

Accountable.  
Responsible.

## The Citizen Centric Report TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST TN Fiscal Year 2020-2021 [6/01/20 – 5/31/21]



### WHO ARE WE?

**NATIONAL AGA:** The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a tax-exempt organization, registered under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions support the mission of the organization and do not serve to benefit any private shareholder or individual.

This member organization engages professionals who serve or have an interest in governmental financial management and related disciplines. It supports professionals in federal, state, and local government, as well as those in nonprofit industries, and the academy.

Notable events include the national and chapter level Professional Development Trainings (PDT) which offer opportunities to earn CPE, network, build community, and connect with industry leaders across all sectors. Great relationships are fostered in this chapter.

The AGA Code of Ethics serves as guidance for the members of the Association, Certified Government Financial Managers (CGFMs), and their employers. AGA members and/or CGFMs are expected to abide by the Association's Code of Ethics. Our Chapter has adopted the AGA Code of Ethics published on the AGA web site <https://www.agacgfm.org/About/Code-of-Ethics.aspx>.

### Our East TN Chapter President

2021-2022

Travis D. Lowe,  
CPA



**OUR CHAPTER:** The AGA Chapter of East Tennessee chapter aligns itself with the mission of the national office. It seeks to advance personal and professional development by providing professional development sessions, encouraging the pursuit of the CGFM certification, and supporting research within the governmental accounting environment. Members are from government, public CPA firms, academia, and the private sector. Membership consist of long-time members, new professionals, and college students. AGA of East Tennessee continually seeks innovative ways to enhance the benefits to the members and the community. The chapter supports the community surrounding Knoxville, TN. The four core values that are preeminent are service, accountability, integrity, and leadership.



The Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®). A professional certification awarded by AGA. Demonstrates competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at federal, state, and local levels. A respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed for effective government financial management. Expand your career opportunities and become even more distinguished in your field.



### VISION

To be the premier association for advancing government accountability. AGA defines government accountability as a government's obligation to the people for its actions and use of resources.

### MISSION

To foster learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

### VALUES

Service,  
Accountability  
Integrity  
Leadership

### PURPOSE

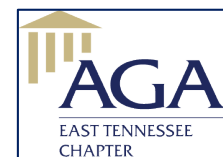
AGA serves as the member organization for government accountability professionals and the thought leader in government financial management

### 2021-2022 Strategic Goals at a Glance

We are clear on we can better serve our members and our community.

Our goals will enhance the chapter's effectiveness and reach. At a glance, we seek to:

- Membership: ↑ by 10%
- Meetings: At least 8
- PDT: At least 50 Attendees
- CGFM: Provide a gift/reward to exam takers
- Communications: Increase Website & Social Media Presence
- Community Service: Support KARM & NCSF
- Young Professionals: Add at least one to BOD
- Student & Professor Members: Add at least one.



Connect with us:

Our Chapter Website:  
<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/East-Tennessee-Chapter/Home.aspx>

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

### GOLD

Achievement in Chapter  
Excellence Award.  
East TN Chapter.  
2020-2021



### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The impact of COVID-19  
lingered during the fiscal  
year 2020-2021.

Safety protocols  
necessitated a continued  
adjustment to the way we  
served our members.

The COVID-19 impact was felt across the nation and the East TN Chapter responded with measures that secured a continuous and ongoing member engagement.

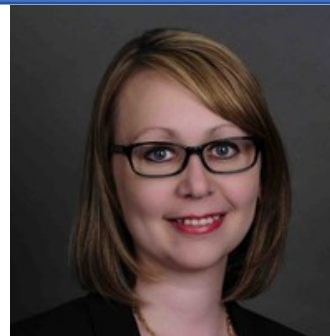
Meetings normally hosted at Calhoun's over a shared meal, were now shared via a virtual platform. The East TN chapter utilized both Conferences I/O and Zoom to deliver professional development sessions (CPE) and to continue fostering engagement opportunities while we were physically distanced.

Average attendance of 25 remained consistent with the prior reporting period 2019-2020 on the virtual platform.

### Education

The East TN chapter hosted seven monthly luncheon meetings, and provided six hours of continuing professional education (CPE). Average attendance was 25. November, 12-13, the chapter hosted a two-day PDT that featured presenters from around the region. The training provided the 26 registrants with 16 hours of CPE.

### Special thanks to the Immediate Past President of the East TN Chapter 2020-2021



**Astra Cope, CPA**

During May 2021, we met at Calhoun's for a celebration to honor and acknowledge members who reached key milestones within AGA.

We also recognized Chris Simons for his leadership as previous president and the executive board for their service.

Special appreciation to Astra Cope for serving as President during this dynamic period.

### Community Service: Giving Back

The AGA of East TN welcomed Jim Wright of the F.I.S.H. Hospitality Pantries to share on the vision and mission of this Knoxville nonprofit organization. The F.I.S.H. pantry seeks to provide food assistance and to reduce hunger insecurity. It provides nearly 2,000 family food packages each week and gives children who visit the pantry, a food bag filled with kid-friendly items such as fresh fruit, string cheese, yogurt tubes, milk, juice, raisins, fig & granola bars, etc. We were proud to do our part with a cash donation in support.



Left to Right: Alicia Reed, Astra Cope and Amy Paganelli.

### We value our members.

**We value your commitment.**  
Several of the East Tennessee AGA Chapter achieved notable milestones that included 5, 10, 15, 25, and 50-year memberships.

### Some of the 2020-2021 Chapter Meeting Presenters

- Kristi Fowler, *Executive Director, City of Knoxville Employees' Pension System.*
- Corrine Dougherty, *Managing Director at KPMG LLP*
- Travis Lowe & Gary Mitchell, *Pugh CPAs*
- John Sutton, *CTAS*
- Steve Lowry, *CPA, Retired KPMG*
- Susan Gennoe & Boyce Evan, *City of Knoxville CFO and Deputy Finance Director respectively*

### Leadership

The chapter has an ongoing commitment to fostering leadership and providing opportunities to grow as a leader. Members are encouraged to serve on the Executive Committee and other leadership opportunities.

- Three members participated in the AGA LEAD! Leadership Meeting virtually: Larry Elmore, Astra Cope, and Dr. Amelia Hart during August 2020.
- Four members attended the AGA National Professional Development Training (PDT) – Astra Cope, Ginger Giffin, Larry Elmore, and Dr. Amelia Hart – in July 2020.
- Larry Elmore serves as our chapter National Council of Chapters (NCC) Representative and attended quarterly NCC meetings.

### WE NEED YOU.

**Our Chapter PDT  
attendance dropped to 26 in  
2020-2021.**

Register for the East TN PDT and  
attend monthly meetings.  
Goal of 50-members is achievable  
with member support.

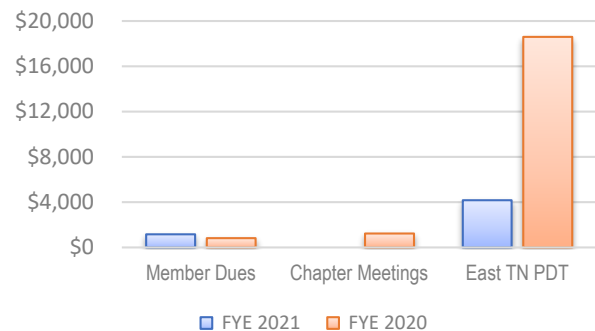
**We need your financial support and your talent.**  
Register for the November 2021 East TN PDT today. Event  
Date: Nov 15-16, 2021  
16 CPE including State Ethics available.

## REVENUES & EXPENSES

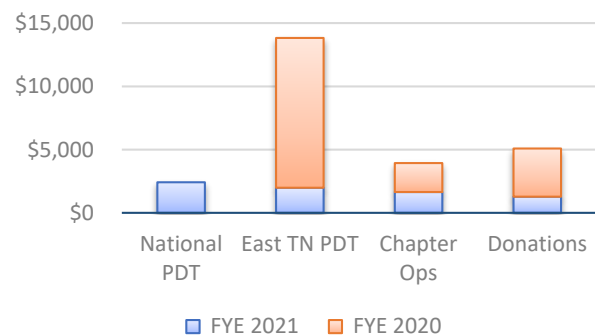
Association of Government Accountants  
East Tennessee Chapter  
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures  
Fiscal Year End May 31, 2021

Revenues:	FYE 2021	FYE 2020	FYE 2021	FYE 2020
Member Dues	\$1,170	\$825	22%	4%
Chapter Meetings	\$0	\$1,240	0%	6%
East TN PDT	\$4,175	\$18,593	78%	90%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,345</b>	<b>\$20,658</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Expenditures:	FYE 2021	FYE 2020	FYE 2021	FYE 2020
National PDT	\$2,425	\$0	45%	0%
East TN PDT	\$1,985	\$11,841	37%	57%
Chapter Ops	\$1,655	\$2,277	31%	11%
Donations	\$1,287	\$3,797	24%	18%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,352</b>	<b>\$17,916</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$2,007)</b>	<b>\$2,742</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year (6/01/2020)	\$16,762	\$14,031		
Net Assets, End of Year (5/31/2021)	\$14,756	\$16,772		

Comparative Revenues Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021



Comparative Expenditure for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021



### Fiscal Year Financial Summary

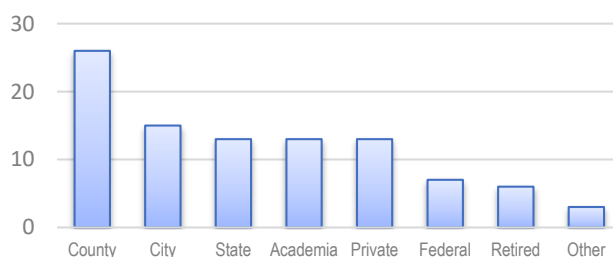
The COVID-19 had a definite and observable negative impact on the finances of the East TN Chapter. Several factors contributed to decline in revenues and the requisite increase in expenses as a percent of total revenues.

Membership dues as a percentage of Total Revenues increase significantly from 4% to 22% where chapter meeting revenues declined to 0%, and chapter PDT revenues declined from 90% to 78% of total fiscal year revenues. The decline in total revenues was \$15,313. The drop was attributed to several factors including a decline in the number of registrants from 55 to 26 and a reduced registration fee. The Chapter Meetings' revenue declined to zero because a charge was not assessed for any of the chapter meetings. The membership dues increased; this was attributed to an increase in membership of ten new persons to the chapter.

Expenditures expressed as a percentage of total revenues increased across the board. The number of persons attending a National PDT and AGA LEAD totaled seven in the current period. The investment in leadership accounted for 45% of the total revenues raised. The chapter PDT reflects the cost of using the virtual platform and the honorariums given to speakers. Chapter operations costs were higher as a percent of total revenues due to the cost of a virtual platform to deliver professional education content. Finally, despite the decline in revenues, the East TN donated at a higher percentage of total revenues in contrast to the prior year.

The financials tell the story of a fiscal year riddled with challenges. This upcoming year, there are plans in place to counteract the drop in revenues and to boost engagement of membership. The plans are captured in the Strategic Plan for the East TN Chapter.

East TN Chapter Members by Employment Area

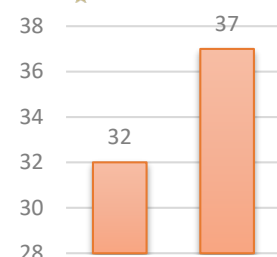


### MEMBER STATS

Current membership is 96; same as prior period.

10 new members added 2020-21  
CGFM licensures increased from 32 to 37 in 2020-21

OUR MEMBERS WORK IN...  
All government sectors,  
nonprofit, private, and academia.





## WHAT'S NEXT.



Ryan Garner, AGA Presenter

**We need you.**  
Get involved today.

### Challenges of the Year Ahead.

The AGA, its members and stakeholders, recognize that the year ahead will continue to present challenges and provide opportunities.

Challenges of the prior 18 months have informed us of ways to better serve our members in a hybrid environment. We aim to support the diverse professional interests and industries of the membership, promote excellence, and encourage members to engage as a community of financial and related-field experts.

There are many opportunities to improve and change the way we have served. We will continually seek to expand the membership corpus, to integrate more opportunities for young professionals and college students, and to utilize social media above prior years.

We will seek to be inclusive; tapping into opportunities to build a diverse membership and encourage all members to consider the CFGM licensure.

We need the support and active engagement of every member in government, nonprofit, academia, and other industries to be effective in our goals.

### OUR COMMITTEES' LEADERSHIP

Awards	Ginger Giffin
Community Service	Thaddeus Grace
Research and NCC Representative	Larry Elmore
Meetings	Patricia Rebholz
Webmaster	Emily Strange
Education	Dennis Green
Social Media	Chandni Dularam
Immediate Past President	Astra Cope

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

**We plan to accomplish these goals in the upcoming year:**

1. Achieve an increase in our base membership by 10% but will strive to exceed a 10% growth.
2. Exceed 80% membership satisfaction as represented in a survey.
3. Hold one virtual conference in the Fall and eight monthly meetings (at least five providing CPE) that include a networking and a lunch opportunity. Maintain an average of 30 members at meetings and 50 at the Fall conference.
4. Offer meetings in a hybrid format to reach a broader audience.
5. Maintain our 4 out of 5 average on satisfaction surveys.
6. Support CGFM candidates with provision of study questions, encouragement, technical requirements, information on upcoming virtual review sessions. Provide a CFGM exam gift or reward to persons pursuing the certification.
7. Continue to refresh the website and send out monthly newsletters. Assign specific responsibility to a CEC member to create and maintain media accounts.
8. Support KARM (a local NFP providing services to the homeless) and invite the organization to present at our December meeting. Host a fundraiser for this cause and participate in Angel Tree/Adopt Family program.
9. Continue to bring on new CEC Members and recruit Young Professionals for leadership roles.
10. Continue to recruit student and professor memberships

### OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

#### East Tennessee AGA Chapter Officers 2021 - 2022

President	Travis Lowe
President-Elect	Amelia Hart
Treasurer	Connie Cook
Secretary	Karen McKee
Newsletter Editor / CGFM	Deborah Strahler
Early Careers	Nicholas Fitts
Historian	Amy Paganelli
Membership	Robin Shelton
Accountability	Gary Mitchell
Chapter Recognition / CGFM	Mary McDonald

Stay Current on Our Events. The chapter website is available at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/EastTennessee>. Email our chapter president [tlowe@pughcpas.com](mailto:tlowe@pughcpas.com) for more on how you may get involved today.