



AGA™

EAST TENNESSEE
CHAPTER

The East Tennessee Times

President's Message

AGA President Message for January 2021

Happy New Year! I expect that everyone was able to take some time off, relax and recharge during the holiday season. Although 2020 brought many challenges, growth often comes from adversity. I hope that as you reflect on 2020, you are able to find some bright spots. As we enter into the new year, the goal of our East TN AGA chapter is to make 2021 one of our best years yet. Chapter member involvement is key to achieving that goal. AGA provides great opportunities to build relationships with fellow government financial management professionals, further develop technical skills, and serve in chapter leadership positions in a supportive environment. When evaluating your personal and professional goals for 2021, I challenge you to consider taking on a chapter leadership role. If you have any interest, please reach out to myself or any of the other officers for additional information. We will be happy to have your help!

A huge thank you is in order to the chapter for the donation and support provided during the December Fundraiser for Fish Hospitality Pantries. The organization is very appreciative of the chapter and member donations of over \$1,500! The grand total will be announced at our next meeting, which will be held virtually on January 12th.

We are looking forward to having Travis Lowe, Vice President – Audit, and Gary Mitchell, Senior Manager – Audit, from Pugh CPAs as our speakers this month. They will be presenting on Common Audit Issues over the Pandemic. Mr. Lowe and Mr. Mitchell have experience in various industries and are also members of our AGA East TN chapter.

Wishing everyone good health, happiness and prosperity in the 2021!

Astra Cope
2020-2021 AGA East TN Chapter President

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January 2021 Meeting

**Tuesday,
Jan. 12, 2020
11:30 AM**



Travis Lowe, VP Audit
And
Gary Mitchell, Sr Mgr. Audit
With
Pugh CPA's



Agenda

Common Audit Issues over the Pandemic

More detail to follow on virtual meeting

In This Issue...

- 2 AGA National News
- 4 Chapter News
- 5 Board List
- 6 CGFM Information

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

Jan. 13	Uniform Guidance	2 CPE
Feb. 03	GASB Update	2 CPE
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

December Meeting Minutes

Our December meeting was called to order by Chapter President, Astra Cope. Our speaker was Jim Wright from the Fish Hospitality Pantries. He explained the the mission of the organization in regards to feeding families and creating community. With the pandemic of 2020 there has been a greater need in the community for food and there urgent need for donations. The chapter has chosen the Fish Hospitality Pantries as our fundraising opportunity for the year. Astra presented to Jim our one time gift of \$1,000 and that we would also match member donations up to \$1,500. The website for the members donation was given as <https://donorbox.org/fish-donations>. Astra Cope, President closed the meeting wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Deb Strahler for Gail Cook

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



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

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