



Nashville Notes



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Rachelle Cabading
2020-2021 Chapter President

President's Letter

Hello Nashville Chapter!

Have you looked at the weather forecast lately? Cooler weather is here, and it feels fabulous outside.

I love this time of year and hope each of you are enjoying some outside time maybe sitting around a fire pit with your family. I plan on lighting up our fire pit this weekend and enjoying one (or two or three) roasted marshmallows and S'mores. Speaking of S'mores, have you seen the marshmallows with chocolate already in the center? It is such a simple idea but a game changer in the S'mores world. Your chocolate becomes melted as you roast the marshmallow. Genius! What simple ideas do you have that can be a game changer in your home life, work life, or even for Nashville AGA?

Let me tell you about one simple idea that we hope will become a game changer for AGA and the State of Tennessee. The Nashville Chapter is participating in a pilot program to help establish a satellite chapter in West TN. These members will originally be part of the Nashville Chapter with the hope of growing enough interest in that area to eventually become their own AGA chapter.



President's Letter (Continued)

This satellite chapter plans to hold local educational and community service events while also participating in our events in Nashville. Over the next few months, you will hear more about this pilot program and the efforts between the Nashville Chapter and the Jackson area satellite group. A kick-off event for West TN is currently being planned for the Spring 2021. If you have any friends, family, or co-workers who live in the Jackson region that would be interested in AGA, please have them reach out to Elisha Crowell (Elisha.Crowell@cot.tn.gov). Elisha is the CEC representative for the West TN satellite chapter. This satellite chapter might seem like a simple idea but it has potential to be a major game changer for the promotion of government accountability across our state. Once this satellite chapter is established, all areas of Tennessee will be represented by an AGA chapter.

Thank you to all who were able to join us for our first virtual meeting in September. I held my breath the whole time in fear of technical issues but fortunately there were very few glitches. Thank you to Nathan Abbott, Justin Neal, and Terry Burr for making sure our event went off as planned. I also appreciate all who participated with questions and comments in the conference i/o software. It was a nice way to interact virtually.

We hope you can join us for our next monthly

meeting on October 5th from 11:30 – 12:45 where we will have Kent Oliver who is the Director of the Nashville Public Library discussing Leadership. I can only imagine how hard it has been leading the Nashville Public Library system through this pandemic. Fortunately, the libraries figured out a way to still check out books and keep people reading.

In October, we will be spotlighting the Program Committee. The program committee is responsible for securing speakers for our monthly meetings as well as planning our annual spring social event. If you have been looking for ways to get involved with the chapter, please let me or one of the committee chairs know and we will find a place for you to volunteer.

Make sure you sign up for our chapter emails, including our monthly newsletter, at www.NashvilleAGA.org. Find the "Membership" tab and click on "Join Email Group". By entering your email address, you will receive the monthly newsletters, invitations to monthly meetings/luncheons, social events, community service opportunities, and so much more.

I look forward to seeing everyone "virtually" on October 5th for our next chapter meeting!

2020-21 AGA Webinars

Internal Control/Improper Payments *(more details pg. 8)*

October 7 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

Ethics

November 4 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

Internal Control

December 9 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

Uniform Guidance

January 13 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

GASB Update

February 3 | 1:00–2:50 PM

Virtual

Cybersecurity/ERM

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

October 5, 2020

November 2, 2020

December 7, 2020

January 11, 2021

February 1, 2021

March 1, 2021

April 5, 2021

May 10, 2021

2020-2021 CEC Meeting Dates

September 30, 2020

October 28, 2020

December 2, 2020

January 6, 2021

January 27, 2021

February 24, 2021

March 31, 2021

May 5, 2021

October Meeting Speaker

Kent Oliver

Leadership

Kent Oliver is Director of Nashville Public Library (NPL) in Nashville, Tennessee, where he has served since 2012.

Under his leadership, Music City's public library has expanded several key partnerships to promote early reading, adult literacy, after-school and summer reading, STE(A)M education, civil rights education, citizenship, and digital literacy in the 21st Century.

In 2015, the *Library Journal* gave NPL a Library of the Year special mention, recognizing these marquis programs - including Bringing Books to Life! (BBTL), which is the Library's early education outreach initiative.

Through BBTL, Library-based educators and professional puppeteers help children across Nashville become "kindergarten-ready" by promoting their early love for books, stories, and reading. The Library takes books, story times, literacy workshops, and its trademark Puppet Truck into all corners of the community.

Kent has managed libraries in Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio. Prior to assuming the directorship at NPL, he was Executive



Director of the Stark County District Library in Canton, Ohio. In 2009, under Kent's tenure, that library won a 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Kent is a Rotary Club of Nashville member and is a Leadership Nashville alumni.

Kent is from Topeka, Kansas. He holds a bachelor's degree in American History from Washburn University of Topeka and a master's degree in Library Science from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

He and his wife, Dianne, live in Nashville. They have a daughter, Allison.

Community Service

During the Month of September, the community service committee collected donations that will be used for the purchase of headphones for the students at Alex Green Elementary school.

"We at Alex Green Elementary school focus on preparing our students for college and career by providing opportunities for all students to achieve high standards and become productive citizens within a structured and nurturing learning environment. We greatly value the aspect of relationships with our students, staff and parents."

Prior to the March 3rd tornadoes and COVID-19 many of our families relied upon Alex Green, not only to provide their students with a great education but to also be a resource for their families in troubled times. With the population of our students, many of them need basic resources to set them up for success within the classroom and the pandemic enhanced those needs.

We at Alex Green ES are grateful to have Community Achieves which provides us with a framework to expand our relationships from students, staff and parents to the entire community. We ARE a community school and we understand the notion that It Takes A Village!



Many of our students at Alex Green have multiple siblings and their households do not provide them with enough space for every student to have their own learning environment. We believe that providing each student with headphones while learning virtually will allow for them to have that classroom feel and eliminate any distractions surrounding them.

We have been and will continue to be grateful for the relationship that we have with the Association of Government Accountants and we appreciate for you to even think of us during these troubled times for everyone."

*-Whitney Jenkins, MSW
Alex Green Elementary School*

Our Upcoming Community Service Project for the month of October will be the **Nashville Rescue Mission**. Details will be provided soon.

New Members!

Jessica Cox, CGFM, CPA

Senior Auditor - Special Projects
Comptroller of the Treasury

Justin Neal, CGFM

Information Systems Specialist
Comptroller of the Treasury

Twyla Pratt, CISA

Information Systems Auditor
Comptroller of the Treasury



Membership

As of our September meeting, our membership count was 323, just 44 short of our goal of 367 for this year! Currently, we have three 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!

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 December 31 wins \$100.

Gain 30 points so that you can receive a \$45 rebate on your full membership renewal after renewing by March 31, 2021.

Working AWS

By Mary Lou Goins

Member Article Submission

Little did we know in March, that many state employees would be working AWS, or from an alternate work site, for as long as we have been. It's been six months now with the anticipation of lasting until the end of this calendar year. Who knows, it may become the "new normal." It's had challenges and benefits as well as ups and downs.

Normally, we all have various environments that we live: our family life, social life, business life, church life, and sometimes school life. With the Coronavirus and social distancing, these environments have changed considerably. We have missed the personal interaction with our families and friends, whether it's personal or business related. Our co-workers have retired, changed positions, had additions to their families, and some have sadly lost family members. Zoom, YouTube, texting, WebEx training and meetings, Jabra conversations, and other virtual communications have become the normal, but we still miss "seeing" folks, having lunch with co-workers, and enjoying and comforting one another.

If you are a parent with elementary school age children, you may have become a teacher while you are trying to work to serve the citizens of the State of Tennessee. Many individuals had to use their personal computers until you were provided with a state laptop. Another challenge has been finding a place at home to be able to work. Kitchen tables have been taken over and chairs unsuitable for sitting for long periods have become the normal. Many of us have gained a few pounds due to working in the kitchen because food is readily available. Others, with preschoolers, have had meetings interrupted with little ones walking, climbing, falling, and crying.

Some individuals who had been working part time

AWS became valuable resources to others in regards to learning the technology. They have taught them how to forward their calls, answer the phone through their computer, learn or train remotely through WebEx, share screens via Jabber, and so much more.

Benefits include sleeping longer hours, since we have a shorter commute time. The stress level for commuting has been greatly reduced. Our lives have been extended and sitting stuck in traffic for hours upon end has ceased. Our vehicles haven't been used as much, so we have saved on gasoline and maintenance of vehicles. Most vehicle insurance cost was reduced for at least a specific time period.

Work continues, though, with increased workloads, stress levels for state year-end deadlines, quarterly closings, grant filings, audits, monitoring, new COVID reporting, IPP deadlines and reviews, elections, and



so much more. We strive forward to serve the great state of Tennessee with state and federal funding to the best of our abilities.

We have adapted and moved forward. We are Tennessee! Instead of working at **Alternate Work Sites**, we are now working **Ambition With Success!**

Internal Control/Improper Payments Webinar

Advancing Program Integrity: Best Practices and Use Cases

October 7 | 1:00-2:50 CT | 2 CPEs | 2 PDUs | FOS: AUDG

As payment integrity programs mature, it is important for agencies to continue improving these programs to find the most effective and efficient methods to identify programs susceptible to significant improper payments and perform improper payment testing. This requires innovative risk assessments and leveraging the latest approaches and technologies to support the selection and testing of programs and adapt to rapid response payment integrity efforts such as emergency management and COVID-19 funding.

Learning Objectives:

- How do you select programs for testing and assess the risks of different programs?
- Some programs require testing every year. How do we continuously improve improper payment estimation methodologies, testing and scripts? Do you use AI/ML or advanced statistics to sample?
- Some programs require one-time, rapid response such as COVID-19, emergency management, etc., how do we respond to those programs, assess risk, and tailor testing unique to those programs?

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 October 15, 2020 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

Officers

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, CFE, CGFM
(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
(615) 747-8801
jaisawlani@yahoo.com

Directors

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
nicholecurtiss@yahoo.com

Bylaws & Procedure

Melissa Boaz, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA
(615) 747-5305
Melissa.Boaz@cot.tn.gov

Young Professionals

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

Education

Melissa Lahue, CGFM
(615) 741-2179
Melissa.Lahue@tn.gov

Awards

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**