



# Nashville Notes



## What's Inside

President's Letter	1
Meeting Speaker	4
Community Service	5
Membership	6



**Alexander Warns**  
2021-2022 Chapter President

## President's Letter

As you might, or might not know, I'm originally from Michigan. And, although I love Nashville summers, after awhile the heat can be exhausting. That said, I'm very much looking forward to this fall as it's one of my favorite times of the year. I especially enjoy getting outside, watching football, and going to coffee shops to do some reading.

Years ago, at a coffee shop, I read an article about a medical doctor that really stuck with me. To summarize, this doctor was nearing the end of their career, and given their education, experience, and intellect was commonly referred to as an authoritative figure within his field. As the article continued, the doctor mentioned he would soon be attending a medical conference on the other side of the country. That said, here is where the story gets interesting.

**Follow  
Us!**



AGA Nashville Chapter



AGA Nashville Chapter



Congratulations to a couple of our distinguished retirees,  
Deborah Loveless and Scarlet Sneed!

## President's Letter (Continued)

In order to attend this conference, the doctor planned on using their personal funds as well as vacation time from their job. When the journalist heard this, they asked the doctor a question along the lines of, "Being that you are approaching the end of your career, and are already a subject matter expert, why on earth would you use your own money and vacation time to attend this conference?" The doctor responded, "It's very simple, I'm a lifelong learner who never stops improving."

When I read this article, I couldn't help but to reflect upon myself. In short, questions such as "Am I actually improving?" or "Am I just going through the motions?" entered my mind.

Out of curiosity, did they enter yours?

I mention the above to say, if you consider yourself to be a lifelong learner, our AGA Chapter can help you on your journey. Perhaps you could attend our monthly educational webinars or maybe even start pursuing your CGFM designation. However, being that there are many ways to grow, you could also attend a luncheon or consider volunteering with our community service committee.

To summarize, as a member of the Nashville AGA Chapter, you have an amazing resource to use while on your learning and development path. That said, I very much encourage you to do so.

Until next month,

-Alex

## 2021-22 AGA Webinars

### **Internal Controls**

October 6 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **Ethics**

November 3 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **Performance**

December 15 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **Uniform Guidance**

January 12 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **GASB Update**

February 2 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **Cybersecurity/ERM**

March 23 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **CARES Act**

April 20 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **Fraud/Data Analytics**

May 11 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

### **Leadership**

June 8 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual



## **2021-2022**

### **Chapter Meeting Dates**

October 4, 2021

November 1, 2021

December 6, 2021

January 10, 2022

February 7, 2022

March 7, 2022

April 4, 2022

May 16, 2022

---

## **2021-2022**

### **CEC Meeting Dates**

September 29, 2021

October 26, 2021

December 1, 2021

January 5, 2022

February 2, 2022

March 2, 2022

March 30, 2022

May 11, 2022

# October Meeting Speakers

*Andrew G. Spragg*

## Deputy CISO - State of Tennessee

Andrew Spragg comes to the State of Tennessee with a diverse background and experience in Information Security and Technology leadership and technical knowledge. His proven ability to bring creative problem solving and diversity of thought has provided a foundation of successfully endeavors within the industries of Military Service, DoD Contracting, Higher Education, and State Government. Andrew has successfully led cross functional teams of Research, Business, IT, Security, and Compliance initiatives to achieve a unified mission to produce stakeholder deliverables on the cutting edge of technology and capability. Andrew continues to operationalize the Security and Risk Management vision and strategy for the State of Tennessee through collaboration and communication across functional areas and Agencies.

Andrew received his Bachelor of Science, Information Science and Technology and his Master of Science in Information Sciences, Cybersecurity and Information Assurance, from the Pennsylvania State University.

---

*Jon E. Sills*

## Compliance Officer - State of Tennessee

As the STS Compliance Officer Jon Sills brings over 30 years' experience with large scale and global infrastructures and information security program leadership. Leading the STS information security compliance department he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with the strategies, goals, and implementation of both regulatory and information security programs.

A decorative header featuring various school supplies like pencils, a ruler, and a paper airplane arranged around the main title.

# BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

## Community Service

**AGA is kicking off the year by collecting needed school supplies for the students of Alex Green Elementary.**

Alex Green has requested the following items:

- Backpacks
- Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Notebooks
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Folders
- Glue Sticks
- Binders

We would like to collect donations through October 15, 2021. Donations can be brought to the September AGA luncheon.

We are in need of some drop-off locations, please let Keevia Battle (Keevia.battle@tn.gov) or Mary Anne Queen (Mary.Anne.Queen@cot.tn.gov) know if you can host a donation box

We are also collecting monetary donation. Donations can be made via Paypal at the Nashville Chapter Website at AGA Nashville - Community Service or please mail a check to: AGA Nashville Chapter, P.O. Box 198025, Nashville, TN 37219.

# Leadership Award Nominations



Do you know of someone that might qualify to be a nominee for an AGA Leadership Award? The Nashville chapter is seeking special individuals who the Awards committee could nominate for three different National AGA awards. Those awards are Excellence in Government Leadership, William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership, and the Distinguished Local Government Leadership awards.

Qualifications for these awards include government professionals who exemplify and promote excellence in government financial management, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures. The nominees for these awards need to have served as role models for others and have consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards in government.

These awards vary by the type of work or level of government. For example, the William R. Snodgrass is for an individual in state government. This award is named after an individual who served the state of Tennessee as its first elected Comptroller of the Treasury. Mr. Snodgrass is known for his office's implementation of GAAP for all local governments and the start of auditing them for adherence, long before others.

Under his leadership, Tennessee was the first state to receive a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The Distinguished Local Government nominee comes from an individual in local government. The Excellence in Government Leadership Award is for an individual coming from either a state or local government level. Nominees do not have to be members of AGA but must be employed by the government at the time the work being recognized was performed.

The national award winner for the Excellence in Government Leadership Award for this past year was Deborah Loveless, recently retired from the Comptroller for the state of Tennessee. Congratulations to Deborah on this honor!

Your input to nominate fellow co-workers for these awards is needed by the Nashville AGA chapter. Pamela Marks ([Pamela.Marks@nashville.gov](mailto:Pamela.Marks@nashville.gov)) and Mary Lou Goins ([Mary.Goins@tn.gov](mailto:Mary.Goins@tn.gov)) are co-chairman of the Awards committee and would appreciate your input for nominees for these awards.

# New Members!

**Charles McNab***Budget Director*

Fayette County

**Baley Miles***Legislative Auditor*

Comptroller of the Treasury

**Casey Queen***Student*

UT Chattanooga



## Membership

As of September 9, 2021, our membership count is 314.

We have the following Recruitment Incentives this year:

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

Speaking of points, visit the [www.nashvilleaga.org](http://www.nashvilleaga.org) website 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.

Continue to share the benefits of AGA membership with your coworkers and acquaintances. Sponsors receive three points and \$20!

# Internal Control/Improper Payments

**October 6 | 1:00–2:50 PM CST | 2 CPEs | FOS: AUDG**

Reducing improper payments — i.e., payments made in an incorrect amount or to the wrong recipient — is critical to effectively managing taxpayer funds. To this end, the revised version of OMB Circular A-123's Appendix C (M-21-19, Requirements for Payment Integrity Improvement) released earlier this year provides an updated set of requirements focused on preventing improper payments and ensuring taxpayer money is serving its intended purpose while reducing administrative burden. To comply with this new guidance and to make continued strides in preventing and reducing improper payments, agencies must innovate and embrace new ways of addressing the improper payment challenge — from the way they perform risk assessments to the way they estimate improper payments, set improvement targets, develop mitigation strategies and corrective actions, and monitor progress. In addition, today, agencies are responsible for disbursing funds under existing programs along with funds under emergency conditions, such as those disbursed under the CARES Act and related emergency relief legislation. As a result, it is essential more than ever to continue to find new and better ways to prevent and reduce improper payments.

---

## 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](mailto: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 Rachelle Cabading or the committee chairs to volunteer!

# Contact Us

**President**

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

**President-Elect**

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

**Immediate Past President**

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

**Secretary**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Treasurer-Elect**

Jessica Cox, CPA, CGFM  
(615) 747-8835  
Jessica.Cox@cot.tn.gov

**National Council of Chapters  
Representative**

Angela McElrath-Prosser  
(615) 862-5800  
Angela.McElrath@nashville.gov

**Webmaster**

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

**Education**

Chase Tramel, CISA  
(615) 401-7933  
Chase.Tramel@cot.tn.gov

**Membership**

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

**Awards**

Mary Lou Goins  
(615) 253-8502  
Mary.Goins@tn.gov

**Financial Secretary**

Edward Lorenzan-Rodriguez  
lorenzanakevin@gmail.com

**Bylaws & Procedures**

Allen Bradley  
(615) 253-2222  
Allen.Bradley16@outlook.com

**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 2021-2022 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](http://www.nashvilleaga.org)**