

## President's Message

### AGA President Message for March 2021

Happy Spring! In addition to being a great time to get outside and enjoy the beauty of East TN, it's also AGA membership renewal time. If you haven't done so already, please take time to renew your AGA membership [here](#) by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

March is also Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) month. Over 40% of AGA East TN chapter members are CGFMs, which is very impressive! Congratulations to those who have already obtained this certification! For those considering pursuing the CGFM, AGA is discounting the CGFM application fee to just \$21 during the month of March, so it will be a great time to apply. Check out the "Becoming a CGFM" article for information on resources to help you prepare.

We are looking forward to having Steve Lowry as our speaker this month. Steve retired from KPMG in January 2019, after a 40 year career in public accounting. He will be presenting on the Evolution of Auditing. The session will be eligible for one CPE, and I hope that you are able to join.

Lastly, at the March meeting, members will be asked to vote on whether to adopt proposed updates to the chapter bylaws. As mentioned in the February newsletter, chapter officers have made proposed updates to the bylaws, using guidance provided by AGA National. Please review the updated bylaws which are being distributed with the newsletter. At the end of this month's meeting, time will be provided to discuss any questions on the updated bylaws, prior to the vote. In order for the updated bylaws to be adopted, an affirmative vote by 2/3 of the chapter members present will be required. Please feel free to reach out to myself or any of the other chapter officers, if you would like to discuss the updated bylaws in advance of the meeting.

Thanks,  
Astra Cope  
2020-2021 AGA East TN Chapter President

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## March 2021 Meeting

Tuesday,  
Mar. 9, 2021  
11:30 AM

     
Steve Lowry, CPA  
   

Agenda  
Evolution of Auditing

More detail to follow on virtual meeting

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## 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

<b>Mar. 17</b>	<b>Free Members-Only *no cost to members</b>	<b>1.5 CPE</b>
<b>Mar. 24</b>	<b>Cybersecurity</b>	<b>2 CPE</b>
<b>Apr. 7</b>	<b>Ethics</b>	<b>2 CPE</b>
<b>Apr. 21</b>	<b>CARES Act</b>	<b>2 CPE</b>

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year.

## 2020-2021 National Events Calendar

PIO/CFO Summit	Apr 8	Virtual	4 CPE
ERM Workshop	Apr 14	Virtual	4 CPE
AI & AA Summit	May 5	Virtual	5 CPE
Professional Development Training (PDT)	July 18-21	Nashville or virtual	24 CPE
Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training	Sept 21-22	Virtual	14 CPE

Check out [www.agacqfm.org](http://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

## Chapter News

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### February Meeting Minutes

Our February meeting of the East TN AGA Chapter was held virtually on February 9, 2021. President Astra Cope opened the meeting and introduced the speaker, John Sutton with County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) speaking on the Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO) program.

John provided some general information about the program which started in 2018. This program was developed by CTAS in conjunction with the Tennessee Comptroller's office. The program consists of eleven classes that cover such topics as financial reporting, purchasing and payroll, to name a few. John explained that most of the classes are being held virtually right now, but hopes that more in-person classes will be on the horizon.

As John explained, the courses follow CPE standards of AICPA & NASBA and are designed from basic to intermediate skill level of experience. CCFOs must complete 16 hours of CPE annually to maintain their certification. Anyone interested in enrolling in the program must first apply with the Tennessee Comptroller's office. Additional information can be found at [www.ctas.tennessee.edu/content/ccfo](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/content/ccfo).

Astra thanked John for his presentation and for everyone attending. Astra reminded everyone of our next meeting on March 9, and also asked all members to watch for an e-mail regarding the Chapter's new by-laws.

Gail Cook  
Secretary

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Treasurer Connie Cook reported the bank balance as of March 1, 2021 as \$ 15,504.51.

## **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 – TBA**

### **CGFM Self-Study Alternatives**

Study Guides offers by AGA for online and in print options