



Nashville Notes



What's Inside

President's Letter	1
Scholarships	2
March Speaker	4
Mentoring Program	5

President's Letter

Welcome to Tennessee and it's crazy weather patterns. I hope everyone had enough bread and milk for our Snowmageddon last week. My family spent most of the week sledding, building a snowman, and having snowball fights while working at home as my daughter attended virtual school. This week it is approaching 70 degrees and I need my flip flops! By this weekend, we will see anywhere from 4-6 inches of rain here in Nashville. This crazy weather pattern shows that spring is just around the corner which means it is almost time for CGFM Month!

March is the month we celebrate our CGFM's and encourage future CGFM's to pursue the designation! We are hosting a CGFM review course in March and also have several special giveaways planned for the month along with a special gift that will be sent to all CGFM's. Be on the lookout for emails celebrating All Things CGFM this next month!



Rachelle Cabading
2020-2021 Chapter President



President's Letter (Continued)

We are excited to have Elena Tercero from the New Mexico Chapter speaking to us on the topic of "Leadership". Elena has served the New Mexico chapter at various levels throughout her career and has served numerous national positions and is currently serving as the Professional Certification Board Chair. If you have ever participated in AGA's PDT, you might have gotten up early and joined Elena during the morning PiYo workout sessions! A special thank you to AGA's National Office for coordinating Elena as our March speaker to help celebrate CGFM Month.

Congratulations to Nashville Chapter member Deborah Loveless on being the recipient of the 2021 Excellence in Government Leadership Award given out at AGA's NLT on February 24, 2021. Congratulations Deborah!

Our February's Community Service event is Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. This ministry provides a central distribution center for companies, groups, and individuals who wished to help provide food for hungry people in Middle Tennessee. Make sure you check out the Community Service page on our website for information on how to donate and help us meet our "Power of 7 Call to Action" from National President Wendy Morton-Huddleston to donate time and money to 7 non-profits.

I look forward to seeing everyone virtually on March 1st for our next chapter meeting!

Chapter Scholarships

William R. Snodgrass Scholarship:

Two scholarships awarded to a Middle or West Tennessee, Southern Kentucky, or Northern Alabama high school senior or college student with a business-related major such as accounting, economics, finance, information systems, management, or marketing.

Fawn W. Ellis Scholarship:

Two scholarships awarded to an AGA Nashville area chapter member, member's spouse, or member's child or grandchild (any school and any major may apply).

For more information and for application information visit AGA Nashville - Scholarships (agacgfm.org).

Deadline to apply is April 15th!

2020-21 AGA Webinars

Cybersecurity/ERM (see pg. 8)

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

March 1, 2021

April 5, 2021

***May 17, 2021**

2020-2021 CEC Meeting Dates

***February 17, 2021**

March 31, 2021

May 5, 2021

***Note change in meeting date**



March Meeting Speaker

Elena Tercero, CGFM, CPA, CGMA

*Department of Finance and
Administration, New Mexico*

"Leadership"

Elena got her start in accounting and taxes in 7th grade when her math teacher gave everyone an assignment to complete a mock tax return. Elena's passion for accounting grew when her DECA adviser encouraged her to take an accounting class in 10th grade. Elena went on to obtain a Bachelor's in Business Administration in Accounting from the University of New Mexico and her Master's in Business Administration in Finance from the College of Santa Fe. Elena is also Certified Government Financial Manager, Certified Public Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

Elena's work experience in accounting includes non-profit, State government and public accounting. She worked for the largest family homeless shelter in New Mexico for over 10 years assisting in donor relations, HR, payroll accounting and audit preparation. While working for a public accounting firm she assisted in the audit of a State agency, audit preparation as well as the reconciliations for State agencies. Elena has worked directly for the State of New Mexico for over 7 years. She was the Chief Financial Officer of Children Youth and Families and is currently the Administrative Services Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Finance and Administration.

Elena is an Association of Government Accountant member since 2008 and has served in various capacities at the local chapter level as well as the national level. Elena has taught many breakout sessions at the chapter PDT through the years, has been the Webmaster, Membership Chair, President and is currently the Treasurer. Elena has assisted the Chapter to receive proclamations from the City of Santa Fe for AGA month in March. At the National level Elena served on the first ever Young Professional Focus Group, is a Vice Chair of the Professional Certification Board, presented in breakout sessions at the national PDT and has led the morning workout sessions since 2015.



Speaker Bio (continued)

Family is a huge part of Elena's life. She and her husband have been married for almost 20 years and are high school sweethearts. Brian Tercero is an award-winning Realtor and team leader of the Tercero Agency within Keller Williams Santa Fe. Brian and Elena enjoying raising a family in their hometown of Santa Fe, New Mexico and their four children keep them on their toes. Her children are Naomi age 15, Nathan age 14, Gabriel age 10, and Leyana age 7.

Elena also has a passion for health and fitness, not only for her personally but also for her family and those around her. This passion began after having her fourth child and gaining over 70 pounds in the pregnancy. Elena is a certified group fitness instructor and certified to teach PiYo live, Turbo Kick, and Core de Force. She is currently studying to become a personal trainer to continue helping others around her to reach their fitness goals.



MENTORING program

We are seeking mentors for an exciting new initiative. Please share your knowledge and experience with future leaders in our profession! Mentoring is a great resource for young professionals to gain not only knowledge and skills, but also opportunities for networking and personal support, outside of a traditional or work related 'chain of command'. Make a positive impact on the future of our profession by signing up to help a young professional succeed!

Visit [AGA - Mentoring Program \(agacgfm.org\)](https://agacgfm.org) for more information.

Congratulations Deborah!



Deborah Loveless has been awarded AGA's prestigious **Excellence in Government Leadership Award**. This award "honors state, local or tribal government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards and innovative management procedures" and "recognizes cumulative achievements of individuals who throughout their public career have served as a role model for others and have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards."

Deborah retired on September 30 of last year, after 41 years of service with the Comptroller's Office. As many of you know, she exemplified this award in her distinguished career.

Please join us in congratulating Deborah!

Community Service

For March 2021, the community service committee will be collecting donations for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee opened its doors in 1978 with commitment from several community leaders. The purpose of the organization was to provide a central distribution center for companies, groups, and individuals who wished to help provide food for hungry people in Middle Tennessee.

Donations can be made via Paypal at the Nashville Chapter Website at AGA Nashville - Community Service (agacgfm.org) or please mail a check to: AGA Nashville Chapter, P.O. Box 198025, Nashville, TN 37219.

Please contact Keevia Battle at Keevia.Battle@tn.gov if you have any questions.

AGA members will have the opportunity to volunteer to sort food at Second Harvest on May 11. More details to follow soon.



Donate Now

Your Impact: \$1 = 4 meals

Every \$1 you give helps provide 4 meals to Tennessee families in need through Second Harvest.

New Members!

Rachael Pichardo

Accounting Technician

Comptroller of the Treasury



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 April 30 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 our February luncheon, our membership count was 336. The winner of the \$100 award for sponsoring the most new members between May 2020 and December 2020 was Terry Burr. Currently, we have two people in the running 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, 2021, to be included in the \$50 incentive drawing at the awards luncheon in May.

Cybersecurity/ERM - Webinar

March 24 | 1:00–2:50 PM CST | 2 CPEs | FOS: IT

The current environment has resulted in significant changes in the way business is conducted, education is provided, and how we live our lives — all facilitated by the increased use of technology. While the evolution and sophistication of technology has benefitted society, it has also increased risks and vulnerabilities that are being exploited by cybercriminals. Telework and virtual learning have further widened the cyberattack footprint and augmented concerns for risk management and privacy.

Learning Objectives:

During this webinar, you will:

- Learn the basics of ERM as a best practice in organizational preparedness for CRM.
- Gain understanding of CRM and ERM as critical components in managing and responding to evolving threat environments, including the current cyber landscape.
- Explore tactical steps to consider in mitigating cyber risks through a comprehensive integration of CRM into ERM.
- Examine best practices described in recent publications, including the NISTIR 8286, Integrating Cybersecurity and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), applicable to both government and the private sector.

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.

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 March 15, 2021 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

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, CGFM, CFE
(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, CGFM
(615) 532-9738
jaisawlani@yahoo.com

National Council of Chapters Representative

Penny T. Austin, CGFM, CPA
(615) 401-7838
Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov

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
nicholecristiss@yahoo.com

Bylaws & Procedures

Macey Ray, CGFM
(615) 253-4557
Macey.Ray@tn.gov

Young Professionals

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

Community Service

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**