



CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD – Year 2009/2010

Vision Statement

To serve and create value to our members and constituents by:

1. Providing quality educational opportunities
2. Promoting professional networking
3. Providing leadership opportunities - both local and national level
4. Fostering professional development and certification through the [CGFM program](#)
5. Supporting accounting standards and research to advance government accountability
6. Serving the community through our time and service

The above is the guiding tool of AGA Silicon Valley Chapter Executive Board in serving its members and the government finance community in the area. We would like to introduce the set of officers and board for the program year.

President



Grace S. Ragni, CGFM, CPA, CISA, CIA, works for Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority as a Fiscal Resources Manager. Her work experience includes years in auditing, finance and accounting. Grace holds the designations of Certified Public Accountant, Certified Information Systems Auditor and Certified Internal Auditor. She is a Lieutenant with the US. Navy Reserves; currently affiliated with a unit in support of the carriers in the Western Pacific. Few of her hobbies include baking and working out those calories in the gym. Grace joined AGA in 2004.

President Elect



Vinod Sharma, CPA, is the Controller-Treasurer for the County of Santa Clara. He has over 25 years of experience in the field of accounting and finance through employment in public sector, public accounting, and private industry. Vinod has worked for the County for the past ten years. Earlier, he successfully managed his own public accounting business in the Silicon Valley for over seven years. He holds a Bachelor in Commerce (Accounting) degree from the Delhi University in India, and is a certified public accountant in California.

Vinod lives in San Jose, California with his wife and their teenage son. Outside of work, most of Vinod and his wife's engagements revolve around their son's educational, cultural, and sport activities. Vinod also likes reading about eastern philosophy and loves gardening. Vinod joined AGA in 2007.

Immediate Past President



Rosalio (Jerry) Gandara JD, MBA, is a native of Nebraska, but has been in San Jose since the 1960's. Jerry received his bachelor degree from the University of Nebraska and went to a Tour of Duty in Vietnam for 2 years as Commander of the Medical Services Corps. In 1969, Jerry returned from the duty and continued on in the military reserve with the rank of Captain. Thereafter, he went to Stanford University's Medical School for his PHD Molecular Physiology. While working at Stanford Medical Dialysis Center, Jerry attended Stanford University's Law School and graduated in 1981. For over two years, he taught at Cal State Hayward. He received a Master in Taxation from Golden Gate University, Master of Business Administration from San Jose State University, Master of Procurement from University of Phoenix and currently attending University of Santa Clara for his Master of Theology to become a deacon in the Catholic Church. For the last 20 years, Jerry has been working with the US Navy's Department of Contract Management Agency as Contracting Officer/Attorney.

Jerry is a member of AGA since 1995 and became president of the Silicon Valley Chapter in 2001. In 2005 Jerry returned as the chapter president and continued on in that position until 2007-2008. He is also AGA's Immediate Past Regional Vice President for California. Jerry is a lawyer by trade, but decided to follow his interest in government finance and love of AGA.

Treasurer



Gary Epstein, CGFM, joined the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in January 2006 as the Compliance Review Manager after working with the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) for almost 18 years. At VTA, Gary manages contract audits, internal audits, and the review of high-dollar professional services contract invoices.

Gary has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from San Diego State University and has done graduate work in Finance at Golden Gate University in San Francisco and Los Altos. In addition to being the Treasurer of the AGA Silicon Valley Chapter, he has been a member of the City of Foster City Audit Committee since 2004. He was Chair of the Committee for calendar year 2006. Gary is also a docent for the Blackhawk Auto Museum. Gary lives in Foster City with his wife, Violet, who works in Financial Planning.

Gary and Violet's son, Alan, lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he is in sales. Gary is a Certified Government Financial Manager and joined AGA in 1998. He enjoys interacting with the members at the monthly seminars. Gary said, "The seminars help me keep up with current accounting issues for my job."

Secretary



Linda Hildebrant, MBA, has diverse professional experience with over 20 years in Finance, 10 years in Information Technology, 6 years in Six Sigma Quality leadership and various other operational functions. Linda's education includes PhD, Organization and Management - Capella University (currently A.B.D.), Six Sigma Leadership, Master Black Belt - Pepperdine University; Master of Business Administration - University of Phoenix; and BS Accounting - National University. Linda is the Finance Manager, Government Contracting Compliance for GE Homeland Protection, Inc. Prior to joining GE in 2001, Linda was Controller for a tech company. Linda joined AGA in 2007.

She said, "AGA provides me with a network of companies and people who face the same government accounting compliance challenges and opportunities. In addition, AGA provides me with the means of staying current on the changes in the industry in a concise and relevant manner."

Board Member - Meetings



William (Bill) Brown works for Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) as Contracts Manager/Financial Analyst handling construction contracts. Prior to joining VTA, Bill worked for the Naval Air Station Moffett Field in Sunnyvale, California as Public Works Director. He managed the control inspection, data processing system, and military self-help division of the Naval Station with around 200 federal employees.

Bill went on tour of duty with the United States Navy (SEA BEES) in the Construction and Contract Management where he was stationed in various parts of the world such as Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines—Subic Bay, Spain, Diego Garcia, Moffett Fields, Barstow, etc. Bill retired from the Navy with the rank of Commander.

Bill received his B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineer from John Brown University and completed all course works in M.S. in Financial Management from Naval Post Graduate School. He has Contractor's License A and B in California. After serving the Navy, he worked for several construction companies holding senior management position.

Aside from AGA, Bill has been an active member of Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood and has been serving in the Impact Laos program by helping in the construction and upgrading of elementary school facilities in the remote areas of Laos. Bill joined AGA in 2007 and has been an active officer of the Chapter since then.

Board Member – Membership & Web Site



Alex Guiang, CGFM, has over 19 years combined experience in governmental accounting with the City of San Jose and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency as Principal Accountant. Prior to joining the City of San Jose, Alex worked for 10 years with Coopers & Lybrand, International (now PriceWaterHouse Coopers). Alex is a Certified Government Financial Manager. He is a holder of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting. Alex is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Program of Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and Government Financial Management Program of Rutgers University. He is also a graduate of GFOA/University of Wisconsin's Advance Government Finance Institute.

Alex has been active with AGA since 1997 and was AGA Silicon Valley Chapter president in 1999-2000. He concurrently serves AGA on national level as AGA Regional Vice President Elect for California and member of Service Efforts and Accomplishment Committee. Alex is also affiliated with GFOA and is active in the CAFR Special Review Committee for eleven years now. Alex has been living in San Jose, California together with his wife and 3 children since 1980's. He is a proud father of an Eagle Boy Scout.

He said, "I decided to get involve with AGA because it gives me the opportunity to continue my professional development locally, apprise of the changes in the profession that makes my job easier, and network with people of diverse expertise."

Board Member – Communications & Newsletter



joined AGA in 2007.

Manju Beher, CPA, is the Senior Accountant/Internal Auditor for San Jose International Airport. She has over 12 years of experience in the field of accounting, consulting, taxation, and internal audit through employment in public accounting firms and private industries, including Deloitte & Touché LLP as SOX 404 auditor.

Manju received a Bachelor in Commerce degree and Masters of Commerce from Kanpur University. She is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New York. She



Steven Lam (info not available)

Board Member – Community Service



Kristine De Lisle, CPA, has been a member of AGA since 1987 and on the Board nearly all that time. She has held the Newsletter Editor and Presidency in the Chapter, as well as the Regional Vice President position covering AGA's Western Region. She has worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency for 22 years, 16 of which have been as a Supervisory Auditor. She graduated in 1985 from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Science, with an emphasis in Accounting. A native of San Jose, she currently resides in Menlo Park, with her husband, three sons, three cats and a dog. She is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of California. Kris is also active in the local Boy Scout and is a proud mother of an Eagle Boy Scout

Kris said, "I consider the Association of Government Accountants to be an excellent organization, offering the opportunity get quality education, to hold influence in my field, and network with great people."

Board Member – At Large



David G. Bullock, CPA, is an Assurance and Government Advisory Services Partner in MGO's San Francisco Bay Area Office. He has over 16 years of professional experience providing auditing, accounting, tax and consulting services to the private and public sectors. Since joining MGO in 1996, David has provided professional services to numerous cities, counties and special districts.

David has made numerous presentations and lectures on various topics to MGO employees, clients, and professional organizations, including the California State Association of County Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, the BDO Seidman Alliance Government Industry Group, the California Association of Public Retirement Systems, and the California County Audit Chiefs Association.

In addition, David serves on the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Special Review Committee for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program. This committee, which is dedicated to promoting the highest quality financial reporting for state and local governments, performs reviews of comprehensive annual financial reports.

David is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from California State University, San Jose. He joined AGA in 2009.