



Nashville Notes



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Alexander Warns
2021-2022 Chapter President

President's Letter

As you've probably noticed, we are using a new AGA logo. However, I'm happy to announce, that the updated logo is just one of many changes our association has recently underwent. Quite simply, AGA has rebranded itself in order better align with our organization's purpose, community, and overall mission.

For years, the title "Association of Government Accountants" created limiting views and beliefs regarding who we are and what our mission was. Often, you'd hear statements like, "I like what AGA does, but I'm not an accountant" or "Tell me again what you do?". As such, the name of our organization seemed relevant to a small demographic of the population, and unfortunately, was not effective in communicating our overall mission.

Recently at the National Leadership Training (NLT), the rebranding of AGA was announced. In a similar manner to IBM's change, formerly International Business Machines, the name of our organization is simply "AGA".

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Us!**



AGA Nashville Chapter



AGA Nashville Chapter



President's Letter (continued)

Furthermore, it was announced that our new tagline is "Advance. Grow. Accelerate." (this is not our new name). While these changes were made for a variety of reasons, two stand above the rest.

First, as time has evolved Accountants have increasingly worked hand in hand with people from different backgrounds including IT, grant management, and budget. In short, collaboration with these industries plays a significant role to the success of the accounting profession and community. As such, AGA should represent all professionals who help promote good government, transparency, and accountability.

Additionally, AGA members have a tremendous resource to utilize throughout their career. Our organization provides growth opportunities such as educational events, professional designations, and all sorts of networking prospects.

Simply put, via the AGA rebrand, our association more accurately represents our membership and mission.

Until next month, please be sure to eat too many peanut M&M's, laugh with your friends, and enjoy the Nashville spring!

-Alex

Retiring or Know a Retiree?

If you have retired or are planning to retire during this program year or know of someone, please pass that information on to Mary Lou Goins (Mary.Goins@tn.gov) so we can properly recognize our retirees!

2021-22 AGA Webinars

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

April 4, 2022

May 16, 2022

2021-2022 CEC Meeting Dates

March 30, 2022

May 11, 2022

April Meeting Speaker

Jerry Durham, CPA, CGFM, CFE

“What's Going On Out There: The Changing World of Accounting, Auditing, and Finance”

Jerry is an Assistant Director for the State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Local Government Audit. The division has statutory responsibility for audits of approximately 1600 local governments and related organizations in Tennessee. Many of these governments are subject to the Single Audit Act and OMB's Uniform Guidance.

A 38-year veteran of the division, Jerry has served as an auditor, audit supervisor, training instructor, technical manager, and assistant director. In his role as assistant director, he is responsible for developing professional compliance procedures and monitoring the division's quality performance under GASB, AICPA, OMB, and GAO accounting and auditing standards. Jerry also has responsibility for supervising the peer review process, responding to professional public comment documents, and the contract audit review process within the division.

Jerry was selected for the AGA National Educator award for 2019. In addition, Jerry teaches the Yellow Book and Audit Findings training classes for the Tennessee Department of Audit. Jerry has been selected as Department of Audit Instructor of the Year four times.

Jerry has made training presentations for numerous professional organizations including NASACT, GFOA, AGA, and others; numerous state auditor and state accounting organizations; and local governments. He currently serves on several working committees for professional organizations.

Jerry is married and has three children and five grandchildren.



New Members!

Joel Andalon
Legislative Auditor

TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Janora Bryson
Legislative Performance Auditor

TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Kimberly Coilley
CMFO

City of Medina

Kim Essary
Fiscal Officer

Southwest TN Development District

Abigail Gomez Andrade
Accountant 2

State of Tennessee

Jessica Helms
Federal Programs Accountant

Knox County Schools

Nekesha Joy
Financial Consultant

NCB Consulting Corp

Ekaterina Liventsova
Accountant III

Metropolitan Govt of Nashville

Priya Patel
Student
Fallon Richards
Legislative Auditor

TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Michael Spencer
Finance and Accounting Consultant

UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service

Savanna Usery
Local Government Auditor

TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Trina Weber
Legislative Auditor

TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Jodie Wedel
Fiscal Director 3

State of Tennessee, Finance & Administration

Belinda Wright
Deputy Trustee

Lauderdale County Trustee



Membership

As of March 15, 2022, our membership count is 367, just 7 short of our goal of 374 for this year! Continue to share the benefits of AGA membership with your coworkers and acquaintances. Sponsors receive three points and \$20! Also, remember to renew your AGA membership by March 31, 2022, to be included in the \$50 incentive drawing at the awards meeting in May.

Recruiting Incentives

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

Visit www.nashvilleaga.org to see how you can gain points throughout the year. There are plenty of opportunities to gain points to go toward the member rebate and a chance to win a free trip to the National Professional Development Training (PDT) in July.

CGFM Month Proclamations



A big thanks to our CGFM Chair, Drew Sadler for coordinating these proclamations. The Metro Nashville proclamation is below and the state proclamation is headed to Governor Lee's desk for his signature.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County



Office of the Mayor

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 2022 AS CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH

WHEREAS, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a professional organization with a network of more than 14,000 members in 96 chapters in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 500 active members representing state, federal, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers in Tennessee, and the Nashville Chapter has 361 active members; and

WHEREAS, AGA Nashville Chapter members have responded to AGA's mission of "Advancing Government Accountability", as it continues its broad educational efforts with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor and character in its Code of Ethics, and are making significant advances in both professional ability and in service to the citizens of Tennessee by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history, to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and to pass three examinations requiring expertise in Governmental Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting; and

WHEREAS, CGFM holders must complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education in government financial management topics or related technical subjects every two years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, John Cooper, Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, recognize the work and accomplishments of the Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants and hereby proclaim March 2022 as

"Certified Government Financial Manager Month"



*I have hereunto set my hand on
this 15th day of March, 2022.*


John Cooper
Mayor

Community Service

Two Events for April!

The **Nashville Earth Day Festival 2022** and the **St. Jude Rock 'n' Roll Marathon** are BOTH taking place on **Saturday, April 23rd**.

Registration for the Nashville Earth Day Festival is open NOW. The festival will again be in Centennial Park, and they are planning to return to their larger, pre-pandemic format in terms of size and activities. It promises to be a fun, rewarding time! Registration link is below.

Use this form to register for the Nashville Earth Day Festival (and indicate that you are volunteering for Nashville Chapter AGA)! Please let mary.anne.queen@cot.tn.gov know that you have registered.



It's that time again when we get to volunteer at the St. Jude Rock 'n' Roll Marathon on April 23, 2022.

We will once again work a water station during the race from 5:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. We will be at Water Stop #4 located at Granny White Pike between Clayton Ave. & Ferguson Ave.

If you would like to volunteer, please email Keevia.K.Battle@tn.gov or Mary.Anne.Queen@cot.tn.gov.

We had a blast at the last race. Please join us as we cheer on thousands of runners.

Scholarships

Deadline for submission of completed application: Friday, April 1, 2022

- **William R. Snodgrass Scholarship:** Two \$2,500 scholarships are 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/technology, management, and marketing.
- **Fawn W. Ellis Scholarship:** Two \$2,500 scholarships are awarded to an AGA Nashville area chapter member, member's spouse, or member's child or grandchild (any college or university and any major may apply).

Applicants must meet the criteria stated above in the description of each scholarship, have an overall grade point average of 2.8 or higher, and not be a previous Nashville AGA Scholarship winner. The Awards Committee reserves the right to award only those scholarships as it sees fit based on the applications submitted. An applicant may not be awarded more than one scholarship (i.e., you may be awarded the William R. Snodgrass Scholarship or the Fawn W. Ellis Scholarship, but you may not be awarded both).

The application below is to be used for both scholarships. Scholarships will be paid directly to the college or university the winner is/will be attending. Should the student withdraw from the school, the funds will be refunded to Nashville AGA.

Please complete the online application and email required additional documents to: awards@nashvilleaga.org. Late applications will not be considered.

1. Complete Online Application Form – Click here for Scholarship Application
2. Email the Required Documents to awards@nashvilleaga.org :
3. Transcripts– current high school (if still in high school) OR college transcript (if in college). If you are in college, you may also attach your high school transcript if you want us to consider it too.
4. Letter of Recommendation – All scholarship candidates must include a letter of recommendation from another professional such as a professor, teacher, guidance counselor, employer, etc. The letter of recommendation should include specific examples of service, leadership ability, or other pertinent qualities.
5. Required Essay – All scholarship candidates must submit an essay, ‘Describe your career in 5 years? 10 years?’. This essay cannot be more than two double-spaced pages.



Award Nominations

Awards Committee Seeking Possible Nominees

The following awards are presented annually at AGA's Professional Development Training (PDT). They recognize individuals and chapters for their contributions to AGA and the government financial management community. Nominations are to be submitted by April 15, 2022, for the PDT which will be held July 17-20, 2022, in Anaheim, California. If anyone knows of an individual who they feel needs to be nominated, please contact Lou at Mary.Goins@tn.gov or Pam at Pamela.Marks@Nashville.gov.

Awards:

- The Robert W. King Memorial award recognizes any AGA member not serving on the NEC or an employee of AGA for superior service that has enhanced AGA's national prestige or stature.
- The Einhorn-Gary award recognizes any AGA member or organization that has, over a sustained period, made major contributions to advancing government accountability at the federal, state, and/or local level.
- Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership award recognizes any government employee who has demonstrated sustained outstanding leadership and notable contributions to financial management, and who has encouraged increased interest, growth, development, and distinctive leadership in the field of financial management.
- Achievement of the Year award recognizes leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, and improving financial management in government service in the past year.
- The Educator award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers.
- The Cornelius E. Tierney/EY Research Award recognizes an individual who throughout their careers (minimum of 15 years) has made continuous contributions to governmental financial management by their direct participation in research activities.
- Emerging Leader Award of Excellence recognizes anyone with 5-10 years of experience in government for notable contributions toward excellence in financial management
- Relmond P. Van Daniker Government Transparency recognizes outstanding reporting by a government in the past year through the generation of a report, website, dashboard, or information display, etc., for the public and/or government officials.

Additionally, there are four AGA chapter awards including the Chapter Accountability and Transparency Award, Chapter Education Award, Community Service Award, and CGFM Award.

April Webinar

CARES Act

April 20 | 2:00–3:50 PM ET | 2 CPEs | FOS: AUDG

Program Level: Overview

Prerequisite: None

Advance Preparation: None required

Field of Study: Auditing - Governmental

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, pumped more than \$2 trillion into the US economy to address the many challenges faced by the nation from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this piece of legislation was just one of many related to COVID relief funding and oversight. Together these laws created a number of unique issues and requirements for the oversight and accountability community. In this session, learn from leaders in CARES Act and COVID-related accountability who will present both federal and state perspectives on this important area.

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 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 Alex Warns 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**