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CONNECT WITH AGA GUAM CHAPTER



AGA Guam Chapter



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Hafa Adai fellow AGA members!

Thank you for taking the time to read through our monthly newsletter.



One of AGA's goals is to encourage the profession by reaching out to students in the accounting and business fields. Together with the Guam Society of CPAs (GSCPA) and Guam Chapter will be co-sponsoring International Accounting Day, which will be coordinated by the University of Guam (UOG) Junior Accountants Society (JAS) on November 15, 2019.

As a former JAS President, I found this to be a great opportunity to connect with students pursuing a career in accounting and full of questions on what to expect in the "real world". While the International Accounting Day event will cover two specific topics—Digitalization in Accounting and Professional Development, I saw how the Big Four Memes and some stories of real-life experiences they've heard were skewing the student's perception of work in public accounting. Having worked at a Big Four firms myself, I understood where they were coming from, but also explained that the experience will be what you make it to be. It was a lot of hard work, but you also learn a lot along the way.

JAS members, as well as other accounting students attend our meetings from time to time. I encourage you to reach out to them and share your experiences so their outlook will be more well-rounded. We also have a yearly mixer with the students in April, along with GSCPA. This is another opportunity to network with the students, share about your profession/company, and encourage them to stay the path.

This month, we will be awarding two UOG students for the Herminia Dierking Scholarship and two GCC students for the AGA Guam Chapter Scholarship. Candidates apply for the scholarship and write an essay, which is judged by a panel to determine the recipients. Please see our website for details on the scholarship and congratulations to the recipients!

The Citizen Centric Report (CCR) is an AGA initiative to help citizens better understand the services offered by the government and the costs associated with those services. Locally, the Guam Chapter helped to pass Guam's Public Law 30-127, related to the CCR reporting requirements. To acknowledge the efforts that the agencies put in, the Guam Chapter awards the Best CCR on a yearly basis.

During the November general membership meeting, we will award the Best CCR to the top three agencies, as well as acknowledging the agencies that have produced a CCR since the Public Law's inception. This year, students from Dr. Doreen Crisostomo's UOG class gathered the CCRs, generated the data and rated them based on the criteria for effective CCRs to determine the recipients for the awards. Additionally, Dr. Crisostomo will provide a presentation on producing an effective CCR.

As we lead into the holidays, starting with Thanksgiving, it is a great time to stop and reflect on what you are thankful for. Time flies by so quickly sometimes and we get caught up in the daily duties that we forget to enjoy the little things in life. What better time than now to count our many blessings.

Should you have any questions or are interested in a leadership role or joining a committee, please do not hesitate to contact any officer/director or myself. We are open to new ideas and constructive comments and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Debbie Ngata
President



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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NOVEMBER 2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, November 20, 2019

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Hilton Guam Resort & Spa

Koko Room

Best CCR Recipients and Herminia Dierking Scholarship Recipients will be recognized.

TOPIC:

Citizen Centric Reports Presentation

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Doreen Crisostomo, AGA Guam Chapter Accountability Director

DECEMBER 2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2019

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Hilton Guam Resort & Spa

Caffe Cino Private Dining Room

Annual Christmas Party

Please RSVP by December 16, 2019

The theme for our Christmas Party is Ugly Christmas Sweater Party! Join us for a celebration of Christmas cheer. Wear your craziest, most festive Ugly Christmas Sweater. Get ready to participate in games including our Murder Mystery Game and win some great prizes.

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS SOCIETY MEETING

On October 29, 2019, several Chapter Executive Committee members presented to the Junior Accountants Society about membership, scholarships, and CGFM.



MONTHLY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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OCTOBER 2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, October 23, 2019

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Hilton Guam Resort & Spa

Koko Room

TOPIC:

Guam Department of Education's Finances and High Risk Status

SPEAKERS:

GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez

One (1) CPE was provided to all attendees.

Presentation of the John Phillips Award

Prior to awarding this year's recipient, the officers presented the family of the late John Phillips with Chapter Executive Committee Resolution No. 01-2019, Relative to recognizing the late Mr. John M. Phillips for his contributions to the accounting and accountability industry on Guam and the Pacific Rim region; and to further express sincere condolences of the AGA Guam Chapter to the family of the late John M. Phillips on his passing.



The winner of the John M. Phillips award was Mr. Jon Fernandez, Superintendent of GDOE. Mr. Fernandez was recognized for his significant contributions to improving government services and operations, leadership in government programs, financial management, individual integrity, leadership in government accountability and the significant and continual progress made in improving Guam's public school system during his term as the Superintendent of Education.

Guam Department of Education's Finances and High Risk Status

GDOE's saving grace has been the stability of Federal funds as Congress was effective in protecting funds for Education. Federal funds include USDA funds for reimbursement for School meals; USD OE funds of about \$40M include formula grants; USD OE funds of about \$20M, which goes to paying a portion of leased schools; Health and Human Services funding supports the Head Start Program; USDOD funding from military coverage goes toward cafeteria equipment; USD OE Special Education funding of about \$30M goes to supplemental classrooms, instruction, and equipment.

In terms of making progress toward removing high risk and special conditions, Mr. Fernandez discussed GDOE's struggles as Guam is the first to be on high risk. For example, he gave a history of one of the last special conditions requiring the submissions of audit financial statements, which was consistently done. USD OE noted that GDOE met the condition, but will still keep the Special Condition active. In addition, voting representation may play a factor as there is no one that can be contacted in Congress to assist with the matter.

There were originally seven special conditions, and it was agreed that three could be removed. Another condition was met, but USD OE has decided to keep it as a special condition. There are a series of reviews and assessments moving forward. There have already been two visits and there is an aim to have the next visit early next year.



CGFM NEWS

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Maripaz N. Perez is the CGFM Director. Please contact her at mznperes@hotmail.com for any questions about the CGFM program and its initiatives.



CGFM EXAMINATION UPDATES

Question: What is different about the CGFM examinations administered in September and October 2019?

Answer: CGFM examinations administered in September and October 2019 (beta period) do not provide an immediate score (scores will be available by the end of December 2019).

CGFM examinations taken during this beta period will be offered at a discounted rate of \$100 per exam.

Question: If I pass one or two of the current CGFM exams prior to September 1, will I have to retake those exam(s) after the exam update?

Answer: No. As long as you pass all three CGFM exams within the same three-year eligibility period, it does not matter if you passed the current or the updated version of the exams. If you already passed one or two of the three CGFM exams prior to update, you only have to pass the remaining exam(s) after the update.

ALL ABOUT CGFM

Interested in attaining the CGFM Certification?

Your AGA Guam Chapter:

- ☆ Offers CGFM Scholarships to reimburse your registration and test fees when you pass the CGFM examination within your CGFM eligibility period.
- ☆ Offers CGFM review materials to members.
- ☆ Offers CGFM Exam Questions Scholarship to reimburse your purchase of the CGFM Practice Exam.
- ☆ Periodically provides CGFM preparation courses on Guam and also promote study groups to assist its members.



During the Chapter's October 2019 General Membership Meeting at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa Koko Room, the Director of the Certification Committee Maripaz Perez presented the CGFM Scholarship to Mercedes Poliarco of Guam Waterworks Authority. A check in the amount of \$382 was presented to her for passing the CGFM exams. She is the second CGFM for PY 2019-2020.

For any members or other individuals interested in pursuing their CGFM, the Certification committee held a Coffee Klatch in October 2019. Members shared personal milestones and shared very good study tips!. Thank you to those who attended!





COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Margie Francisco is the Community Service Director. Please contact her at Margie.Francisco@gu ey.com for any questions about AGA Guam Chapter Community Service events.



GET SMART ABOUT CREDIT

On October 11, 2019, the AGA Guam Chapter, in conjunction with the Bank of Guam, participated in the **Get Smart About Credit** event. AGA members volunteered to teach students how to budget, how to use credit cards responsibly, and raise their awareness in building a positive payment history.

Thank you to our AGA Guam Chapter volunteers!

☆ Julie Ambunan	DTT	☆ Marie Garcia	GDOE
☆ Shannon Bartonico	United	☆ Jason Katigbak	IP&E
☆ Justin Castro	GDOE	☆ Gladys Sazon	DTT
☆ Frances Danieli, CGFM	UOG	☆ Taling Taitano, CGFM	GDOE
☆ Jerricho Garcia	DTT		

UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS



**Guam Museum
Decorating**
Nov 23, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Help begin the Holiday Season by decorating the Guam Museum on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All decorations will be provided. Please dress comfortably.



**Salvation Army
Bell Ringing**
Dec 07, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Spread the Christmas Cheer by participating in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing on **Saturday, December 07, 2019** at the **GPO Ross Entrance** from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** We encourage you to dress in festive wear.



EDUCATION

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Rodalyn Gerardo is the Education Director. Please contact her at rodalyngerardo@yahoo.com for any questions about the Education program and its initiatives.

Education & Professional Development Plan

The AGA Guam Chapter provides numerous education and professional development opportunities to its members.

- ☆ **GOAL 1:** Education to help accountability professionals' meet CPE requirements.
- ☆ **GOAL 2:** Education to help individuals attain the skills to pass the CGFM exam.
- ☆ **GOAL 3:** Professional development to help all current and prospective members to obtain additional skills.
- ☆ **GOAL 4:** Provide awareness and marketing of educational events.

CPE OPPORTUNITIES



RETURNING IN 2020

MEMBERSHIP

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Jose Guevarra III is the Membership Director. Please contact him at jojo_guevarra@hotmail.com for any questions about your AGA membership.

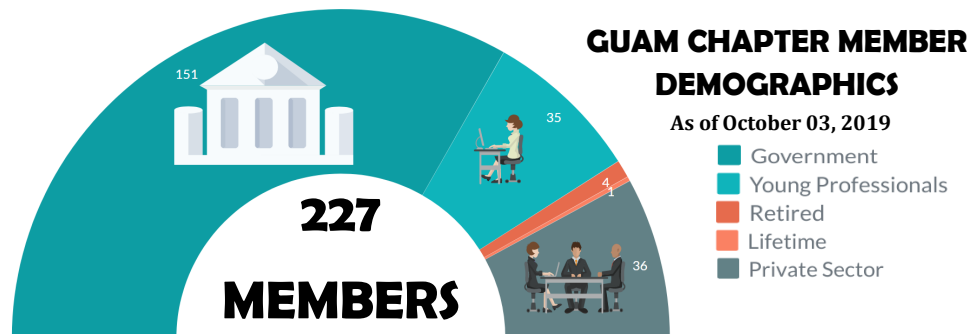
Membership Co-Directors:

Mary Grace Edrosa
mgedrosa@yahoo.com

Debbie Ngata
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The AGA Guam Chapter has over 200 member ranging from entry-level employees to senior executives and elected officials that work in places such as the local government, post-secondary educational institutions, federal agencies, public accounting firms, and private sector industries. Our membership is comprised of individuals from various disciplines including accounting, auditing, budgeting, finance, contract management, program management, grants management, academia, etc.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AGA GUAM CHAPTER MEMBERS CELEBRATING THEIR MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER!

Dr. Filomena Cantoria, CPA, UOG, 22 years
 Romana Blailes, Palua OPA, 21 years
 Satrunino Tewid, Palau OPA, 21 years
 Jowas Wasisang, Palau OPA, 21 years
 Rena Kloulechad, Palau OPA, 21 years
 Clariza Mae Roque, CGFM, Guam OPA, 10 years
 Dr. Artemio Hernandez, CGFM, GEDA, 9 years
 Caroline Senda, Deloitte, 9 years

Danielle Eclavea, Deloitte, 2 years
 Keith Elliott, CPA, EY, 2 years
 Elsa Flores, UOG, 2 years
 Albert Jose, GIAA, 2 years
 Danica Lagman, Deloitte, 2 years
 Michael Moreno, PDSC, 2 years
 Bennet Rupley, GIAA, 2 years
 Beatrice Sablan, GIAA, 2 years



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Pamela Aguigui is the Scholarship Director. Please contact her at paguigui@gpagwa.com for any questions about AGA Guam Chapter Scholarship initiatives.

For more information, refer to <https://www.aga.guam.net/scholarships>.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The AGA Guam Chapter provides academic scholarships for students who intend to pursue degrees in business administration or public administration disciplines. These scholarships are as follows:

Herminia Dierking Scholarship Program

This program is sponsored and funded jointly by the AGA Guam Chapter and Private Sector contributors in recognition of the achievements of the late Herminia H. Dierking, a Legislator, Educator, Humanitarian, AGA Guam Chapter Past President, AGA Pacific Rim Past Regional Vice President, and a past recipient of the AGA National Chapter Service award. This Scholarship is open to students who intend to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Finance and Economics, or Public Administration at the University of Guam).

AGA Guam Chapter Scholarships

This program is sponsored and funded jointly by AGA and Private Sector contributors in order to "Advance Government Accountability" and transparency in all accountability professionals from Accounting Technicians to Accountants. This Scholarship is open to students who intend to pursue an Associate's Degree in Accounting at the Guam Community College.

For additional information, refer to: <https://www.aga.guam.net/scholarships>.





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MISSION

*Advancing
Government
Accountability*

GOALS

To serve professionals in the government financial management community by:

- ☆ Providing quality education;
- ☆ Fostering professional development certification; and
- ☆ Supporting standards and research to advance government accountability.

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