

President's Message



**J. Michael Winston, CGFM,
Chapter President**

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7, 2018 — Luncheon Meeting

**January 9-10, 2019 — Nashville Chapter
Winter Seminar**

February 6, 2019 — GASB Update

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Happy Holidays from all of us here at the AGA Nashville Chapter! The holidays are a special time to spend with family and friends and savor the good cheer of the season. It is also a chance for many of us to have a couple of days off of work to rest and recharge before the new year starts! As I think about 2019, there are a lot of potential changes coming our way – our Federal workers will have a split Congress in January, our State workers will see a new administration under Governor-Elect Lee, and even our Metro Nashville personnel will have mayoral and metro council elections in 2019! While it is tough to say how those leadership changes will affect us, we can be more certain about exciting changes and trends in our profession! I came across a new article on G2Crowd.com by Michael Gigante titled “30+ Important Accounting Statistics You Need to Know in 2019.” Mr. Gigante has rounded up some important trends on the horizon for those of us who work in accounting, auditing, and other financial management areas.

For several years now, “the cloud” has been a popular term – generally meaning software or information accessed on a network rather than stored on a local device. According to Mr. Gigante’s sources, “58% of large companies use cloud accounting” (Accounting Today) and “cloud computing reduces labor costs by 50%” (Forbes). Where does your government entity sit in terms of using the cloud? Chances are, your entity is already using the cloud in some form or fashion, but you can expect more and more of it in 2019. As a user, you may not notice much difference using a program in your internet browser as opposed to a desktop client, but it takes some getting used to and makes network outages all the more problematic. The cloud should also make us think twice about the security and confidentiality of the data we handle.

Another exciting, but potentially frightening topic is accounting automation. While it could make some of our jobs easier, it can also bring along the fear of jobs becoming obsolete. As Mr. Gigante found, “accounts payable professionals who automate invoice capture and payments save an average of one hour per day” (Vanguard Systems AP), and it can save \$16 per invoice depending on your entity’s overhead and processing efficiency (MineralTree). While these time and money savings are significant, they shouldn’t scare you. As workloads increase, automation will allow us to keep up with stakeholder demands to process more invoices at the same or quicker speeds.

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NASHVILLE NOTES

President's Message Continued...

In closing, you are not alone in feeling stressed about the future – 2019 and beyond. According to the American Institute of CPAs, “92% of CPAs said they are not future ready.” Additionally, 67% of accountants “feel that the profession is more competitive than ever.” If you find yourself agreeing with these statistics, I hope you will look to AGA and the National Office for sources of guidance and learning to “future-proof” your career. Through our training events, webinars, networking opportunities, and reading our monthly newsletter, I think you will find that you can stay updated on the latest professional news and feel prepared for whatever next year has in store for us.

Best,

Michael

Membership Recruiting New Members

As of our December luncheon, our membership count was 343, just 57 short of our goal of 400 for January 1! Currently, we have thirteen people in the running for the \$100 Prize in our local recruiting competition to sponsor the most people between May 1 and December 31! That means everyone still has a chance to win! Continue to share the benefits of AGA membership with your coworkers and acquaintances. Sponsors receive three points and a \$10 gift card!

New Members

Mrs. Vidyavathi Bhupathiraju
Mr. Dennis Blackmon, II
Ms. Lakeisha A. Davis
Mrs. Angela Becky Stricklin
Mr. Jonathan Van Dyk



With the Christmas season upon us what better gift for yourself than to become a CGFM!?

The Nashville AGA Chapter will be hosting a CGFM Exam 2 Review course March 18-20th led by a National AGA instructor!

Course cost- \$450 per person

Attendees will receive CPE for participating in the course, an exam study guide, and a chance to win an exam voucher!

Contact CGFM Committee Chair Drew Sadler to reserve your spot today! Class size is limited!

Do you know someone that is not an AGA member but interested in obtaining the certification? Send them this email or notify me at the following address!

Drew.Sadler@cot.tn.gov



SAVE THE DATE!

2018-2019 Remaining Luncheon Meeting Dates

January 7, 2019 — DoubleTree
February 4, 2019 — DoubleTree
March 11, 2019 — TBA
April 1, 2019 — DoubleTree
May 6, 2019 — DoubleTree

2018-2019 Remining CEC Meeting Dates

January 2, 2019
January 30, 2019
March 6, 2019
March 27, 2019
May 1, 2019

2018-2019 Audio Conference Dates

February 6, 2019 — GASB Update
March 6, 2019 — Finance
March 27, 2019 — Cybersecurity
April 24, 2019 — DATA Act
May 15, 2019 — Fraud/Data Analytics
June 12, 2019 — Leadership

2018-2019 Conference Dates

January 9-10, 2019 — Nashville Chapter Winter Seminar

February 27-28, 2019 — National Leadership Training — Washington, D.C.

July 21-24, 2019 — National Professional Development Training — New Orleans

*****Nominating Committee*****

In order to have 2020 vision, no, scratch that. In order to have a vision for the 2020 calendar year, we are looking for individuals willing to serve in chapter leadership roles. These roles include anything from president-elect, secretary, treasurer, two-year director, or committee members. Our committees include: Membership, CGFM, Finance, Community Service, Program, Corporate Sponsorship, Early Career, Education, Awards, Webmaster, Accountability & Outreach. If you have questions about any of these positions or committees, please contact Jennifer Garoutte at (615) 401-7950 or via e-mail at

jennifer.garoutte@cot.tn.gov.

Speaker Bio



“Technology’s Impact on Accounting and Auditing”

Assistant Director – Information Systems Local Government Audit

January 7, 2019

Penny Austin, CGFM, CPA, CISA, is an assistant director for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Local Government Audit. The division has statutory responsibility for the audits of local governments in Tennessee. In her role as assistant director, Penny oversees the division’s information systems audit section and ensures the staff complies with GAO Yellow Book training requirements. She also works closely with the Comptroller Office’s technology division to assist in the development and maintenance of software applications used by staff, local officials, and citizens. Penny holds a degree in accounting from Tennessee Technological University and is a graduate of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute. She is an active member of the Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) having served as president, director, treasurer, and secretary for the association. Penny is currently serving as AGA’s Southeast Region Vice President.

Please consider making your reservation for the January 7, 2019, AGA luncheon meeting before you take leave for the Christmas holiday. Some of you may return to work after the registration deadline.

The **deadline** is noon **Thursday, January 3, 2019**

Member Spotlight

Susan Slaton



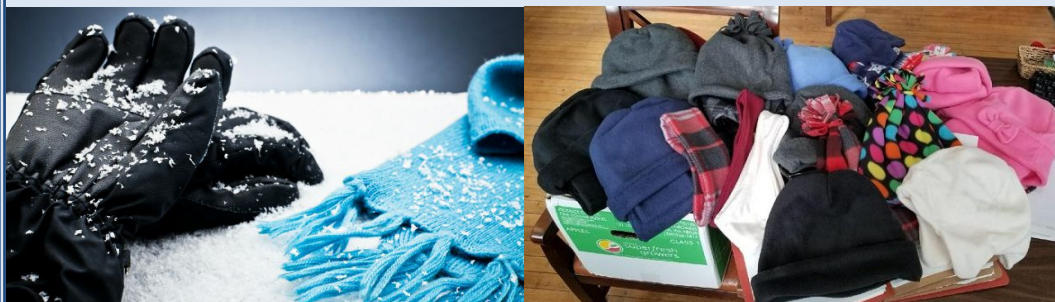
When I graduated high school, I thought I had things mapped out and knew exactly where I was going. If that were the case, I would be a high school math teacher and softball coach. I had a love for mathematics and found joy in helping my classmates understand what we were learning. I remember, and will never live down, my mother mentioned that I ought to consider accounting – her logic at the time was that I liked numbers. What I liked was logic and processes. It's a wonderful thing that life changes and evolves and can take you on adventures you never imagined.

I was born a coal miner's daughter...but no where near Butcher Holler. I grew up on the family farm in Hopkins County, Kentucky. I claim to this day that I retired from farming when I turned 18 and went off to college, but my younger brothers and father would like to think otherwise. I attended Centre College for two years – where I regularly had to build web pages for projects. Then I joined the United States Army Reserves, moved closer to home, and attended Murray State University for a semester before I was called up to spend a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was a Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer – which is a long way of say an “everything else” mechanic. They can't train you in a few weeks to know how to troubleshoot and diagnose all the different pumps, small engines, water purification systems, and laundry equipment (just to name a few). Instead, they choose people that can be trained to analyze a situation, determine what should be working, and figure out how to solve the problem. I'm sure that process sounds very similar to what many of us do as government accountability professionals.

While I am proud to have served, I never intended for the Army to be a full-time career and it seemed to interfere with completing my education at the time. I decided that once my service was over, I would return to school, following behind my little brother at Western Kentucky University. This time, instead of mathematics, I chose accounting and found my love for logic and processes in a whole new world. Yes, I did tell my mother she was right about accounting – it only took me ten years to make the connection. While in Bowling Green, I applied my accounting skills to help with the very active Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter – serving as Quartermaster for two years at both the post and district level. The Quartermaster is the financial officer for the post and responsible for all books, records, and reporting items.

In February of this coming year, I will have been with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's office for five years as an information systems auditor. I joined the Nashville Chapter of AGA not long after starting with the office and have been part of the education committee. I currently serve as a two-year director and webmaster co-chair. I enjoy being an active part of AGA and being a part of improving accountability for Tennessee and its citizens.





Give the Gift of Warmth



Our chapter is again partnering with service provider **Samaritan Ministries**, a local 501(c)(3) organization, in our annual **Hats, Gloves, Socks, Coats, and Underwear Drive**. Samaritan Ministries provides food, clothing items, and other services free of charge to our Nashville community Monday through Saturday.

This is our **December** Community Service project. Please keep in mind that the hats, coats and gloves do not have to be new but we ask that they be newly laundered or dry cleaned. Socks and underwear for men and woman must be new.

Please take some time during your shopping trips, before and after Christmas, and pick up a few items, or a lot of items, for this worthy **Community Service** drive. You will definitely put a smile on the face of a deserving and grateful person.

The current donation drop off locations are:

Scarlet Sneed <Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov>

- ◇ Scarlet Sneed (Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov): 3rd floor, Cordell Hull Building, (615) 747-5243
- ◇ Kilolo Dunmore (KDunmore@thda.org): 3rd floor, Andrew Jackson Building, (615) 815-2143
- ◇ Veronica I. Coleman (Veronica.I.Coleman@tn.gov): 20th floor, Tennessee Tower, (615) 253-3998
- ◇ Charlotte Gentry (Charlotte.A.Gentry@tn.gov): 7th floor, Davy Crockett Building, (615) 741-7520
- ◇ Pamela Marks (Pamela.Marks@nashville.gov) : 3rd floor, Howard Office Building, (615) 862-6212

Donations will be accepted through the January 7th, 2019, luncheon meeting in case you are not able to get to one of the drop-off locations.

If you would **rather make a cash contribution**, please make your check payable to **Samaritan Ministries**. Also, make sure to include your name on your donation; whether check or physical items.

If you have further questions, please contact Scarlet Sneed.

As a good friend of mine would say, “THANK YOU FOR CARING AND SHARING!”

News And Just The Facts

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee would like to share with you an update to the AGA Nashville Chapter Policies. The Community Service Committee requested changes to the Appendix of Policy 7 (the AGA Point Policy). On September 5, 2018, the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) approved the changes to the community service points structure related to volunteer time and to sponsorship of donation boxes. The changes to the Appendix of Policy 7 are as follows:

	Former	New
Volunteer (in person)	3	<1 Hr Event – 1 pt 1-3 Hr Event – 2 pts 3+ Hr Event – 3 pts
Sponsoring a drop box	1	1-2 boxes – 1 pt 3-4 boxes – 2 pts 5+ boxes – 3 pts

The changes are effective as of the date of approval (9/5/18).

FINAL POINTS STANDING AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 , IS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Chapter Recognition Section</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	4,725	5,000	95%
Education & Professional Development	1,000	4,000	25%
Certification	250	4,000	6%
Communications	1,375	3,000	46%
Membership	900	4,000	23%
Accountability	150	2,000	8%
Community Service	200	2,000	8%
Awards	0	1,000	0%
TOTALS	8,600	25,000	34.4%

LUNCHEON / CEC MINUTES

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC and luncheon meeting, please visit the chapter website at www.nashvilleaga.org . The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for the next program year.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time departments forward job opportunities to the Website Committee, which are posted for members' convenience. If you are interested in new job offerings or know someone who is, go to this link for detailed information — <http://nashvilleaga.org/jobs.html>

Editor's Corner

We truly enjoy reading articles submitted from our membership. Please share your thoughts and ideas or interesting news with us by submitting your article to Britt.Wood@cot.tn.gov no later than January 14, 2019 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know.
Thanks!

2018-2019 AGA Chapter Leadership Directory

Officers

President

Michael Winston, CGFM
(615) 806-0521
Michael.Winston@tn.gov

President-Elect

Jennifer Garoutte, CFE, CGFM, CFI
(615) 401-7950
Jennifer.Garoutte@cot.tn.gov

Immediate Past President

Britt Wood, CPA, CFE, CGFM, CISA, ACDA
Communications Chair
(615) 401-3006
Britt.Wood@cot.tn.gov

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Alexander Warns
(615) 741-0578
Alexander.Warns@tn.gov

Treasurer-Elect

Nichole Curtiss Crittenden, CGFM, CFE
Bylaws/Procedures Chair
(615) 401-7947
Nichole.Crittenden@cot.tn.gov

One-Year Directors

Katie Armstrong
Finance Co-Chair
(615) 747-8801
Katie.Armstrong@cot.tn.gov

Veronica Coleman
Community Service
(615) 253-3998
Veronica.I.Coleman@tn.gov

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

Jai Sawlani, CGFM

Finance Co-Chair
(615) 532-9738
Jai.Sawlani@tn.gov

Chase Tramel

Corporate Sponsorship
(615) 401-7933
Chase.Tramel@cot.tn.gov

Two-Year Directors

Melissa Boaz, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA

Program Co-Chair
(615) 747-8801
Melissa.Boaz@cot.tn.gov

LoriAnn Davis

Early Career Chair
(615) 532-2391
LoriAnn.E.Davis@tn.gov

Melissa Lahue, CGFM

Education Chair
(615) 741-2179
Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov

Mary Anne Queen, CGFM

Awards Chair
(615) 401-7756
Mary.Anne.Queen@cot.tn.gov

Susan Slaton

Webmaster
615-747-8797
Susan.Slaton@cot.tn.gov

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

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

Gerry Boaz, CGFM, CPA, CGMA
Accountability Outreach Chair
(615) 747-5262
Gerry.Boaz@cot.tn.gov

Bridget Carver

Membership Chair
(615) 401-7959
Bridget.Carver@cot.tn.gov

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Scarlet Sneed, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA

Meetings and Attendance Chair
(615) 747-5243
Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov

Dan Willis, CGFM, CPA, CISA

Webmaster Co-Chair
(615) 747-5247
Daniel.Willis@cot.tn.gov

Kilolo Dunmore

Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 815-2143
KDunmore@thda.org

Keevia Battle

Community Service Co-Chair
Keevia.Battle@tn.gov

Drew Sadler

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



Chapter Address:

AGA
Nashville Chapter
PO Box 198025
Nashville, TN 37219

Visit the Nashville Chapter web-site at www.nashvilleaga.org
Visit the National website at: www.agacgfm.org