward, I am excited to close out the program year in style with more engaging events.

Synopsis of past events: Members of NOVAGA recently held a successful and enjoyable professional outing at Liberty Mountain Ski Resort. Attendees took advantage of the beautiful weather to enjoy the resort's slopes, fostering camaraderie and building professional connections in a scenic mountain setting. The event was further enhanced by good food and shared experiences, making it a memorable occasion for all who participated.

Preview of upcoming events: Celebrating winter with fellow NOVAGA members has been great - now as the weather gets warmer, look out for exciting events that capitalize on the great springtime weather in Northern Virginia, including an outdoor happy hour designed to bring members together, as well as the return of our popular biking event!

Rhett Raham

Early Career Co-Chair



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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CONTACT US

NOVAGA is an association with more than 900 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.



AG★ATM
Northern Virginia
Chapter