

President's Message

AGA President Message for February 2021

I hope you are all staying healthy, as our country continues to combat the pandemic! I'm looking forward to when it is safe for us to resume meeting in person again. The current plan is for chapter meetings to continue to be held virtually through at least April. Please do not let that discourage you from participating because the chapter board has excellent speakers lined up. This month we are looking forward to having John Sutton from the University of TN – Institute for Public Service – County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) as our speaker. John will be presenting on the Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO) Program. Please make plans to attend.

AGA has recently sent out membership renewal notices to all of our current members. Remember to renew your membership on the [AGA website](#). If you are not a current member, I invite you to join. Also, if you know someone who might be interested in joining, please encourage them to do so. AGA membership includes many benefits, including access to the education and networking opportunities. Each member receives at least 14 hours of training on a variety of topics annually, as well as member discounts on AGA conferences and events, included in the cost of membership.

On a forward looking note, AGA National is encouraging all chapters to review and update our bylaws. The chapter officers are actively working on the updates, using a prototype template that was provided by AGA National for guidance. Prior to this, our bylaws were last updated in 2018. The revised bylaws will be distributed to members by email later this month for review in advance of our March meeting. Our plan is to bring the revised bylaws for a vote at our March meeting. We will also be starting to plan for the upcoming program year before long. If you have an interest in a leadership role within AGA, please reach out to any of the chapter officers. Also, if there is a specific topic or particular speaker you are interested in hearing, we welcome that feedback as well.

I wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you are able to spend quality time with those you love.

Astra Cope
2020-2021 AGA East TN Chapter President

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February 2021 Meeting

Tuesday,
Feb. 9, 2021
11:30 AM

   
John Sutton, CPA
   

Agenda

Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO)
Program

More detail to follow on virtual meeting

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AGA National News

AGA Web Conferences: CPE Simplified

Looking for a way to stretch your training budget? AGA Web Conferences make earning CPE hours easy and affordable. Web conferences feature experts on a variety of government financial management and performance topics. Each event includes time for participants to ask questions and receive answers from the presenters. The web conferences are held on **Wednesdays from 2–3:50 p.m. ET, cost \$59.**

Upcoming Web Conferences

Mar. 03 Improper Payments	2 CPE
Mar. 17 Free Members-Only *no cost to members	1.5 CPE
Mar. 24 Cybersecurity	2 CPE

Recruit a Member

Did you know that a large percentage of new members join AGA simply because someone invited them?

As a valued member, you can impact the future of AGA by sharing your experience with your peers, your staff and others in your organization with an interest in government financial management. No one knows better than a current AGA member how beneficial membership is to advancing government accountability.

There are recognition and rewards for recruiting such as sponsor lapel pin for one or more new members, special recognition in AGA publications and at AGA events. You could even become the next recruiter of the year by recruiting the most new members from April 1st thru March 31st of any given year.

2020-2021 National Events Calendar

National Leadership Training (NLT)	Feb 24-25	Virtual	14 CPE
PIO/CFO Summit	Apr 8	Virtual	4 CPE
ERM Workshop	Apr 14	Virtual	4 CPE
RPA Workshop	May 5	Virtual	4 CPE
Professional Development Training (PDT)	July 18-21	Nashville or virtual	24 CPE

Check out www.agacqfm.org for the latest in National AGA information and news. You can also access the member's only section of the site to update your personal information, renew your membership, report membership news and view how we are doing on points in the chapter

AGA Mentoring Program

AGA is launching our new online **Mentoring Program** and we need our best and brightest — (yes, that's YOU) — to sign-up as Mentors!

We can work together to leave this world — and our financial community, better than we found it and to make a positive impact on the next generation of government leaders. Mentoring is important because of the knowledge and skills you can share with others. Mentoring provides mentees additional professional socialization and support outside of their traditional or work related “chain of command”.

At a time when most of us are working remotely, it is great to have a trusted advisor to turn to for help in balancing work and life.

What Does a Mentor Do?

- Establish the confidentiality of the relationship — what “rules” or boundaries do you want to put into place?
- Offer objective guidance, advice, support, and provide information.
- Boost confidence during difficult times.
- Challenge your mentee to set “stretch” goals and take steps to realize them.
- Help your mentee move outside of comfort zones.
- Provide advice in navigating the transition to management and/or other leadership roles.
- Share approaches to ethical and professional dilemmas.
- Provide introductions to other professionals who may serve as resources.

To participate in this program, please create and complete a Mentor Profile. Mentee candidates will seek you out based on the areas of expertise you specify in your profile. You can also identify the number of mentees that you are willing to take on in your profile.

This is our first call for mentors, so please note that the program is just kicking off now and we will invite mentees to sign-up once we have a strong mentor database. We know that your time is valuable and we appreciate your support!

The future is ours to shape — and working together we can make a positive impact on the future of our profession!

Ann Ebberts, MS, PMP
AGA CEO

Chapter News

January Meeting Minutes

The East Tn Chapter AGA met on January 12, 2021 via Zoom Meeting. The meeting was opened by President Astra Cope. Speaking to the group was Travis Low on the Coronavirus relief funds and the audits related to funds received. Most of the funding was had gone to Education, Health Care, Broad Band. No funds were given for loss of Revenue. Travis also spoke on the controls that we all have for working at home. Question asked is How secure are we – What is the opportunity for Fraud.

Speaking to the Group as well was Gary Mitchell. Both Travis and Gary are from Pugh CPAs. Gary on the compliance supplement.

At the close of the presentation the Board met at 11:35 to discuss the changes on the Bylaws, Verification on State Filing that we do not have any forms or reports that we are aware of. The changes of the Bylaws will be sent via email so that we as a board can approve of those changes. Astra also asked for a vote on the format for the next meetings up to April and the majority of the board members voted to continue with the virtual meetings to ensure that our members are kept safe from any exposure of the Corona Virus.

Minutes by Connie Cook.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Treasurer Connie Cook reported the bank balance as of February 4, 2021 as \$ 17,596.70.

February Meeting Speaker



John Sutton, CPA, started with the University of TN – Institute for Public Service – County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) in July 2019 with 35 years' experience of local governmental accounting and auditing. Previously, John was a Senior Audit Manager with PUGH CPAs, an RSM McGladrey Alliance Firm, and with another local CPA firm both located in Knoxville, TN. After graduating with a BBA Degree with a major in accounting from Middle Tennessee State University, he began his career as a staff auditor with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury - Division of Local Government Audit. John has extensive experience working with counties, boards of education, cities, utility districts and governmental pension and retirement plans. He is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Tennessee Society of CPAs (TSCPA) and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) – ET Chapter.

John is the CTAS Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO) Program Manager:

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East Tennessee AGA Chapter Officers 2020-2021

President:	Astra Cope
Past President:	Chris Simons
Webmaster:	Alicia Reed
Treasurer:	Connie Cook
Secretary:	Gail Cook
Historian:	Amy Paganelli
Membership:	Robin Shelton
Education:	Amelia Hart
CGFM:	Karen McKee
Awards:	Ginger Giffin
Accountability:	Mary McDonald
Community Service:	Thaddeus Grace
Early Careers:	Perry Benshoof
Newsletter Editor:	Deb Strahler
Research:	Larry Elmore
Chapter Recognition & Meetings:	Patti Rebholz
President - Elect:	Amelia Hart

EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES

There is always an opportunity for anyone of you to take a position as a board member.

BECOME A CGFM TODAY!!!

The Certified Government Financial Manager - The Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government.

Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals. More than 14,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand—the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession. We look forward to adding your name to our distinguished list of Certified Government Financial Managers.

Recent research has shown that employers attribute their recruiting difficulties to a shortage of qualified professionals. Give yourself a competitive advantage by showing your commitment to lifelong learning. You need a credential that shows you are qualified and have the skills to lead. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) does this like no other credential.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management—federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers

Learn more about how to become a CGFM at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/whyearn/default.aspx>.

CGFM Exam Preparation Courses – Virtual, live

What:	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3
Where:	Virtual, live	Virtual, live	Virtual, live
When:	Jan 11-12, 2021	January 26-29, 2021	February 9-11, 2021
	10:30am – 2:15pm each day	10:30am – 3:30pm each day	10:30am – 3:30pm each day
Cost:	\$325 per person	\$725 per person	\$525 per person
Deadline:	1/4/21	1/19/21	2/2/21

CGFM Self-Study Alternatives

Study Guides offers by AGA for online and in print options