



Nashville Notes



What's Inside

President's Letter	1
Meeting Dates	3
2019-20 Awards	5
Membership/Community	
Service	7



Rachelle Cabading
2020-2021 Chapter President

President's Letter

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Program Year for the Nashville Chapter of AGA! I am honored to be serving as your chapter president this year. Our Nashville Chapter has been going strong for over 42 years and we are excited to find new and creative ways to continue offering our members excellent educational, networking, and community service opportunities. While this program year may look a little different than in the past, we are committed to making sure our members receive exceptional benefits and find their membership as rewarding as ever. The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) is excited to announce our September, October, November, and December monthly meetings will be offered virtually at NO CHARGE to Nashville Chapter members! **This means from now until the end of 2020, members have a chance to receive up to four hours of CPE for free as part of their membership to AGA and the Nashville Chapter!** Our members will also have a chance to earn free CPE through the many webinars offered by our chapter and National AGA. The first opportunity is coming up September 2nd. National AGA is hosting a free one-hour webinar on personnel/human resources. Go to www.agacgfm.org/webinars for more information.



President's Letter (Continued)

I hope you can join us for our first virtual meeting on September 14, 2020 where AGA's Past-National President, Jim Arnette, will speak to us on Cybersecurity – It's All About You! Please be on the lookout soon for an email with registration information.

Our chapter has a rich history of leaders who have donated their time to serve at the National level. We are honored to have two of our Nashville Chapter members serving on AGA's National Governing Board for 2020-2021. Kathy Stickel is serving as the National Treasurer and Gerry Boaz is serving as National President-Elect. Congratulations to Kathy and Gerry for this remarkable accomplishment!

Also, congratulations to all the award winners at this year's National Professional Development Training held virtually in July 2020 as well as chapter award winners that were announced over the summer. Since our chapter was unable to have an awards luncheon in May, this newsletter has a special section spotlighting some of those winners. Congratulations again!

We have so many great things planned for this program year and our newsletter provides you access to the latest information on chapter activities, educational events, community service and so much more. Due to the pandemic, many of these activities will be offered virtually, at least for the foreseeable future. Our CEC is committed to ensuring the Nashville Chapter of AGA remains strong in its commitment to its members and the commitment to remain the premier accountability organization for our profession.

Make sure you sign up for our chapter emails, including our monthly newsletter, at www.NashvilleAGA.org. Find the "Membership" tab and click on "Join Email Group". By entering your email address, you will receive the monthly newsletters, invitations to monthly meetings/luncheons, social events, community service opportunities, and so much more.

We plan on spotlighting several of our committees at our monthly meetings. In September, we will be spotlighting the Education Committee. If you have been looking for ways to get involved with the chapter, please let me or one of the committee chairs know and we will find a place for you to volunteer.

I look forward to seeing everyone "virtually" on September 14th for our first chapter meeting of the year!

Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training 2020



focusing on internal controls and
minimizing fraud, waste and abuse

September 23-24 | Virtual | 14 CPEs | 11 PDUs

2020-21 AGA Webinars

Communications

September 9 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

Internal Control/Improper Payments

October 7 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

Ethics

November 4 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

Internal Control

December 9 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

Uniform Guidance

January 13 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

GASB Update

February 3 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

Cybersecurity/ERM

March 24 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

CARES Act

April 21 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

Fraud/Data Analytics

May 12 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual

Leadership

June 9 | 1:00–2:50 PM
Virtual



2020-2021

Chapter Meeting Dates

September 14, 2020

October 5, 2020

November 2, 2020

December 7, 2020

January 11, 2021

February 1, 2021

March 1, 2021

April 5, 2021

May 10, 2021

2019-2020

CEC Meeting Dates

September 2, 2020

September 30, 2020

October 28, 2020

December 2, 2020

January 6, 2021

January 27, 2021

February 24, 2021

March 31, 2021

April 29, 2020

November Meeting Speaker

Jim Arnette, CGFM, CISA

Cybersecurity - It's All About You!

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 37 years. He began his career as a Systems Analyst with the Office of Management Services before being asked to establish 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. In 2019, Jim was recognized by the Tennessee General Assembly with a special resolution for his exceptional leadership, long-standing government service and significant contributions, both in our state and nationally.

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 and served as AGA's National President for the 2017-2018 program year. He currently is chair of AGA's Governance Committee and serves on AGA's Intergovernmental Partnership. In 2020, Jim received AGA's Robert W. King Memorial Award. This award is AGA's highest honor conferred to a member for distinguished service of such significance that AGA's national prestige and stature were greatly enhanced.

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.

2019-20 Awards

Jennifer Garoutte, Immediate Past Chapter President

Thank you all for the honor of serving as President of the Nashville Chapter of AGA for the 2019-2020 Program Year. While it did not end as anticipated, it was another great year for our chapter because of ALL of the volunteers and members that make our chapter one of the best. Below is a listing of awards and recognitions made by National AGA to individuals and to our chapter, and two special awards issued by our Chapter.

National Individual Awards

Robert W. King Memorial Award– Jim Arnette – AGA's highest honor was established in honor of AGA's founding president and is given to a member for distinguished service of such significance that AGA's national prestige and stature were greatly enhanced.

Past National President, Jim Arnette received this honor for



his outstanding leadership in the development and approval of AGA's new, forward-thinking governance structure, which streamlines communications, strengthens chapters, and challenges the National Governing Board to strategic consideration of AGA's role and position in the profession. By establishing AGA's Higher Education Committee and focusing on the inclusivity and involvement of state and local government members, he challenged AGA leaders to think creatively in promoting growth and member support within the association.

Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year Award is a national honor recognizing distinguished contributions to the development and enhancement of an AGA chapter. It is presented annually to one member from each chapter. The recipients of the award embody the spirit of volunteerism.

This year's award went to Drew Sadler who served as a Director and Chair of our CGFM Committee. Drew has served on this committee for several years. Over the last two years, Drew took on a leadership role for our chapter and because of his persistent outreach efforts to state, federal, local, and private entities, our chapter has been able to host training for all three sections of the CGFM Exam. Our most recent class, held just before the COVID-19 quarantine began, had 35 participants (the maximum number allowed by National). Without Drew's outreach and work with various

agencies, we would not be able to host this important certification program.

National Chapter Awards

Platinum Chapter– The Chapter Recognition Program was designed to support, encourage and promote AGA's mission and to provide flexible guidelines for a well-rounded chapter. Award levels are based on credits earned throughout the year. The Platinum Chapter award is given to Chapters who earn more than 19,500 credits.



Communications– Nathan Abott/Britt Wood

This was the first year the Communication award focused on multiple communication strategies including websites, newsletters, and social media outreach. I want to thank former Chapter President, Britt Wood for her dedication to our chapter by staying active after her retirement. Britt has been responsible for the Chapter's Facebook page for several years and most recently edited and published our monthly newsletters.

Transparency and Accountability– Gerry Boaz

This award recognizes chapters for outstanding promotion of AGA's accountability and transparency programs to members and the government financial community, particularly AGA's Citizen-Centric Reporting initiative to promote clear and concise communications between governments and their citizens through four-page publications called CCRs.

The Nashville chapter's Accountability and Outreach Committee successfully communicated the importance and benefits of the CCR to various local organizations and individuals and its value in promoting more informed decision-making among citizens.

CGFM– Drew Sadler

This award recognizes AGA chapters for outstanding promotion of the CGFM program to members, government financial management professionals and their communities.

The Nashville chapter was recognized for our long-term commitment to professional excellence, for promoting the CGFM designation as a mark of excellence, and for increasing the number of chapter members who have achieved the distinction.

Education– Melissa Lahue and Terry Burr

This award recognizes AGA chapters for outstanding educational programs for members and other government financial professionals.

For the 2019-2020 Program Year, the Nashville Chapter provided over 5,600 CPE hours by hosting monthly meetings, a 2-day Winter Seminar, the CGFM review course for Exams 1 and 3, and web conferences. Through

these events, we had a total attendance of 1,100 people and offered 71 unique CPE possibilities with the average cost per credit hour of \$11.

Chapter Awards

Member of the Year Award– Angela McElrath-Prosser

Each year our chapter names a Member of the Year who has



earned the most points by being active in multiple chapter events throughout the year. This year, our Member of the Year is Angela McElrath-Prosser. Angela has served our chapter in various positions over the years. This year, at the last minute, Angela agreed to serve as the Chair of the Community Service Committee. Since our chapter has a different event each month, this takes quite a bit of coordination and time. In addition to serving as Chair of Community Service, Angela attended each chapter meeting and most chapter sponsored training. After the COVID quarantine started and National AGA limited our number of webinar attendees, Angela graciously offered to give up her seat so other members could participate. Angela is an exemplary member of our Chapter.

President's Award– Katie Armstrong

Each year the Chapter President

must select a person who has made a significant impact on the chapter. If you see the list of awards above, and know our chapter, you must know this was not an easy decision; however, as I considered this award, one name kept coming to mind. This year Katie Armstrong served as Treasurer-Elect. Over the years Katie has held several positions in our chapter, including but not limited to Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair. Through the years, Katie has been involved with setting up the chapter's accounting software, getting the chapter organized to do fundraising with the Titans, completing the annual history report, filing the chapter's tax return, and many other activities. Throughout this year I noticed that anytime someone had a question about how something worked or should work, the answer was usually,



"Katie will know" or "Ask Katie." I thought it was important to recognize Katie as it is often the people who are not the ones at the podium or in front of the crowd that create the strong foundation of a chapter like ours.

Wishing you all the best in the 2020-2021 Program year!

New Members!

Elisha Crowell

Legislative Senior Information
Systems Auditor

Comptroller of the Treasury

Laura Foster

PS Manager

BDO USA

Recruiting Incentives

- First-time guests receive a free lunch.
- Each sponsor of a new member receives a \$10 gift card.
- The member who sponsors the most new members by December 31 wins \$100.

Gain 30 points so that you can receive a \$45 rebate on your full membership renewal after renewing by March 31, 2021.



Membership

As of August 12, 2020, our membership count was 311. The winner of the \$50 incentive drawing for renewing membership by June 30, 2020, was Sonja Yarbrough. If you have not renewed your AGA membership, there is still time to renew before our first meeting.

Visit nashvilleaga.org or contact Pamela Marks to see how to gain points throughout the year. Just about everything you do can help you win the membership rebate mentioned above and a chance to win a free trip to the National Professional Development Training (PDT) in July.

Get involved! Benefit yourself and others through your professional association, AGA!

Community Service

The Community Service Committee thanks those who donated to the National Community Service Fund (NCSF) and/or participated in AGA's Virtual Fun Hour (proceeds of which went to the NCSF). Many of you have let us know that you contributed; if you haven't let the Community Service Committee know of your contribution, please email mary.anne.queen@cot.tn.gov, and we will make sure you get credit for contributing.

Our next community service project will be supporting Alex Green Elementary School. **More details to come!**

LUNCHEON/CEC MINUTES

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC and luncheon meetings, please visit the chapter website [here](https://www.cot.tn.gov). The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next scheduled business meeting.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time, job opportunities are sent in and posted to our website by the Website Committee, for your convenience. If you are interested in new job offerings or know someone who is, click this link for more information.

EDITOR'S CORNER

We enjoy reading articles submitted from our membership! Please share your thoughts, ideas, or interesting news with us by submitting an article to Tyler.Ensminger@cot.tn.gov no later than September 15, 2020 for the next edition of our newsletter.

Chapter Committees

Young Professionals

Organizes events for members in the first few years of their careers.

Education

Organizes our annual training seminar in January/February. This includes recruiting and scheduling speakers for the seminar. Also organizes local participation in Webinars hosted by the National Office.

Awards

This committee creates nominations for National Awards as well as awarding local chapter scholarships. We provide at least 2 scholarships annually and this committee reviews the scholarship applications and decides on the recipients.

Membership

Recruits and retains members.

Finance

Collects money at monthly luncheons, prepares annual history report, and local chapter tax forms.



Webmaster

Maintains the website content and listserv.

Accountability & Outreach

Prepares annual Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) and recruits other agencies to prepare CCRs.

Meetings & Attendance

Organizes monthly Chapter Executive Committee and chapter luncheons. Keeps up with those who sign up and attend meetings. Also assists the Education committee with rosters for meetings that provide CPE training.

Program

Recruits speakers for monthly lunches and organizes annual social events.

Corporate Sponsorship

Recruits sponsors for events. So far, most of our sponsors have been for the Winter Seminar in January or February.

Community Service

Coordinates and organizes monthly community service projects throughout the program year.

Communication

Publishes the monthly newsletter and maintains social media presence.

Contact Rachelle Cabading or the committee chairs to volunteer!

Contact Us

Officers

President

Rachelle Cabading, CGFM
(615) 401-7841
Rachelle.Cabading@cot.tn.gov

President-Elect

Alexander J. Warns, CPA
(615) 741-2261
Alexander.Warns@tn.gov

Immediate Past President

Jennifer Garoutte, CFE, CGFM
(615) 401-7950
jennifer.garoutte@tbr.edu

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Katie Armstrong, CGFM, CPA, CFE
(615) 747-8801
Katie.Armstrong@cot.tn.gov

Treasurer-Elect

Jai Sawlani
(615) 747-8801
jaisawlani@yahoo.com

Directors

Webmaster

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

Education

Terry Burr, CPA
(615) 741-3261
Terry.Burr@tn.gov

Membership

Bridget Carver, CFE
(615) 401-7959
Bridget.Carver@cot.tn.gov

Awards

Pamela M. Marks
(615) 862-6212
pmm2912@comcast.net

Financial Secretary

Nicole Curtiss Crittenden, CGFM
(615) 401-7947
nicholecurtiss@yahoo.com

Bylaws & Procedure

Melissa Boaz, CGFM, CPA, CFE,
CGMA
(615) 747-5305
Melissa.Boaz@cot.tn.gov

Young Professionals

Bethany L. Graves
(615) 401-7945
Bethany.Graves@cot.tn.gov

Education

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

Awards

Mary Anne Queen, CGFM, CFE (615)
401-7756
Mary.Anne.Queen@cot.tn.gov

CGFM

Drew Sadler, CGFM
615-747-5268
Drew.Sadler@cot.tn.gov

For a list of all Chapter Leadership for the 2020-2021 Program Year visit:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Nashville-Chapter/Our-Chapter/Chapter-Leadership.aspx>



Chapter Address:

AGA Nashville Chapter

PO Box 198025 Nashville, TN 37219

**Visit the Nashville Chapter website at
www.nashvilleaga.org**