Meet Your Fellow AGA Member

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Q: How did you get involved in AGA?
A: After completing the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) designation as a CDFM-A, my formal Air Force mentor suggested pursuit of the CGFM at some point in the future. She was a CGFM, and I started to research AGA and the certification. Fascinated at the similarities, opportunity to hedge my bets for more government marketability, and exposure to another professional association, I got involved with Montgomery’s chapter and education committee while pursuing certification.

Q: Did you choose government financial management as your career path or how did you come to the profession?
A: In the final semester of my BAS in acquisitions and quality management, the economy was tanking, quickly. Job offers were providing less than I currently earned and little investment in employees to offset the monetary challenges. I knew acquisitions wasn’t what I wanted to get into, and, I was taking a financial and economic management course that most avoided (including me), but I came to really like it. Reluctantly, I let my BAS program director have my information to share with a local financial management PALACE Acquire recruiter for the Air Force. I met the standards, and the 15-minute info-session was enough to make me apply. I applied to several finance announcements with the warning to accept to the first offer or risk not getting another. After five or six months, I had an offer for a rapid promotion leadership program and went with it.

Q: What do you think is the most important issue in government financial management, today?
A: While I do believe auditability and transparency is very important, I’m increasingly alarmed at the fraud, waste and abuse issues of all government financial management. For some reason, financial managers understand other fields have little interest in learning about the balance sheets, status of funds, execution, legal limitations, etc., so, the power trips begin and so does the fraud, waste and abuse. This is occurring with monetary and human resources. The plague can be resolved, but several iterations of repair are required.

Q: How has the CGFM designation enhanced your career?
A: The knowledge alone has enhanced my career with different perspectives of government financial management that I can knowledgeably talk to. In interviews and engagements where the designations are recognized, individuals immediately acknowledge the extra mile demonstrated, in addition to the required elements of ethics, examinations, education and experience the designation entails. I’d also argue being a CGFM at an early age has helped offset the notion of being lazy, fixated on entitlements, inexperienced and lacking the expected acumen of a government financial management professional. While adequate recognition and familiarity with the designation is required, being a CGFM enhances my career in most environments.

Q: As a Young Professional PDT Scholarship recipient, how would you describe your recent experience at the PDT?
A: I had a wonderful and exhausting time. I met excellent people, got to positively contribute to attendee experiences, and had the fabulous hospitality of AGA taking very good care of us. The opportunity was an honor and privilege, inspiring me to hound mentees, mentors and many others to join — or at least check out — AGA. The scholarship allowed me to thoroughly experience AGA, one of the premier offerings of AGA, and build upon prior experience with the association ... all for the better. The PDT experience was a balanced blend of good times and solid professional education that I hope to have a chance to be involved with again.