

**Guam  
Professional  
Development  
Conference**

**“Trends, Tools,  
and Techniques  
in Today’s  
Financial  
Environment”**

**September 17 to  
19, 2014**

**Hotel Nikko  
Guam**

# **You Are Your Own Destiny**



## **William D. Miller, CGFM, CPA**

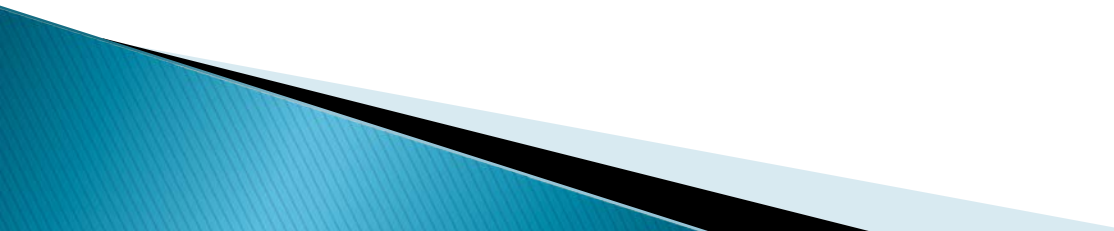
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**You Are Your Own  
Destiny**



# Association of Government Accountants

- ▶ AGA is *the* member organization for financial professionals in government. We lead and encourage change that benefits our field and all citizens.
  - ▶ Our networking events, professional certification, publications and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers.
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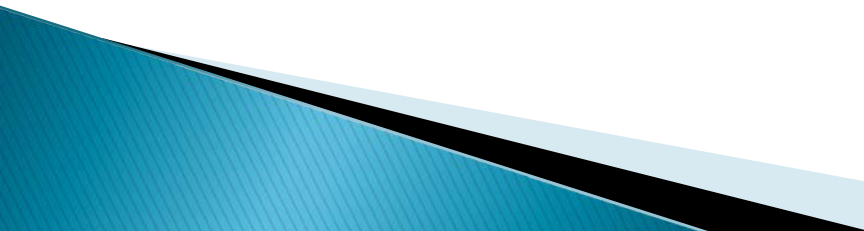
# Vision

- ▶ AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.\*

## Mission

- ▶ AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.\*
- ▶ **AGA Core Values**
- ▶ Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership

# Founded

- ▶ AGA was founded as the Federal Government Accountants Association (FGAA) on September 14, 1950.
  - ▶ The Association expanded in 1975 to include state and local government finance professionals.
  - ▶ At that time, the organization's name was changed to the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).
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# Characteristics of a Leader

**Initiative**

**Responsibility**

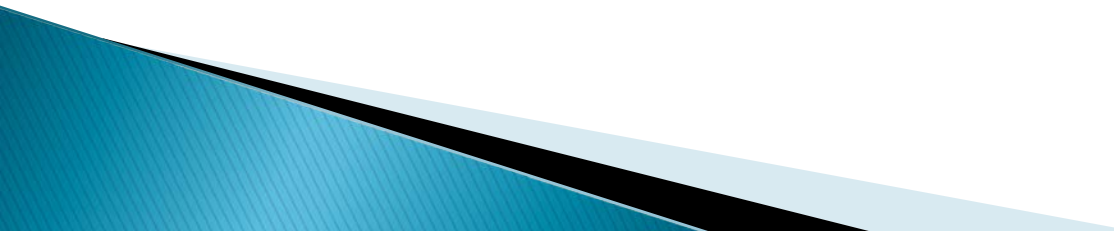
**Accountability**

**Mentorship**


**Passion**



# So what does that have to do with us?

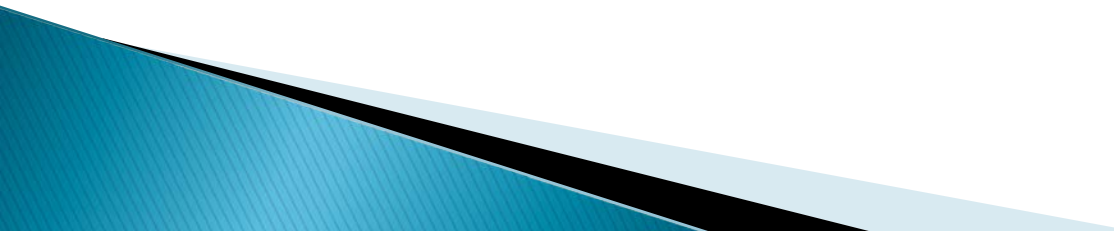
- ▶ You have taken on a leadership role
  - ▶ Why? What caused you to be here today?
  - ▶ What can you learn from others?
  - ▶ Is this a challenge for you?
  - ▶ What can I take from this?
  - ▶ What else can I do?
- 

# Now it's you

- ▶ You took on the role because you wanted to or someone asked you to and you couldn't say no
  - ▶ You are here today to exchange ideas with others that have made the same decision you did
  - ▶ Lots to learn from others—also, to share
  - ▶ You can take your role here and enhance your role in your chosen occupation
- 



# Now It's You 2

- ▶ Examine your objectives
  - ▶ Is it a job or a mission
  - ▶ Success comes from initiative and passion to make a difference (work, home, activities)
  - ▶ Stuff happens; don't worry about making a mistake
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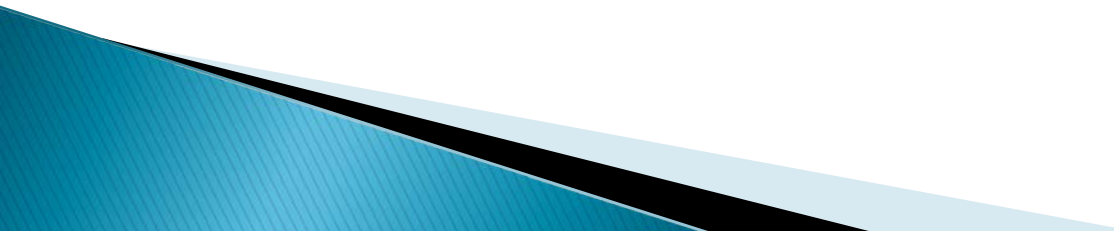
# So What

- ▶ What I learned from my travels through levels of AGA:
  - Transfer knowledge to everyday work environment
  - Led to promotions to supervisory levels
  - Gave me confidence to challenge work processes
  - Provide tremendous cadre of colleagues I would never have met

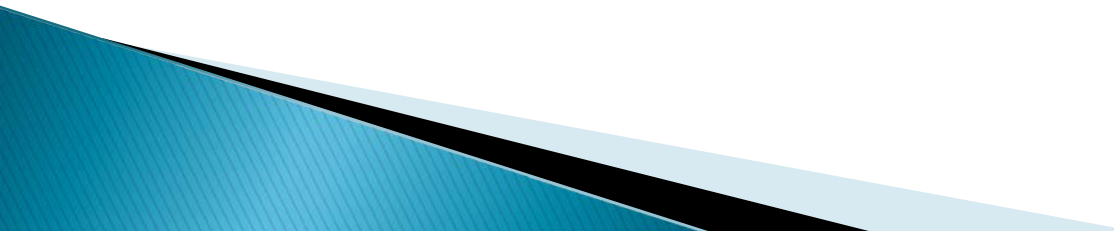
# COLLABORATION

- ▶ AGA provides forums for collaboration among diverse disciplines, sectors and levels of government
- ▶ **Objectives:**
- ▶ Attract and retain a diverse membership
- ▶ Expand and enhance professional development, leadership and networking opportunities
- ▶ Attract individuals from a wide variety of disciplines and work environments to participate in AGA activities
- ▶ Facilitate a neutral platform for dialogue and collaboration
- ▶ *\*Government accountability: A government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.*

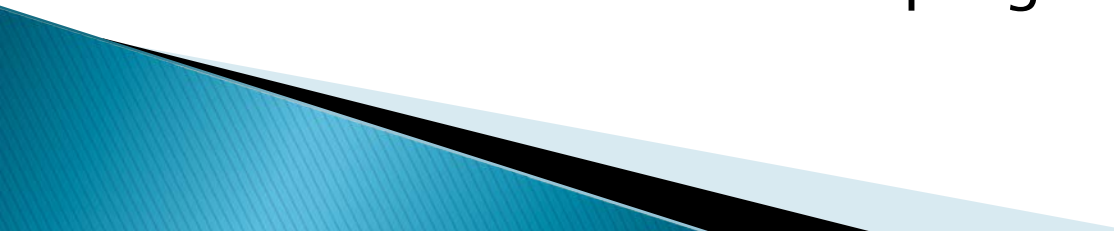
# My story

- ▶ Joined AGA in 1967—I am a lifetime member
  - ▶ First role, was programs chair—St. Louis
  - ▶ By-Laws chair 1 year Northern VA.
  - ▶ Chapter President and Programs Chair Kansas City
  - ▶ National Vice Chair Community Service
  - ▶ Regional Vice President—Midwestern
  - ▶ Senior Vice President for Regional Services
  - ▶ National President-Elect
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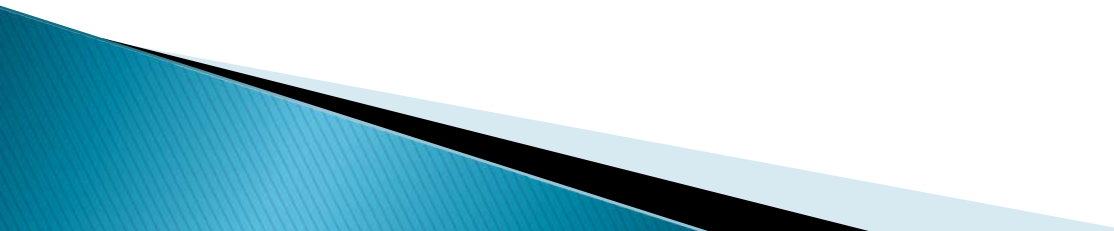
# Leadership Tools

- ▶ Vision—planning for the future
  - ▶ Management & Internal Control over programs
  - ▶ Connection to Staff and colleagues
  - ▶ Ability to recognize and orchestrate change
  - ▶ **Listen** and communicate with staff and colleagues
  - ▶ Ability to challenge status quo
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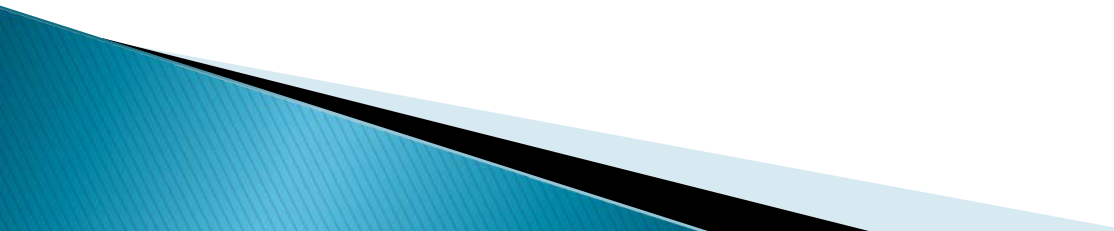
# The Task

- ▶ In a small but important way you are getting management experience you may not have yet in your professional job
    - Budget your program
    - Planning for program implementation
    - Organizing execution of program
    - Executing the program
    - After action review of program and funds
- 

# It's About Making a Difference

- ▶ Everyone has talent
  - ▶ Comes down to how is it used and for what
  - ▶ Everyone can contribute to something
  - ▶ The key is using that talent to make a difference (school teachers, mentors, etc.)
- 

# Outcome

- ▶ You are managing a program to its outcome
  - ▶ Your experience can lead you to additional leadership roles.
  - ▶ In fact, you should migrate to additional roles for versatility and exposure of your talents
  - ▶ Assuming Presidency should be a goal
  - ▶ No one here is going to sit down and give you a performance appraisal. “it is what it is”
- 



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