

Britt Wood

Nashville Chapter President
2017-2018



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2/7/18 — Audio Conference

2/12/18 — Luncheon Meeting

3/7/18 — Audio Conference

3/12/18 — Luncheon Meeting

3/28/18 — Audio Conference

Jan Sylvis spoke at the December luncheon about 20 lessons learned. One of her lessons was to join professional organizations and participate. Networking is an important part of growing your career; however, it requires participation. About one third of our chapter membership is active, and many step-up and serve on a committee or the board. Board and committee service helps develop leadership and provides additional opportunities to develop your leadership skills and networking.



Start small and attend several of the luncheons, webinars, or social events given throughout the year. Sit with a new group of people and get to know them. Next year join a committee. It doesn't take as much time as you think, a few hours each month, and can be fun. The New Year is upon us and many of us made resolutions. Make one that is not that hard to keep and become more involved.

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

February Speaker — Special Agent Michael P. Klier



Special Agent Michael P. Klier

Michael P. Klier has been assigned to the Nashville Resident Agency of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) since October 2010. In this capacity, SA Klier has investigated fraud against the VA, including Service Disabled Veteran Small Business fraud, benefits fraud, drug diversion and a range of other criminal and civil matters.

Prior to joining the VA OIG, SA Klier was a Special Agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, where he was the fraud agent for Patuxent River Naval Base. SA Klier started his federal law enforcement career with the US Secret Service in Atlanta, Georgia where he investigated international fraud and mortgage fraud. He was also assigned to the Germany Office where he handled financial fraud, including bank and credit card fraud, throughout Europe.

SA Klier has received numerous awards throughout his law enforcement career. He has also served as an Intelligence Specialist with the Department of the Army and was a Professional Staffer for the Small Business Committee for the U.S. House of

SA Klier received an MA from Indiana University, received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany and received undergraduate degrees from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. SA Klier is also a graduate of the Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course in Ft. Huachuca, AZ, which he completed as a civilian.



Committee and Member News

CGFM

Have you passed a CGFM exam part during December or January? If so, send me your documentation so you can be entered into a drawing to be reimbursed for your exam fee (\$125.) Our next drawing will take place at the March luncheon. Please contact 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.

Welcome to AGA!

FIRST TIME GUESTS

Lisa Palacios, Guest of Michelle Earhart

Megan Thompson, Guest of Tammy Thompson

Andrew Turner, Guest of Michelle Earhart

NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Lipman, State of Tennessee, Sponsored by
Karen B. Hale

Jordae Lopez, State of Tennessee, Sponsored by
Laura B. Seaman

Emily Shewcraft, Comptroller's Office, Sponsored by
Kayla Shewcraft Carr

Dawit, Soloman, Department of Finance and Administration,
Sponsored by Morgan D. Jumbi

Membership

As of our January luncheon, our membership count was 350. The winner of the \$100 award for sponsoring the most new members between May 2017 and December 2017 was Debi Moss. Currently, we have one person in the running for the \$100 Prize in our local recruiting competition to sponsor the most people between January 1 and April 30! That means everyone is still in the running! Continue to share the benefits of AGA membership with your coworkers and acquaintances. Sponsors receive three points and a \$10 gift card! Also, remember to renew your AGA membership by March 31, 2018, to be included in the \$50 incentive drawing at the awards luncheon in May.

Community Service

This month's community service effort is with Book 'em. Reading is FUNdamental, and please consider donating books or money to this great cause. For more information, contact [Keevia at Keevia.Battle@tn.gov](mailto:Keevia.Battle@tn.gov) or Maya at Maya.Angelova@cot.tn.gov or visit Page 8 of this newsletter.



Get Involved...Make a Difference!



Take Your AGA Membership to the Next Level!

Have you ever thought about how you can be more involved with AGA? At our December luncheon, our speaker, Southeast Region Vice President Glenda Ostrander, talked about how she has been involved in various leadership roles with multiple AGA chapters during her career. It is a fantastic way to get to know your fellow AGA members, develop leadership and communication skills, and support our chapter! We are 100% volunteer-run, and we couldn't organize monthly luncheons, education events, social activities, and community service opportunities without all of our volunteers. Check out the last page of the newsletter to see all of our volunteer leaders for this year.

Maybe this is your first year being an AGA member or it could be your 40th – it is never too early or too late to get more involved with AGA! We have opportunities as big as serving as a chapter officer all the way down to a smaller role serving on a committee. If you think you might be interested or have questions, please contact Michael Winston (Michael.Winston@tn.gov or 615-806-0521).



The Musings of an AGA Charter Member — Shirley A. Henry, CPA, CGFM, CGMA



Shirley Henry

Way back in June 1978, the Nashville Area AGA Chapter was started under the leadership of Frank Greathouse, who at the time was the Director of the Division of State Audit in the Office of the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. The Association of Government Accountants began as an organization of federal employees, and when they decided to include state and local government employees, Mr. Greathouse was convinced that Tennessee needed to get involved. I was one of several individuals from the Department of Audit (which at that time included State Audit, County Audit, and Municipal Audit) who decided to become charter members of the new chapter, including my now husband of almost 38 years, Herman G. “Jack” Henry. We also had some individuals from other state departments and agencies who joined. I don’t recall whether we had any metropolitan government members in the initial group, but we did have at least one member from a national CPA firm. Mr. Greathouse was selected as the chapter’s first President, and Dr. Mortimer Dittenhofer, AGA Executive Vice President, came down from the national office to present our charter, which lists 134 charter

members “who pledge their efforts to further the objectives of the Association and the ideals of sound Governmental financial management.” I don’t know if any of us realized how momentous that occasion was at the time.

The Nashville Chapter will soon be celebrating its 40th anniversary, and as the chapter has evolved over these many years, the Department of Audit has continued to be very much involved in chapter activities with numerous members of management and staff serving as officers, directors, committee leaders, and committee members. Many of our chapter members have also served at the regional and national level, which is a great source of pride for our chapter. In fact, the current National President is our own Jim Arnette, Director of the Division of Local Government Audit in the Comptroller’s Office. The Nashville Chapter has grown significantly from our humble beginnings to be a nationally recognized chapter with a current membership of more than 340. There is even a national award named after our first president, the Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award, and a national award named after a former Tennessee Comptroller, the William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award. Some of the chapter’s more significant contributions through the years have been the many educational opportunities provided to our members and others and the numerous and varied community service projects in which we have participated. Our chapter has received national awards for both the educational and community service activities on multiple occasions. We have also been privileged to host national and regional professional development training events.

The Musings of an AGA Charter Member Continued

Through the years, I had participated in various capacities including Newsletter Editor, Awards Committee member, Membership Committee member, and for the most part a regular attendee at the monthly chapter meetings, but I had never really experienced the “behind-the-scenes” workings of our chapter. However, in early 2009, Scarlet Sneed, acting on behalf of the Nominations Committee, asked me if I would accept the nomination for Chapter Secretary for the 2009 - 2010 chapter year. Although I wasn’t quite sure exactly what I was getting myself into, I accepted without hesitation. My service as Chapter Secretary was very enlightening and gave me a much greater appreciation for what is involved in running a chapter of this size. The monthly Chapter Executive Committee meetings highlight the hard work put forth by the officers, directors, and numerous committees, which make our chapter the outstanding chapter that it is. I had no idea!!



Charter Member

When Melvin Jones, Jr. called me in early 2010, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, and asked me if I would accept the nomination for President-Elect for the 2010 - 2011 chapter year, I was overwhelmed and told him that I would have to give that some thought. I realized it was a wonderful opportunity, but at the same time, I knew that it would be a great responsibility. We have enjoyed such a rich history of chapter leadership through the years, and I wanted to be able to continue that tradition. After giving it a great deal of thought,



Nashville Charter Members — Jack and Shirley Henry

I told Melvin that I would accept the nomination. I had great experiences as the President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President, and it was wonderful to see the commitment of so many chapter members in the achievement of our chapter goals each year. My year as Chapter President was especially rewarding. I heartily recommend chapter service to every member for your personal and professional growth.

After seeing firsthand the enthusiasm and commitment of our chapter leadership and our chapter members, I feel confident that the great traditions that are the Nashville AGA Chapter will continue for many years to come, and I am glad that I signed on way back in June 1978.

Community Service — Book Drive

Reading is FUNdamental

Each year Book'em places reading volunteers in dozens of classrooms in Nashville's inner city and gives tens of thousands of books to underserved children.

- There is still so much more that needs to be done.
- Please consider giving money, donating books or volunteering your time and email: Maya.Angelova@cot.tn.gov

Want to make MONETARY GIFT

You may mail checks to:

~~Book'em~~
161 Rains Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203-5330

Or

Make a donation online using the link below:

<http://bookem-kids.org/donate/>

Please notify ~~Keevia~~ at Keevia.Battle@tn.gov or Maya at Maya.Angelova@cot.tn.gov if you make a donation.

Want to donate BOOK/BOOKS

Book donations will be collected in the following drop-off locations:

Cordell Hull Building/State Audit

3rd floor please take the books to Maya Angelova

Email: Maya.Angelova@cot.tn.gov; phone number (615)747-5222

Tennessee Tower

20th floor please take the books to Veronica Coleman

Email: Veronica.I.Coleman@tn.gov; phone number (615)253-6772

Davy Crockett Building

7th floor please take the books to Charlotte Gentry

Email: Charlotte.A.Gentry@tn.gov; phone number (615)741-7520

Howard Office Building

700 2nd Avenue South Suite 310; please take the books to Pamela Marks

Email: Pamela.Marks@nashville.gov; phone number (615)862-6212

Want to be a VOLUNTEER

Read requirements and fill out the application by clicking the link below:

<http://bookem-kids.org/volunteer/>

Chase Tramel — CEC Member Spotlight



Chase Tramel

My name is Chase Tramel, and I grew up in a small, country town known as Smithville, Tennessee. I currently live in Bellevue. I obtained my Bachelor of Science Accounting degree and my Master of Business Administration with a focus in Accounting from Tennessee Technological University, home of the Golden Eagles!

While attending Tennessee Tech, I met my wife, Megan Tramel. We began dating my second year in school and were married on July 6, 2013. We currently do not have any children or pets; however, we do plan to change this in the future. Also, I have a younger brother, Caleb Tramel, which currently serves in the United States Marine Corps. He is married and has two children, one six years old and the other two years old, that I feel lucky to call my niece and nephew.

Outside of work, I have lots of hobbies that I enjoy and don't always find time for all of them. My hobbies include photography, cooking, video games, and weight training, most of the time. When it comes to photography, I enjoy using anything from a smart phone camera to my Canon digital single-lens reflex camera (DSLR) camera to capture beautiful scenes in the moment; however, landscape photography and portraits are my preference. Also, in the kitchen,

I tend to become a mad scientist with flavors. I love to use contrasting elements in many of my dishes ranging from sweet and spicy to sweet and salty. One of my signature dishes, and my wife's favorite, is a pot roast recipe that I created that includes two different types of wine and one type of vinegar in the recipe. My love for cooking blossomed after my cooking class in high school. Video games are another favorite pastime of mine and I feel that they can be beneficial in keeping the mind sharp and thinking critically in simultaneous ways. In addition, they exercise motor skills and focal muscles in the eyes; however, much of this depends on the type of game being played. I do majority of my gaming on a Playstation 4 console and a custom-built desktop personal computer that I built a few years ago, piece by piece. Finally, I feel that it is very important for the mind and body to stay healthy; therefore, I do try to stay steady with exercise and weight lifting.

I did not always work within the public sector. I began my accounting career fresh out of the university at a private sector, healthcare-related company known as AMSURG for one and a half years, where I performed many accounting duties for eight, individually unique ophthalmology centers that were located nation-wide. I worked on everything from income statements, balance sheets, cash flows, preparing annual budgets, accounts payable, accounts



Chase Tramel — CEC Member Spotlight Continued

receivable, and even assets for each center. When I was ready for a change, I decided that I wanted to pursue a forensics accounting position or an audit-oriented position and found that the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's office had an opening for an Information Systems Auditor position. I have been working for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's Office as an Information Systems Auditor for a little over 3 years and have been enjoying it ever since. My position primarily consists of general and application control reviews of different governmental agencies, as well as, colleges and universities. In addition, I will perform computer forensics analysis when my skills are needed. I always look at each project as a new adventure, because, when working with technology, the control environments are ever-evolving and changing. I have obtained the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification issued by ISACA and am looking to pursue and obtain the Certified Fraud Examiner certification, as well as, the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certification to further strengthen my professional credentials and skills.

I joined the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) early into my new beginnings with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's office. A co-worker of mine, at the time, mentioned the professional organization to me and intrigued me with her experiences. I decided I wanted to join AGA as my first professional organization after attending numerous webinars and a conference here or there, and I have never looked back. One of the biggest positives that I have witnessed, from a young professional's view from joining AGA, is that the networking capability to meet, learn, and discuss with other professionals is tremendous. Some may not believe it, but I can be very shy until opened up and comfortable. Joining AGA helped me to meet others within my field and



with my similar interests, but also gave me the opportunity to understand other's roles being performed in the governmental ecosystem. In addition, AGA provides so many learning opportunities and personal accounts from professional speakers ranging from highly skilled Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to highly accomplished individuals that we work with every day. I have always believed in the statement "Before you lead, you must learn to follow" and I believe that AGA is filled with leaders, not only in their respective positions but also in character, that serve as great examples for young professionals.

Volunteer AGA — Titans Game



The Nashville Chapter had another large turnout at a Titans Game. It was a fun event and a great way to raise money for the chapter. Thanks to all who volunteered their time for this event!

News And Just The Facts

CAREER CENTER

A **Internal Auditor 2** 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 DECEMBER 19, 2017, IS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Chapter Recognition Section</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	1,750	5,000	35%
Education & Professional Development	2,450	4,000	61%
Certification	1,025	4,000	26%
Communications	3,325	3,000	111%
Membership	2,350	4,000	59%
Accountability	250	2,000	13%
Community Service	1,650	2,000	83%
Awards	0	1,000	0%
TOTALS	12,800	25,000	51%

LUNCHEON / CEC MINUTES

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC and luncheon meeting, please visit the chapter website at www.nashvilleaga.org . The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for February 12, 2018.



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 no later than February 16, 2018 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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Secretary
Gay Oliver
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Treasurer
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Chase Tramel
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Visit the Nashville Chapter website at www.nashvilleaga.org
Visit the National website at: www.agacgfm.org