



AGA®

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# GUAM CHAPTER

Newsletter

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December 2017

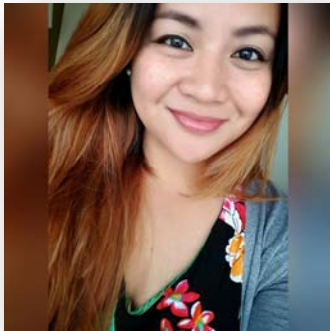


# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CLARIZA MAE ROQUE



**H**appy Holiday Season fellow AGA members!



It is the most wonderful time of the year! I hope that this holiday season finds you comfy, cozy, happy and well. It's the time to reflect and give thanks for the great things and events in our lives. We are now halfway through our awesome program year. I want to express my personal gratitude for the effort and extra time our Chapter Executive Committee has put into this program year. Also, very thankful for your continued support. Cheers to all of you!

The past three months were busy, informative, and engaging from our guest speakers to our Community Service events to supporting our Chapter initiatives.



A special thanks to our September, October, and November guest speakers for their time and energy to share their knowledge and experiences with our members to provide added value and benefit in being an AGA member.

Special thanks to our members for their commitment to our efforts to give back to the community whether by donations or volunteering their time.

One of our chapter's initiatives has been to encourage our members to become a Certified Gov-



ernment Financial Manager. In September 2017, 34 participants completed a 6-day AGA CGFM Review Course instructed by Mr. John Herko. Our chapter also offered a CGFM mentorship program with current CGFMs who are motivating and advising our future CGFMs as they pursue their path to CGFM. I'm happy to hear that a number of our participants have passed parts of the CGFM exam and are on their way to full certification. Special thanks to our Professional Certification Director Jojo Guevara, Co-Director Maripaz Perez, Education Director Rodalyn Gerardo, and our CGFM Review Course Planning Committee for a successful event!

Congratulations to the 34<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, the recipient of the 2017 Professor John M. Phillips Excellence in Government Accountability Award. A special thanks

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CLARIZA MAE ROQUE

to Program Director Vincent Duenas for his continued commitment in organizing and coordinating this award.

The Scholarship Committee led by Scholarship Director Pamela Aguigui presented three Herminia Dierking Scholarships to UOG students and one AGA Guam Chapter Scholarship to a GCC student. Con-



gratulations to Elise Calvo, Flori-Anne Dela Cruz, Clayton Okada, and Rosa Pugay! Special thanks to Pam and her committee for all their hard work and meeting our program year goal to offer four academic scholarships.

The AGA Guam Chapter Citizen-Centric Report was released thanks to Accountability Director Doreen Crisostomo. Additionally, the Accountability Committee launched its Best FY 2016 Citizen-Centric Report Contest and the winners will be announced before the end of December and awarded during our January meeting. All Government of Guam agencies that have completed CCRs and have met all the CCR requirements were considered in this contest.

December's general membership meeting is our annual Christmas Party with games, prizes, and our annual Christmas Charity Raffle. Thank you to the Junior Accountants Society for co-hosting this event. We

hope you can join us for the Christmas fun!

As the New Year approaches, we take the time to reflect upon our accomplishments and aspirations. We look forward to 2018 as our chapter continues with more planned events and trainings to be announced as they are developed. This includes our annual 5K (on June 30, 2018) and our biennial Guam Professional Development Conference.

May you have a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring positive change, joy, success and prosperity to you and your family!



## Upcoming AGA Events

### **Cybersecurity Training**

Rommel Hidalgo, the University of Guam's Chief Information Officer will discuss cybersecurity on February 2, 2018 at the University of Guam.

### **CGFM Month**

Celebrate CGFM month in March to recognize CGFMs and the CGFM program.



# Membership Meetings



## December General Membership Meeting

**Wednesday, December 20, 2017**

11:30pm—1:00pm

### LOCATION

Hilton Guam Resort & Spa  
The Gallery

AGA Members - \$15

Junior Accountants Society &  
Association of Junior Accountants  
Members - \$10

Non-Members - \$25



## AGA Guam Chapter Annual Christmas Party

Celebrate Christmas goodwill and cheer with your fellow AGA members and guests. The Junior Accountants Society will host this year's lunchtime festivities with fun and games. Join us for a chance to win some great prizes!

## Christmas Charity Raffle

Raffle tickets will be sold at the meeting for \$2 each. The proceeds will be for newspaper subscriptions for schools. The grand prize is an ASUS laptop with Microsoft Office.



### Mission

- AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

### Vision

- AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



<http://aga.guam.net>

<http://www.facebook.com/agaguamchapter/>



# General Membership Meeting

September 2017



The AGA Guam Chapter issued its 2016-2017 Citizen-Centric Report in September. The CCR was prepared by Dr. Doreen Crisostomo, Accountability Director.

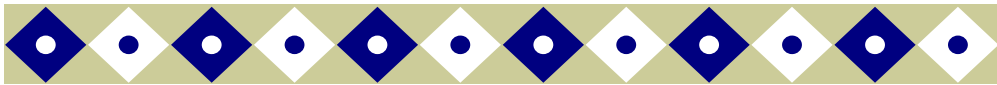


**G**eorge Charfauros, Jr., the Guam Department of Homeland Security Advisor spoke to the membership about the “Defense Against the North Korea Threat.” He offered information about the types of missiles and how his department is assessing those threats to Guam.

Mr. Charfauros served in the Marine Corps, U.S. Army Reserves and the Guam National Guard. He received his BA in History and Philosophy Magna Cum Laude from the University of Guam in 1989 and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2001.



The AGA Guam Chapter Annual Report of Accomplishments and Service to Members was issued and submitted to AGA National Chapter Services Manager in September 2017.



# General Membership Meeting

September 2017

The Professor John M. Phillips Excellence in Government Accountability Award recognizes government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management.

As one of the AGA Guam Chapter founders, Professor Phillips has selflessly dedicated his career to AGA and the accounting profession. His tenure at the University of Guam, his tireless involvement and dedication as an AGA member, and his service overall in the accounting profession has earned him the reputation of Guam's "Godfather of Accounting."

The AGA Guam Chapter recognized the **Honorable Benjamin J. F. Cruz, Speaker of the 34th Guam Legislature** with the 2017 Professor John M. Phillips Excellence in Government Accountability for his over forty-years of public service, demonstrating an abiding commitment to fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and Guam's working families.



L-R: Yuka Hechanova, Speaker Cruz, Kathleen Phillips Aguon, Sean Phillips, Clariza Roque

## Past Recipients

- 2016: Robert J. Torres, Chief Justice, Unified Courts of Guam
- 2015: Taling M. Taitano, CPA, CGFM, Deputy Superintendent, Department of Education
- 2014: Vicente "ben" C. Pangelinan (Posthumous), Senator and Former Speaker, Guam Legislature
- 2013: Mary A. Y. Okada, Ed.D, President, Guam Community College
- 2012: Doris Flores Brooks, CPA, CGFM, Public Auditor, Office of Public Accountability

"Throughout his career in public service, Speaker Cruz has consistently fought to make government more accountable to the people of Guam, according to Vincent Duenas, awards and programs director before presenting the award."

# General Membership Meeting

October 2017

Former U.S. Attorney, Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and former Attorney General of Guam **Alicia A. G. Limtiaco**, spoke to the membership about Awareness and Prevention of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse of Grant Funds.

Ms. Limtiaco is the first woman to serve as United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. She was nominated by President Barack Obama in 2010 and served until March 2017.



 **AGA**  
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## *AGA Guam Chapter Scholarship*



## *Herminia Dierking Scholarship*

The AGA Guam Chapter awarded academic scholarships to four students pursuing degrees in business administration or public administration. Three students from the University of Guam were each awarded \$1,500 for the Herminia Dierking scholarship. They are: **Flori-Anne Dela Cruz, Clayton Okada, and Rosa Pugay.**

*Congratulations!*

**Elise Calvo**, a Guam Community College student was awarded \$1,000 for the AGA Guam Chapter Scholarship.



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 2017

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uest speaker **Gary A. Hiles**, Chief Economist at the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, discussed the Guam Economic Outlook for 2018. His presentation included a review of economic indicators, major civilian projects, and employment statistics as well as other topics.



Guam Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Summary Employment Indicators

Employment	Sep 2016	Dec 2016	Mar 2017	Jun 2017	Sep 2017	Percent Change (One Year)
Private Sector	47,520	47,850	47,650	46,800	47,190	-0.65%
Federal Government	3,900	3,960	3,950	3,910	3,910	0.26%
Government of Guam	11,720	11,600	11,700	10,790	11,620	-0.85%
Total Employment	63,140	63,410	63,300	61,500	62,720	-0.67%



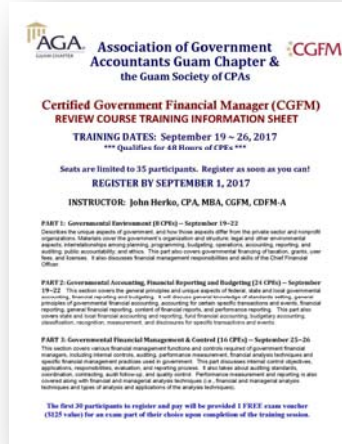
Happy Thanksgiving

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# CGFM News



Thirty-four participants completed the 6-day AGA Certified Government Financial Manager Review Course as instructed by Mr. John Herko from September 19 to 26, 2017. Good luck to the participants as they pursue their path to CGFM!



Jojo is the CGFM Director. Please contact him at [jojo\\_guevara@hotmail.com](mailto:jojo_guevara@hotmail.com) for any questions about the CGFM program.

**JOJO GUEVARA**



## The Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government

The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers.

### 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 one (1) year.
- ☆ Offers CGFM review materials to members.
- ☆ Periodically provides CGFM preparation courses on Guam and also promote study groups to assist its members.

### Maintaining CGFM Certification

CGFMs must adhere to the AGA's Code of Ethics, renew the designation annually, and complete 80 hours of applicable continuing professional education every two years.

Public Law 33-18 provides a 10% pay differential for certain Government of Guam employees who hold the CGFM and work for

- ☆ A line agency,
- ☆ The Office of Public Accountability,
- ☆ The University of Guam, or
- ☆ The Guam Department of Education.

*The law also provides a pay differential for Certified Internal Auditors, Fraud Examiners, and Certified Public Accountants.*



# Member Anniversaries



**H**appy Anniversary to the AGA Guam Chapter members celebrating their membership anniversaries in September, October, & November 2017!!



Debbie is the Membership Director. Please contact her at [Debbie.Ngata@gu.ey.com](mailto:Debbie.Ngata@gu.ey.com) for any questions about your AGA membership.

DEBBIE NGATA

## September 2017

- John M. Phillips, CPA, 47 years
- Lee H. Vensel, Deloitte, 18 years
- Yukari B. Hechanova, OPA, 16 years
- Deborah Hartzler, Deloitte, 13 years
- Joy V. Bulatao, GDOE, 8 years
- Debbie M. Ngata, E&Y, 8 years
- Anna Rizza B. Savares, Deloitte, 8 years
- Alfred Delos Reyes, Deloitte, 7 years
- Josephine C. Mendoza, Deloitte, 7 years
- Pamela T. Pineda, Deloitte, 7 years
- Alma M. To, Deloitte, 7 years
- Adelia San Nicolas, Accountant, 6 years
- Ritzmar Erni, Calvo's, 1 year
- Armi Lynn Lujan, DOA, 1 year
- Alexa Navarro, DOA, 1 year
- Andrew Quinata, DOA, 1 year
- Melissa San Nicolas, DOA, 1 year



## OCTOBER 2017

- Filomena Cantoria, CPA, 21 years
- Satrunino Tewid, Palau OPA, 19 years
- Romana Blailes, Palau OPA, 19 years
- Rena Kloulechad, Palau OPA, 19 years
- Jowas Wasisang, Palau OPA, 19 years
- Joseph Claveria, GWA, 10 years
- Clariza Mae Roque, OPA, 9 years
- Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Guam Legislature OFB, 7 years
- Caroline Senda, Deloitte, 7 years
- Kunn Ryu, E&Y, 1 year



## November 2017

- Todd Smith, Deloitte, 27 years
- Matthew Quinata, BBMR, 25 years
- Deanna Gilmar, UOG, 17 years
- Michael Cabral, DOA, 16 years
- Cheryl San Nicolas, GCC, 8 years
- Janet Dirige, UOG, 6 years
- Josephine Muescan, UOG, 6 years
- Reginald Diaz, UOG, 4 years



# Community Service News



In September, AGA Guam participated in the **23rd Guam International Coastal Clean-Up** at the Adelup shore. Volunteers received a t-shirt and discounts at Underwater World and Sea Grill Restaurant.



FRANCES DANIELI

Frances is the Community Service Director. Please contact her at francesdanieli@gmail.com for any questions about AGA community service events.



**You will earn community service credit for volunteering and may qualify for the raffle to attend the AGA National Professional Development Training in July 2018, in the beautiful city of Orlando.**



**Stay tuned for dates and details for upcoming AGA Community Service Events.**

# Community Service News



In October 2017, AGA volunteers participated in the **15th Annual Get Smart About Credit Day** with the Bank of Guam and ANZ Bank as part of an on-going effort to teach the local community how to effectively use credit.



The volunteers reached out to students at George Washington Senior High School about how to budget, how to use credit cards responsibly, and raise their awareness in building a positive payment history.



FRANCES DANIELI

Frances is the Community Service Director. Please contact her at francesdanieli@gmail.com for any questions about AGA community service events.

**I**n November, AGA volunteered to host a luncheon for the homeless at Guma San Jose.



Guma San Jose is a Catholic Social Service program that serves the needs of Guam's elderly, abused, homeless, and persons with disabilities.

and persons with disabilities.



**You will earn community service credit for volunteering and may qualify for the raffle to attend the AGA National Professional Development Training in July 2018, in the beautiful city of Orlando.**




**Stay tuned for dates and details for upcoming AGA Community Service Events.**

# Your AGA Guam Chapter



## Chapter Officers



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## Chapter Executive Committee

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Programs/Technical Meetings Director  
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