



## Quarterly Newsletter

### Charleston PDT 2025

This year's Professional Development Training (PDT) was one of our most successful events to date. We had an amazing turnout, with attendees representing local, state, and federal government, along with professionals from the private sector. It was a packed day of learning, networking, and idea-sharing. We could not be prouder of how it all came together.

The day began with insights on leadership and adaptability during government transitions from Department of State Managing Director Joan Lugo, followed by Brian Stauffer's session on strategic sourcing and the role of Treasury-approved cloud services in financial management. Melinda Gravizi shared best practices in ISO 9001 standards and auditing. We were honored to have AGA CEO Ann Ebberts join us alongside Dr. Chris Holdorf to engage students on careers in accounting. Dr. John Egan energized attendees with an interactive session on high-functioning teams. Darryl Brown highlighted the regional economic impact of military initiatives. The day closed with a dynamic presentation by Farba Mbow and Paul Bloss on how automation is transforming financial IT operations.

We're so grateful to our speakers, volunteers, and attendees who made this year's PDT such a success. And of course, a big thank you to our sponsors! Your continued support allows us to host meaningful, high-impact events like this one. Everyone is already looking forward to what next year's PDT will bring!

### Upcoming Events

WEBINAR: LEADERSHIP  
GUIDING TEAMS THROUGH  
UNCERTAINTY- 2 CPES  
MAY 28

AGA/AFERM ERM  
WORKSHOP-5.5 CPES  
JUNE 4

AGA'S 2025 PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING  
VIRTUAL 14 CPES  
JULY 28-29

INTERNAL CONTROL & FRAUD  
PREVENTION TRAINING  
14 CPES  
SEPT 24-25

AGA TRAINING PORTAL  
CPES VARY WITH COURSE  
SELECTIONS

# A Look Back at the 2025 Charleston PDT



## Community Corner

As we close out another program year, the Volunteering Committee is proud to reflect on an incredible season of service and connection throughout the Charleston Metro area. Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers, we successfully hosted multiple community events that made a meaningful difference — both through hands-on engagement and impactful monetary contributions.

From local clean-ups and food drives to fundraising efforts and support for vital nonprofits, our chapter has truly embraced the spirit of giving back. Each event has strengthened our ties to the community and reminded us of the power we have when we come together in service.

Our chapter is beyond excited to keep this momentum moving forward.

We're already planning new ways to expand our reach and deepen our impact in the months ahead. Whether it's rolling up our sleeves for a project or helping to fund essential resources, we're committed to making a lasting difference.

Keep an eye out for more fun, fulfilling community service events and opportunities coming soon! We can't wait to see even more of you getting involved as we continue to grow and serve with purpose.



# Events and Education Update

Over the past 3 months, the Meetings & Events and Education Committees have been hard at work supporting the PDT in March and creating additional opportunities for learning and community building.

Through our partnership with the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, we hosted a Chapter-Wide Meeting and Lunch & Learn on May 1 highlighting the Chamber's work in the Charleston Metro Area, as well as opportunities for professional development offered through the Chamber.

We can't wait for our next Lunch & Learn slated for July. We are hopeful to be able to offer CPEs for our CGFMs and others needing credit hours at this event and others going forward. Stay tuned for more information and event details!

We also hosted an End-of-Year Celebration at Holy City Brewing on May 15, where we were able to connect in person and reflect on the 2024-2025 program year's successes. We had a wonderful afternoon of snacks, drinks, swag, and networking. Be on the lookout for another in-person gathering in August.

If you have suggestions for learning opportunities or other event ideas, please reach out to Ned Forney, Education Committee Chair ([ForneyP@state.gov](mailto:ForneyP@state.gov)) and/or Laura Vanadore, Meetings & Events Committee Chair ([lvadore@agacharleston.org](mailto:lvadore@agacharleston.org)). We are always looking for new ways to learn and celebrate together! Cheers, AGA Charleston!

## Message from the President

VICTORIA CLARK, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

As we wrap up this program year, I'm feeling incredibly proud and grateful for everything we've accomplished together. It has been a busy year of volunteering, developing and networking.

We also took some big steps forward. Joining the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce helped us expand our reach and connect with professionals we might not have met otherwise, and our Lunch and Learns were a great way to share knowledge, spark conversations, and grow both personally and professionally.

None of it would have happened without our amazing Chapter Executive Committee. Every single one of you brought energy, ideas, and follow-through. Whether it was planning events,

organizing logistics, or coming up with creative ways to engage our members, you helped make this year a success. Thank you for your hard work and commitment.

To our sponsors, thank you for your continued support. Because of you, we're able to offer meaningful programming and keep moving our mission forward.

Looking ahead, I'm genuinely excited for what's next. We've got a strong foundation and momentum to carry us into another great year, filled with fresh ideas, new partnerships, and more ways to learn, lead, and serve. Thank you all for making this year one to remember. I can't wait to see what we do next.



# Wanting to Get More Involved?

## Join a Chapter Committee

Are you interested in getting more involved with chapter activities in the upcoming program year? We're currently looking for members to join or chair one of our Chapter Executive Committees (CEC).

This is a great opportunity to put your skills and connections to work, not only to support AGA Charleston's mission, but also to grow professionally and make meaningful contributions to our community.

Whether you're passionate about planning trainings and conferences, helping others earn their CGFM, or spreading the word about what we do, there's a place for you! We also welcome members who enjoy hosting events, engaging new and current members, giving back to the community, or helping us stay on track financially.

No matter your interest or skill set and your involvement can make a big difference!

We are looking for committee members and chairs. Whether you have several interests, or one specific area, your talents will be invaluable. It is our goal to ensure that all members feel included, supported, and heard. These committees help to make that possible.

If you are interested and would like additional information on any or all of the ways you can get involved with AGA, please reach out to Victoria Clark ([clarkvc@state.gov](mailto:clarkvc@state.gov)) and Casey Szegi ([SzegiCJ@state.gov](mailto:SzegiCJ@state.gov)). We would love to connect with you and find out more about your interests and help you to get involved with the Chapter.

## Networking Happy Hour



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