

Britt Wood

Nashville Chapter President
2017-2018



Inside this edition...

Luncheon Speaker Spotlight

Committee News

Members News

Upcoming Events...

3/28/18 — Audio Conference

4/9/18 — Luncheon Meeting

4/25/18 — Audio Conference

4/28/18 — Social Event

5/14/18—Awards Luncheon

5/16/18 — Audio Conference

7/22-25/18 — National PDT

March is CGFM Month. Our CGFM committee obtained a proclamation from the governor of TN and mayor of Nashville declaring March CGFM month for the state and city! Even with the threat of snow, we had a great turnout with 39 CGFMs attending our honorary March luncheon. Our panel did a great job explaining the requirements and benefits of obtaining the CGFM certification. Also, the national office's video shown at the beginning of the luncheon was professional and informative. If you missed the video check out the following link. <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/About-CGFM.aspx>

Britt

CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

Do you want to expand your professional opportunities and skill sets or distinguish yourself from others in this competitive work environment? If you answered "yes," then the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is the certification to obtain. AGA members who believe they are on the high end of the profession, or want to be on the "fast track" toward getting there, need a credential that shows they are qualified and have the skills to lead. The CGFM does this like no other credential.



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

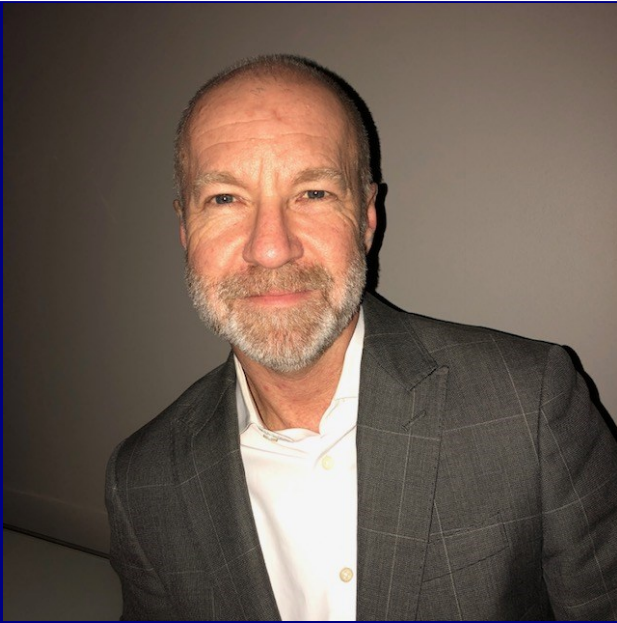
2017-2018 Conference Dates

January 24-25, 2018 — Nashville Chapter Winter Seminar
July 22-25, 2018 — National Professional Development Training

Other Networking Opportunities

April 28, 2018 — Chapter Social Event — Nashville Sounds Game

April Speaker — Phil Carr, CPA, CGFM



Phil Carr, CPA, CGFM

Phil Carr is the Chief Accountant for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro) and serves as Assistant Finance Director for the Department of Finance Division of Operations. His office is responsible for maintaining the general ledger for Metro, preparing the CAFR and Single Audit reports, processing vendor payments, processing payrolls for active employees and pensioners, and processing cash receipts. He has personally overseen the preparation of numerous CAFR's and Single Audit reports for Metro and has played the lead role in implementing various GASB standards including Metro's implementation of GASB Statement No. 34.

Phil has been with Metro for 23 years. He began in Internal Audit but was soon asked to be a lead resource in the transition from Metro's old mainframe to its current accounting system. He has been part of numerous system implementation and accounting projects around Metro before settling into his current role as Chief Accountant.

Prior to joining Metro, Phil explored various aspects of the accounting world working in public accounting and private industry. His first job out of college was actually with the State of Tennessee Comptroller's Office in the Medicaid Audit Division.

Phil is a graduate of the University of Tennessee Knoxville. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Government Finance Manager. He is an active member of the Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants having served as a Director and on various committees. He was President of the Nashville Chapter in the 2003-2004 year.

Phil currently lives in Nashville and enjoys spending his spare time traveling, playing tennis, and exploring all of the new and exciting places and activities around Nashville!



Committee and Member News

CGFM



Macey Ray is the most recent member to become a CGFM. She graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a major in Finance. She has worked for the State of Tennessee for 12 years and is currently the fiscal coordinator for the Fiscal & Administrative Services division of the Tennessee Secretary of State's Office. While at the Southeast Regional PDT last April, several fellow state employees, including her assistant director, Barbara DeHarde, encouraged Macey to join AGA, which quickly led her on the pursuit to become a CGFM. Please congratulate her on this great accomplishment!

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is looking for volunteers to review scholarship applications in April 2018. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Drew Hawkins at 615-401-7743 or by emailing at Andrew.Hawkins@cot.tn.gov.

Welcome to AGA!

NEW MEMBERS

James Gadsden, Metro Government, Sponsored by
Angela McElrath-Prosser

Membership

As of our March luncheon, our membership count was 351. Currently, we have a four-way tie 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

On March 11, 2018, Nashville Chapter members volunteered to work Nashville Public Television's membership drive during programming for Patsy Cline: American Masters and Celtic Woman - Homecoming. They even had their picture taken with Patsy Cline's daughter, Julie Fudge. We were able to raise a lot of money for a worthy cause and enjoy some networking as well.



Pictured left to right (front row): Bernadette Hukan, Mary Anne Queen, Veronica Coleman, Julie Fudge, Kilolo Dunmore, Joyce Bentley, Keevia Battle and Britt Wood. Back row: Victor Nwanso, Charlotte Gentry, Kitty Holbrook, Jennifer Pedginski and Pamela Marks.

Volunteer Day at the Nashville Humane Association



April Community Service Event

Rock 'n' Roll **MARATHON SERIES®**

The 2018 St Jude Rock and Roll and 1/2 Marathon Presented by Nissan will be held Saturday, April 28th! There will be over 30,000 runners and walkers in Music City and volunteers are needed to help make sure they have a great experience while in town.

AGA will be participating in this event by volunteering, donating, or actually running in the event, if you would like to be a part of this fun and exciting event please sign up via the link provided below. Once you have signed up please contact Tammy Fruscione at 615-747-5221 or tammy.fruscione@cot.tn.gov.

Volunteers are needed at the Health and Fitness Expo at the Nashville Music City Center Wednesday, April 25 - Friday, April 27, the YMCA of Middle Tennessee KiDs Rock Race Sunday, April 29th, and on Race Day, Saturday, April 28th at the Start & Finish Line!

To submit your volunteer forms electronically please click the link below.

<http://www.runrocknroll.com/nashville/the-weekend/volunteer/>

To register for the race:

<http://www.runrocknroll.com/nashville/register/>

To donate to the cause:

https://charity.runrocknroll.com/events/nashville?_ga=2.38578851.1406745532.1520427376-14074480.1520427376

All volunteers will receive a Race Crew t-shirt and a ticket to the post race concert, this year's post-race concert is Hunter Hayes!

Member Spotlight — Michael Winston, CGFM



Chapter President-Elect Michael Winston

My name is Michael Winston, and I am currently serving as the Nashville Chapter President-Elect. That means I have the honor and privilege of leading this great chapter during the 2018 – 2019 program year. As I think back on my journey to get here, it's surprising that I made it to Nashville, let alone that I made it to AGA. But I am so fortunate that I did make it here, and I am looking forward to where the Nashville Chapter and I are going next.

While I was born in Florida, I grew up in Knoxville and will always think of it as my home. I grew up surrounded by an extended family that got together at church twice a week and many birthdays, holidays, and family dinners in-between. My great-grandmother always saved a seat for me next to her on the church pew and on the couch when the Atlanta Braves were playing. It was my close relationship with her where I discovered a love for jigsaw puzzles, card games, and crossword puzzles. It was the crossword puzzles that laid the foundation for my love of the newspaper. While I used to skip straight for the comics and puzzles page in the News Sentinel, I slowly started checking out the news in the other sections. I discovered a passion for reading, especially about current events locally and around the world.

In school, I did well for many years, but subjects got harder in high school, and I wasn't as interested in getting straight A's as I used to be. That is until I walked into Ms. Davis' Beginning Accounting class. To this day, I am so lucky that West High School offered an elective on

accounting. Debits and credits made so much sense to me. A fellow student and I used to race each other in class to see who could get our assignments done first. Truth be told, he would usually beat me on turning it in, but I was more accurate in getting the correct answers. From then on, I knew I was going to major in accounting when I got to college. And true to form, I stayed in Knoxville and got my bachelors degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee.

While I was in college, I had the opportunity to start working for a local credit union. I started out as a teller and moved on to new accounts and even lending. Not only was it good professional experience, but I also learned a lot about internal controls and compliance with regulations – skills that I didn't know I was really going to need down the road. Towards the end of my five years with the credit union, I graduated from UT and moved into a full time position in loss prevention. While I was fortunate to have a full time job when many of my classmates were struggling to find positions during the recession, I was not enjoying what basically amounted to collections work.

Over the next few months, I searched and searched for a new job opportunity. My main goal was to find something that would let me really use my accounting degree. When the big job search sites didn't seem to be providing a lot of options, I realized that I hadn't looked at government positions. So I found my way to the State of Tennessee website and started filling out an application. I got to the question that wanted to know what counties I would be interested in working in, and that was the first time I truly considered leaving Knoxville to work somewhere else. To make an already long story a little shorter, I landed in Internal Audit with the Department of General Services here in Nashville.

My experience with the State has been nothing short of fantastic. It has been the perfect intersection between my educational and personal interests. I get to help craft budgets and financial management strategies in the government environment that is reported in the news daily. Not that I ever want to see my name in the news, but it is very rewarding to see how my work affects the citizens of Tennessee. Looking back, it seems so obvious

Member Spotlight — Michael Winston, CGFM

that I would enjoy a career in government, but yet it took me a long time to find it. So I have to attribute this to a lack of awareness about career opportunities in government, and I think that is where AGA comes in.

My director who hired me, Debi Moss, recruited me to join AGA. She was a new member herself, but she recognized that there was great value in getting involved...

- Want to develop your skills to do your job better? Check out our webinars and training events
- Want to be involved in our community? Check out our community service activities
- Want to step up the career ladder? Try our CGFM program or apply for a scholarship to go back to school
- How about expanding your work contacts? Come network at our luncheons and socials

I could keep going, but I truly believe that getting involved in AGA was the critical piece for me finding success and fulfillment in my job. And on the personal side, my time in Nashville has brought my fiancée, Jill, and I together in a way that our time at UT never did. We live in Robertson County with our two rescue dogs, Cory and Pinto, who seem to be looking forward to our wedding this summer as much as we are.



Michael Winston and fiancée, Jill

With nearly 40 years under its belt, the Nashville AGA Chapter has done so much to shape and create leaders here in Nashville who have gone on to do great things at the national level. But our chapter is more than a leader, it is a group of members who lead by dedicating their time and effort to creating something bigger than one person can. Yes, "Chapter President" will accompany my name next year, but just as I have each year that I've been a member, I plan to work with each of you to build on our past success and continue moving forward as the best chapter in AGA.

Committee and Member News



- CGFM renewals are due March 31. All CGFM's that renew by March 31 will be entered into a drawing to receive reimbursement of their certification renewal.
- In celebration of CGFM Month, AGA is providing the online study guides and practice exams at half price. See the below website for further information.

https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Candidates/Preparing-for-Exams/CGFM-Study-Guides.aspx?utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=AGA%20Communications

- Thanks to everyone that attended the March luncheon to help us celebrate CGFM month!! We have lots to celebrate this month!!



- Congratulations to Connie Calloway who won the 3rd quarter exam subsidy drawing. She will receive a check to be reimbursed for the exam fee (\$125). If you want to be included in our next drawing, please contact Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov.
- Congratulations to Cynthia Minnick who won the drawing for the free exam 1 voucher from National AGA.
- Congratulations to Macey Ray for passing all CGFM exam parts and successfully becoming a CGFM!!



Macey Ray and Chapter President Britt Wood

Chapter Social Event



Come join us for a night of fun and frivolity with the Association of Government Accountants.

When: April 28 at 6:35 pm

Where: Sounds Stadium

Who: Your Nashville Sounds vs.
the New Orleans Baby-cakes

Included: Cost of baseball ticket at a table for four of your nearest and dearest AGA friends in the Band Box area (close to corn hole, great view of the game, with table service for food and beverages) Check out the venue online at <https://tinyurl.com/ht9v8g7>

Cost: \$20 per member; \$30 per guest

Seats are limited, so reserve and pay for your tickets today! See Donna Jewell for payment options or questions (donna.jewell@cot.tn.gov).

News And Just The Facts

CAREER CENTER

A **Budget Director** position was recently posted. Qualified and interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to the link provided at [AGA Job Board](#) .

OUR CURRENT STANDING AS OF MARCH 16, 2018, IS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Chapter Recognition Section</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	2,600	5,000	52%
Education & Professional Development	7,050	4,000	176%
Certification	3,050	4,000	76%
Communications	5,675	3,000	189%
Membership	4,275	4,000	107%
Accountability	250	2,000	13%
Community Service	2,250	2,000	113%
Awards	0	1,000	0%
TOTALS	25,150	25,000	101%

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 April 9, 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 April 13, 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
Britt Wood, CPA, CFE, CGFM,
CISA, ACDA
(615) 401-3006
Britt.Wood@cot.tn.gov

President-Elect
Michael Winston, CGFM
(615) 806-0521
Michael.Winston@tn.gov

Immediate Past President
Angela McElrath-Prosser
(615) 862-5772
Angela.Mcelrath@nashville.gov

Secretary
Gay Oliver
(615) 815-2132
goliver@thda.org

Treasurer
Jennifer Garoutte
(615) 401-7950
Jennifer.Garoutte@cot.tn.gov

One-Year Directors

Keevia Battle, CPA
Community Service Chair
(615) 253-1200
Keevia.Battle@tn.gov

Charlotte Gentry
(615) 741-7520
Charlotte.A.Gentry@tn.gov

Donna Nicely
(615) 253-5234
Donna.Nicely@tn.gov

Victor Nwanso
Corporate Sponsorship Chair
(615) 532-1827
Victor.Nwanso@tn.gov

Scarlet Sneed, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA
Meetings and Attendance Chair
(615) 747-5243
Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov

Two-Year Directors

Katie Armstrong
Finance Chair
(615) 747-8801
Katie.Armstrong@cot.tn.gov

Veronica Coleman
Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 253-3998
Veronica.I.Coleman@tn.gov

Donna Jewell, CPA, CFE
Program Chair
(615) 747-5276
Donna.Jewell@cot.tn.gov

Jai Sawlani, CGFM
Finance Co-Chair
(615) 532-9738
Jai.Sawlani@tn.gov

Chase Tramel
Early Career Chair
(615) 401-7933
Chase.Tramel@cot.tn.gov

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Nathan Abbott, CISA, CFE, EA
Webmaster Co-Chair
(615) 401-7842
Nathan.Abbott@cot.tn.gov

Gerry Boaz, CGFM, CPA, CGMA
Accountability Outreach Chair
(615) 747-5262
Gerry.Boaz@cot.tn.gov

Rachelle Cabading, CFE
Education Chair
(615) 401-7841
Rachelle.Cabading@cot.tn.gov

Bridget Carver
Membership Chair
(615) 401-7959
Bridget.Carver@cot.tn.gov

Nichole Curtiss Crittenden
Bylaws/Procedures Chair
(615) 401-7947
Nichole.Crittenden@cot.tn.gov

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Andrew Hawkins
Awards Chair
(615) 401-7743
Andrew.Hawkins@cot.tn.gov

Karen B. Hale, MAOM, CGFM
Communications Chair
(615) 401-7742
Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov

Melissa Lahue
CGFM Chair
(615) 741-2179
Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov

Alexander Warns
Treasurer-Elect
(615) 741-0578
Alexander.Warns@tn.gov

Dan Willis, CGFM, CPA, CISA
Webmaster Co-Chair
(615) 747-5247
Daniel.Willis@cot.tn.gov



Chapter Address:

AGA Nashville Chapter
PO Box 198025
Nashville, TN 37219

Visit the Nashville Chapter web-
site at www.nashvilleaga.org
Visit the National website at:
www.agacgfm.org