

# Nashville Notes



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Alexander Warns 2021-2022 Chapter President

# President's Letter

Does anyone remember that Michael Jackson movie "This is it!"? Well, when it comes to my monthly AGA editorials, "This is it! – Part 2". However, being honest, I have no clue what to write. As such, perhaps a year in review would be best.

When I look back at the 2021-2022 AGA program year, so many accomplishments come to mind. Highlights include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Our membership increased by over 70 people
- 2. We introduced and implemented the hybrid meeting concept (Yours truly was on the "AGA Accountability Talks" podcast to discuss the challenges associated with these efforts)
- 3. Guest speakers at our monthly luncheons provided attendees CPEs on a wide range of relevant topics
- 4. We raised funds by volunteering at a Titans game
- 5. We contributed to multiple kickoff events to lay a foundation for a new AGA Chapter in West Tennessee
- 6. We had multiple Chapter members win national individual awards

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AGA Nashville Chapter



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2022-2023 CEC Members

# President's Letter (continued)

- 7. Our Chapter consistently volunteered in the community at varying events and functions
- 8. 220+ people virtually attended our annual winter seminar
- 9. Numerous people earned the CGFM designation
- 10. We increased our social media footprint
- 11. Members and their guests attended an incredible social
- 12. We awarded \$10,000 in student scholarships
- 13. We recognized members who retired

Talk about some amazing accomplishments! Needless to say, none of these achievements would have occurred without the dedication and leadership provided by our CEC. You know who you are. Thank you!

As I conclude, I'd like to wish our 2022-2023 Chapter President, Katie Armstrong, the absolute best. In short, while I'm sure there will be challenges, I'm excited to see where our Chapter goes under Katie's leadership.

With appreciation.

## -Alex

PS. You know in rap songs when they yell out "Aaaaaayy!". Well sometimes right before they yell out "Aaaaaayy!" secretly in my head I like to sing "AG!". Get it? "AG-Aaaaaaayy!" (AGA!) ... Just kidding!



# 2021-2022 Award Winners



Volunteer of the Year: Elisha Crowell



Members of the Year: Angela McElrath-Prosser and Drew Sadler



Community Service Award: Scarlett Sneed

Not Pictured: President's Award - Jai Sawlani, Community Service Award - Lisanne Palacios, and Retiree - Jerry Durham. Congrats to our award winners!

We also enjoyed two of our scholarship winners and their parents being with us. We will honor all four of our scholarship recipients in the August newsletter.



Left: Nathaniel Harrison and parents Tim & Alice, Right: Jackson Bryan and parents Bryson & Heather

# A Note From Our President-Elect

Hello Nashville AGA!

Wow! Program year 21-22 was amazing. Our chapter offered CPE at 8 luncheons, provided 10 webinars, hosted a 16 hour Winter Seminar, participated in 7 community service events, offered a 3-day CGFM review course, hosted a social event, awarded \$10,000 in scholarships, and gained 69 new members! All of this was accomplished in a year of the 'new normal." For AGA, that new normal included hybrid luncheons, virtual seminars and, at times, social distancing and masking. Truly an outstanding accomplishment!

So, as we move into program year 22-23, I want us to focus on the 'NEXT new normal" (yes, I made up that term). What I mean by that is AGA is evolving. In February 2022, the national office launched a new rebrand and let us know that we would no longer be known as the Association of Government Accountants, but instead would simply be known as our acronym of AGA. Now you may ask 'Why"? For many years AGA has been an organization that catered to more than just accountants, but our name didn't reflect that. By simplifying our name to our acronym of AGA we can avoid inadvertently excluding government accountability professionals who are not accountants...IT professionals, budget analysts, program and grants managers, auditors and HR specialists. So, as we move into the next program year, I would like you all to reflect on the professionals that you work with who work towards good government, transparency and

accountability who aren't in traditional accountant roles but who collaborate with us and contribute towards government accountability. With those folks in mind. let's make a concerted effort to get them involved in AGA too.



Katie Armstrong

We want to be an inclusive organization that helps advance excellence in government, to help grow likeminded professionals, and to accelerate our careers.

I am humbled by the opportunity to lead the Nashville Chapter this coming year. I hope that I can have just a fraction of the success that Alex and many of the presidents before him have had and I am looking forward to another great year with AGA.

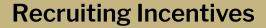
# **New Members!**

# **Carlette Jones**

Finance Officer III
Metro Nashville

# **Stephanie Thomas**

Director of Grants and Budget
TN Dept of Labor and Workforce



- 1. 1st-time guests receive a free lunch
- 2. Each sponsor of a new member receives \$20
- 3. Gain 30 points so you can receive a \$55 rebate on your membership renewal after renewing by March 31, 2022

Visit www.nashvilleaga.org to see how you can gain points throughout the year. There are plenty of opportunities to gain points to go toward the member rebate and a chance to win a free trip to the National Professional Development Training (PDT) in July.



# Membership

JoAnn Stewart was the winner of the \$50 incentive drawing for renewing membership by March 31, 2022. Congratulations JoAnn!

We wrapped up our year with a total membership of 376 AGA members. Thanks to you, AGA continues to grow in service to our association, our community, and our nation, and we can all be proud to be a part of the movement.

Remember if you have not yet renewed, you may do so at www.agacgfm.org to take advantage of member benefits throughout the summer and into the next program year. Thank you for a fabulous year, and stay tuned for more fantastic programs, membership benefits, and recruiting incentives beginning in September.

# June Webinar

# Leadership

June 8 | 2:00-3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: HR

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Auditing - Governmental

This webinar will address the CFO's role as a leader in federal organizations to rapidly analyze and act on data, drive insight, and maintain effective stewardship, and the complexity of managing a workforce while driving Digital Transformation. Such transformation includes Financial System Modernization (FSM), the impacts/shifts to the workforce, audit readiness, and OCFO's role as a service provider. The webinar will also address attracting, staffing, and retaining employees in a competitive job market and challenges associated with today's workforce landscape.

# LUNCHEON/CEC MINUTES

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC and luncheon meetings, please visit the chapter website here. 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.

# **SUBMIT AN ARTICLE!**

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 the 15th of each month 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 Alex Warns or the committee chairs to volunteer!

# **Contact Us**

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For a list of all Chapter Leadership for the 2021-2022 Program Year visit:

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



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