



Quarterly Newsletter

Learning From Challenge and Change

Victoria Clark, Immediate Past President

Over the past few months, many of us have felt the weight of uncertainty more than ever. Between layoffs, budget constraints, funding delays, and the lingering effects of the government shutdown, it can feel like the ground is shifting beneath our feet. In moments like these, it is natural to feel discouraged. It is also in these moments that resilience becomes more than just a word. It becomes a choice.

When I was younger, I worked at Best Buy, and one of their core values has stayed with me to this day: learn from challenge and change. At the time, I did not realize how powerful that mindset would be. Challenges do not always arrive with a clear solution, and sometimes they feel impossible. But growth often begins in those moments, when we decide to keep moving, keep learning, and take something meaningful from the experience.

Progress rarely happens in calm waters. It comes when life is uncertain, when plans fall apart, and when we choose to stand back up and try again. Resilience is built one decision at a time. Keep showing up. Keep learning. And when you can, lift someone else up along the way.

We may not have all the answers or certainty about what comes next, but that does not mean we are standing still. Even in uncertain times, there is room to grow, to learn, and to become stronger than before. It may not always feel easy or inspiring in the moment, but progress still happens, sometimes quietly, in the way we keep going and support one another.

Upcoming Events

FREE MEMBERS-ONLY
WEBINAR - 1.5 CPES
DECEMBER 3

BEYOND THE BASICS –
MATURING INTERNAL
CONTROL PROGRAMS FOR
THE FUTURE - 2 CPES
DECEMBER 10

ERM WORKSHOT 2026
5.5 CPES
JANUARY 14

WEBINAR: ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE - 2 CPES
JANUARY 21

FREE MEMBERS-ONLY
WEBINAR - 1.5 CPES
FEBRUARY 25

Community Corner

This year, AGA members have once again demonstrated their strong commitment to giving back to the Lowcountry community. In partnership with the Elizabeth Gamble Foundation, we kicked off the 2025/26 season by participating in a backpack stuffing event to help local students start the school year ready to learn. Members then joined forces for a beach sweep on Sullivan's Island, collecting debris and helping protect one of our region's most beautiful coastal areas. We also volunteered at Pet Helpers on James Island, lending a hand to care for animals in need, and supported the Lowcountry Food Bank by sorting and distributing food to families facing hunger.



Each of these events showcased the generosity, teamwork, and compassion of our members. As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to continue building on this momentum with even more opportunities to serve. Community service is at the heart of AGA's mission, and every volunteer hour makes a difference. We encourage all members to get involved and help strengthen the community we're so proud to call home.



Stay tuned for our 2026 Community Service Calendar — more great opportunities to give back are on the way!



Continuing Education

Our most recent Lunch & Learn, held on Tuesday, November 18th, featured Dr. John Egan, a leadership professor and published researcher at The Citadel. We were grateful to have Dr. Egan return as our featured speaker after his engaging presentation at our 2025 PDT this past March. Dr. Egan's interactive and informative presentation focused on Emotional Intelligence (EI) in the Workplace, why it's so important for leaders to possess and use, and how EI relates to mindfulness.

During our Lunch & Learn, Dr. Egan's passion for teaching was evident, as we enjoyed his personal insights, in-depth knowledge, and signature enthusiasm for teaching and inspiring others.

Our November Lunch & Learn was the second in our yearly educational lunchtime programs and an opportunity for those in need to earn a continuing education credit (CPE). Thank you to Dr. Egan and everyone who attended! We look forward to seeing you at our next session, so stay tuned to your emails & Socials for more information!

You can learn more about Dr. Egan at [Egan Leadership Learning | Enhance Leadership Skills Today](#). As always, stay tuned to your emails & our Socials for more information about upcoming learning opportunities & our 2026 PDT slated for March!

Message from the President

CASEY SZEGI, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

This quarter has been an extraordinary season of growth, engagement, and impact for our chapter. Together, we have strengthened connections, expanded our reach, and advanced our mission in meaningful ways. One of our proudest accomplishments has been the phenomenal outreach we achieved within our community. Through intentional engagement and collaboration, we were able to deepen existing relationships while also establishing new ones that will continue to elevate our presence and purpose across the region.

We also prioritized creating opportunities for genuine in-person camaraderie. Our gatherings brought members together to share ideas, celebrate successes, and support one another professionally and personally. These moments reminded us of the value of face-to-face interaction and the sense of unity that comes from being part of a dedicated, mission-driven organization.

In addition, our chapter stood proudly alongside key partners, including the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce and AGA National, in a series of impactful events. These collaborations not only strengthened our professional network but also showcased the collective power of organizations working together to promote excellence in government accountability and leadership. Our involvement in these events highlighted the strength, credibility, and commitment of our chapter.

Overall, this quarter reflects what is possible when members are engaged, enthusiastic, and committed to making a difference. We are grateful for your support and participation, and we look forward to building on this momentum. We hope to see you at the next events as we continue to grow, connect, and make a lasting impact across the Carolinas!



New Member Spotlight

Jess Wyke



Jess Wyke has been employed at the State Department, Bureau of Comptroller & Global Financial Services (CGFS) for 6 years as both contractor and Federal direct-hire employee. In her time at CGFS, Jess has gained a great deal of experience in both payroll and project management. Prior to her employment at State, Jess was with Verizon Communications for 15 years, with areas of focus including corporate finance, customer service, call center operations, and quality assurance. Outside of work, Jess enjoys hiking and camping with her friends and husband. Jess is excited to join AGA and looks forward to connecting with the chapter members soon

Brooke Rhodes

Brooke Rhodes is a senior accounting major at USC Upstate. Before attending USC Upstate, Brooke transferred in from Spartanburg Community College. In high school, Brooke took various business courses, enjoying accounting the most. Now as a college senior, Brooke has taken every accounting course that USC Upstate currently offers – including a favorite course in Governmental and Not-For-Profit Accounting. Brooke hopes that being a member of AGA will afford the opportunity to network and learn more about career opportunities with various governmental entities. Brooke's professional experience includes a Tax Internship at Cherry Bekaert and a position as a Lake Attendant at Spartanburg Water's Lake Bowen. When not in school, odds are Brooke can be found outdoors at one of our SC state parks. At USC Upstate, Brooke is also a member of Spectrum, an LGBTQIA+ organization for students, as well as various honor societies which strive to make positive impacts on campus.

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November 2025



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