

**Britt Wood**

Nashville Chapter President  
2017-2018



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I recently returned from a whirlwind trip across Europe with my friend and her two college students. I learned if I am ever invited on another trip it will be with people closer to my age. They wore me out! In 10 days, we walked over 63 miles and climbed 256 flights of stairs per my Fitbit. The battery died before the last day of the trip, and I could not find the charger, so I don't have an 'official' total.

At the beginning of the trip, we toured the United Nations (UN) in Geneva Switzerland. The Geneva UN focuses on human rights, humanitarian efforts, disarmament, and peace-keeping negotiation efforts. I realized during the trip this was an appropriate theme for the trip. We took many tours, and each tour guide spoke about the rulers, wars, uprisings and civil wars that took place over the centuries. It was bad time to be a ruler because most were killed or imprisoned.

One main premise kept recurring, how the rulers spent money. This is a very simplistic viewpoint, but over and over rulers spent extravagantly and assumed there was an endless supply of money. People suffered and revolted. Other countries saw the financial weakness and invaded knowing the country could not finance a war.

Why did I bring this up? As an organization of government financial

management professionals, we can have an effect on government accountability by influencing policies and procedures, encouraging prudent fiscal spending and fostering ideas for more transparent government spending. Part of AGA's strategic plan is working to increase government financial performance and accountability through education, training events, and keeping on top of relevant news and information. As an AGA member get involved, help communicate the value of public service, and highlight the importance of fiscally prudent financial decision making by our government.

*Britt*

# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2017-2018 Luncheon Meeting Dates

September 18, 2017 — DoubleTree  
October 9, 2017 — DoubleTree  
November 13, 2017 — TN Room, TN Tower  
December 11, 2017 — DoubleTree  
January 8, 2018 — DoubleTree  
February 12, 2018 — DoubleTree  
March 12, 2018 — DoubleTree  
April 9, 2018 — DoubleTree  
May 14, 2018 — TN Room, TN Tower

## 2017-2018 CEC Meeting Dates

August 10, 2017  
September 14, 2017  
October 5, 2017  
November 9, 2017  
December 7, 2017  
January 4, 2018  
February 8, 2018  
March 8, 2018  
April 5, 2018  
May 10, 2018

## 2017-2018 Audio Conference Dates

September 13, 2017 — Communication/Leadership  
October 11, 2017 — Internal Control  
November 15, 2017 — Ethics in Fraud  
December 6, 2017 — Internal Control  
January 10, 2018 — Grants Management  
February 7, 2018 — GASB Update  
March 7, 2018 — Infrastructure Financing  
March 28, 2018 — Cybersecurity  
April 25, 2018 — DATA Act  
May 16, 2018 — Fraud/Data Analytics

## 2017-2018 Conference Dates

January 2018 — Nashville Chapter Winter Seminar  
— Location and date to be determined

# NOTICE -- Location Change

## November Luncheon Location Change



## Location Change

The November Luncheon will be held in the Tennessee Tower at 312 Rosa L Parks Ave. Please make plans to join us at 11:30 AM on Monday, November 13. The meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in the Tennessee Room. As usual, we will have a catered, buffet style lunch followed by the normal luncheon program and our November speaker. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Winston at 615-806-0521 or [Michael.Winston@tn.gov](mailto:Michael.Winston@tn.gov).



# November Speaker— National President Jim Arnette, CGFM, CISA



AGA National President Jim Arnette, CGFM, CISA

**Jim Arnette** is the Director of Local Government Audit for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. He is responsible for the annual financial and compliance audits of all 95 Tennessee counties, and monitors the annual audits of more than 1,600 municipalities, non-profits, and related local government entities. The Division is also responsible for reviewing the funds administered by District Attorneys General and Judicial District Drug Task Forces. Jim assists local governments in implementing new auditing and accounting standards, and works with the Tennessee General Assembly on legislation impacting local governments.

Jim has worked with the Comptroller's Office for more than 34 years. He established County Audit's Information Technology Audit function, which was responsible for general and application control reviews in county governments across the state. He was named division director in 2007, and was named Director of the new Division of Local Government Audit in 2012.

Jim is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University. He is a Certified Government Financial

Manager and Certified Information Systems Auditor. Jim is an active member of the Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants. He has served locally as the chapter President and regionally as Regional Vice-President for the southeast region. On July 1, Jim became AGA's National President for the 2017-2018 program year.

Jim and his wife Carla live in Franklin, Tennessee. They are the parents of two daughters Allie and Jayce. In his spare time, Jim enjoys family time, playing golf, watching sports, going to the beach, and doing yard work.



# Committee and Member News

## CGFM

Have you passed a CGFM exam part during September or October? If so, send your documentation to Melissa Lahue so you can be entered into a drawing to be reimbursed for your exam fee (\$125.) Please contact me at [Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov](mailto:Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov) to get your name added to the drawing.



Don't forget about the lending library!!! Our library includes study guides from all 3 sections of the exam. We have multiple copies available for your use. This could potentially save you hundreds of dollars!! For more information or to borrow from our library, contact Melissa Lahue at [Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov](mailto:Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov).



Rachelle Cabading became our chapter's latest member to earn the CGFM designation. Rachelle is the Administrative Manager for the TN Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Local Government Audit. Please join me in congratulating Rachelle on her great accomplishment.



## Membership

### Recruiting New Members

As of our October luncheon, our membership count was 337, just 63 short of our goal of 400 for January 1! Currently, we have six people in the running for the \$100 Prize in our local recruiting competition to sponsor the most people between May 1 and December 31! That means everyone still has a chance to win! Continue to share the benefits of AGA membership with your coworkers and acquaintances. Sponsors receive three points and a \$10 gift card!

### NEW MEMBERS

Davud Dittmore, Tennessee Attorney General, Sponsored by Britt Wood

Claire Evans, State of Tennessee, Sponsored by Jane McCoy

Bethany Graves, Comptroller's Office, Sponsored by Britt Wood

Alfredo Ramirez, Department of Health, No Sponsor

# Welcome to AGA!



# Committee News



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

COME ENJOY FOOTBALL, FOOD, AND FRIENDS WHILE RAISING FUNDS FOR OUR CHAPTER!

NASHVILLE AGA HAS VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE CONCESSIONS AT THE **NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>** AND **DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>** TITANS GAMES AS A FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CHAPTER. BEFORE WORKING AT THE GAME, ALL VOLUNTEERS **MUST** COMPLETE A 2 HOUR TEAM TRAINING AT NISSAN STADIUM THAT WILL ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ALCOHOL. THE NEXT AVAILABLE TRAININGS ARE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> (6:30PM-8:30PM) AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup> (6:30PM-8:30PM). NOVEMBER TRAINING DATES HAVE NOT BEEN FINALIZED BY THE TITANS, BUT THOSE WILL BE COMMUNICATED ONCE THEY ARE SET. SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER LUNCHEONS. YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT KATIE ARMSTRONG AT [KATIE.ARMSTRONG@COT.TN.GOV](mailto:KATIE.ARMSTRONG@COT.TN.GOV) TO VOLUNTEER. WE HAVE TO LET THE TITANS KNOW HOW MANY FOLKS TO EXPECT AT BOTH THE TRAININGS AND THE GAMES AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED EVENTS, SO PLEASE MAKE SURE KATIE HAS YOUR NAME ON THE LISTS! THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF NASHVILLE AGA!

GO TITANS GO!

# Community Service — Hands on Nashville

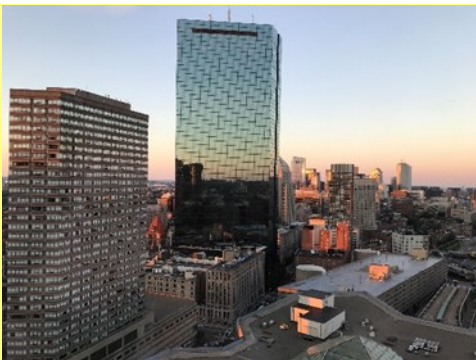
The Nashville Chapter of AGA recently participated in a community service project with Hands on Nashville. It was hard work in the heat of the day, but it was a great way to give back to our community!





# Robots and Clam Chowder — Melissa Boaz, CFE, CPA, CGFM, CGMA

Back in July, I attended the national PDT in Boston. I was the very surprised winner of the chapter drawing for the free trip to the



PDT. I never win things like that, but thanks to passing the CGFM, I got several extra entries (9 to be exact) in the drawing. So off to Boston I went! In the past, I had volunteered at the PDT when it was held in Nashville, and I had tagged along as a guest to several with my husband, Gerry, but this was the first time I had gone as a full attendee.

I was not disappointed. AGA knows how to put on a conference, and I enjoyed the speakers in the break out sessions and the general sessions. We even had two folks from our chapter, Sandra Tulloss and Gerry Boaz, who presented in the breakout sessions. And of course the best part was seeing our own Jim Arnette being sworn in as the national president. If I was going to win a trip, this was definitely the year to do it!

But the PDT isn't all sessions The location of a conference is just as important as the content, and Boston was definitely a good choice. The Heinz Convention Center, which was the location for the PDT, is and speakers. AGA works in some fun extracurricular activities, like receptions in the exhibit hall. There are so many vendors with so many neat goodies, and you feel compelled to get lots of those goodies because the vendors don't want to haul them back home, right?



The caveat is that while the vendors was led by a member of the New Mexico chapter. I was there for every session, along with a reluctant Gerry. AGA also challenged attendees to get 10,000 steps every day, and I'm proud to say that I did, even when it meant walking up and down the hotel room corridors and getting weird looks from folks going and coming from their

The location of a conference is just as important as the content, and Boston was definitely a good choice. The Heinz Convention Center, which was the location for the PDT, is connected to the Prudential Center, which is connected to two shopping malls with a variety of stores for every budget. One of my favorite things about the location was the security robot which patrolled the Prudential Center like a pointy R2D2. That robot has to be one of the most-photographed items in Boston. And of course no trip to Boston is complete without a bowl of clam chowder. We found a seafood restaurant close to the hotel that served wonderful clam chowder in a bread bowl.



Another plus was being able to spend time with folks from our chapter. Even though I see a lot of these folks on an almost daily basis, I enjoy being with them in a different setting and socializing outside of work. I consider that to be as important a form of networking as meeting new people!

The 2018 PDT will be in Orlando, July 22 through 25. There are a lot of ways to earn points to get yourself in the drawing. Information on how to earn points is available on the chapter website at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Nashville/Membership/Member-Points.aspx>. Good luck!





# News And Just The Facts

## CAREER CENTER

A **TennCare Examiner** position was recently posted. Qualified and interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to the link provided at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org/jobs.html> .

### OUR CURRENT STANDING AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, IS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Chapter Recognition Section</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	1,325	5,000	27%
Education & Professional Development	1,000	4,000	25%
Certification	575	4,000	14%
Communications	1,675	3,000	56%
Membership	800	4,000	20%
Accountability	100	2,000	5%
Community Service	200	2,000	10%
Awards	0	1,000	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,675</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>23%</b>

### LUNCHEON / CEC MINUTES

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC and luncheon meeting, please visit the chapter website at [www.nashvilleaga.org](http://www.nashvilleaga.org) . The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for November 13, 2017.



### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time departments forward job opportunities to the Website Committee, which are posted for members' convenience. If you are interested in new job offerings or know someone who is, go to this link for detailed information — <http://nashvilleaga.org/jobs.html>



### Editor's Corner



We truly enjoy reading articles submitted from our membership.

Please share your thoughts and ideas or interesting news with us by submitting your article to [Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov) no later than November 16, 2017 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks!

# 2017-2018 AGA Chapter Leadership Directory

## Officers

**President**  
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**Immediate Past President**  
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**Treasurer**  
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Visit the National website at: [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)