

#### Accountable. Responsible. The Citizen Centric Report TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST TN Fiscal Year 2021-2022 [6/01/21 – 5/31/22]



# WHO ARE WE?

**NATIONAL AGA:** 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 <u>https://www.agacgfm.org/About/Code-of-Ethics.aspx</u>.

## Our East TN Chapter President

2022-2023

**Dennis Green** 



**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.

# **CGFM**.

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.





Connect with us:

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

# 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



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# HOW ARE WE DOING? GOLD

Achievement in Chapter Excellence Award. East TN Chapter. 2021-2022

#### Education

The East Tennessee chapter hosted eight monthly luncheon meetings at Calhouns on the River, and provided six hours of continuing professional education (CPE). Average attendance was around 20 which was a decrease form the previous year's average of 25 as the effects of the Covid pandemic remained..

November 15-16, the chapter hosted a virtual two-day Professional Development Training (PDT) that featured presenters from around the region. The training provided the 44 registrants with 16 hours of CPE.

Special thanks

Immediate Past President of the

East TN Chapter 2021-2022

## Travis D. Lowe, CPA



During May 2022, we met at Calhoun's for a celebration to honor and acknowledge members who reached key milestones within AGA. Several of the East Tennessee AGA Chapter achieved notable milestones that included 5, 10, 15, 25, and 50-year memberships.

We also recognized Astra Cope for her assistance as previous president and the executive board for their service.

Special appreciation to Travis Lowe for serving as President during this dynamic period.

#### **Community Service**

The AGA of East TN welcomed Burt Rosen, CEO of Knox Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) to share on the vision and mission of this Knoxville nonprofit organization. KARM seeks to rescue the poor and needy of the Knox area by providing recovery services. It provides food, clothing, shelter and safety to nearly 5,000 people each year. In addition they have begun to provide medical services to their guests instead of transferring them to an emergency room. We were proud to do our part with a cash donation in support.

Some of the 2021-2022 Chapter Meeting Presenters

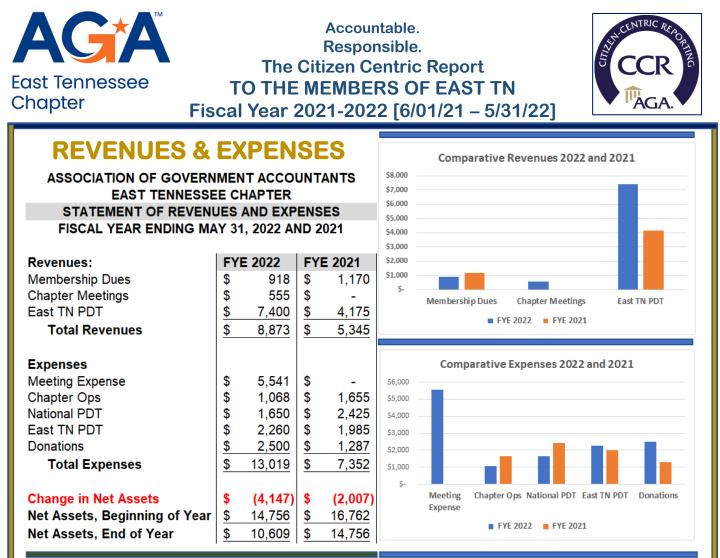
- Mayor Indya Kincannon, *City of Knoxville.*
- Ryan Garner, MAcc, Ernest & Young
- Nathan Woods, CFP & Sam Paganelli, CFA, *Rather & Kittrell*
- Kelley McNeal, CTAS
- Dennis Green, CPA, CGFM
- Mark Burnette, CPA, *LBMC* Advisory Services

#### 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.

- Two members participated in the AGA LEAD! Leadership Meeting virtually: Travis Lowe and Gary Mitchell during August 2021.
- Two members attended the AGA National Professional Development Training (PDT) Larry Elmore and Dr. Amelia Hart – in June 2021.
- Larry Elmore serves as our chapter National Council of Chapters (NCC) Representative and attended quarterly NCC meetings.

WE NEED YOU! Our Chapter PDT virtual attendance was 44 in 2021-2022. Register now for the inperson East TN PDT November 16 & 17 and help us reach our goal of 50 attendees.



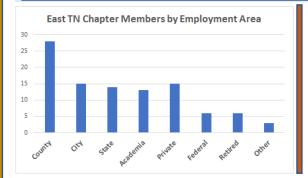
#### **Fiscal Year Financial Summary**

The recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic had a continuing negative impact on the finances of the East TN Chapter. Total revenues increased in FY 2022 by \$3,528 but expenses increased by \$5,667.

Membership dues declined \$252 as overall membership declined slightly. Chapter meeting revenues rebounded from \$0 the previous year as membership meetings resumed being in-person. However, meeting revenue was not sufficient to offset meeting expenses. PDT revenues increased by \$3,225 as more people attended a virtual option in FY22. PDT expenses held flat, the only cost being the virtual platform, so the event turned out to be a good source of funds in FY22 that supported other chapter operations.

Expenditures for chapter operations and National PDT decreased in the CY. The number of persons attending a National PDT and AGA LEAD decreased in the current period. Finally, despite the decline in revenues, the East TN chapter donated more of its 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.



#### **MEMBER STATS**

Current membership is 91; a decrease of 5 from prior period. 8 new members added 2021-22. CGFM licensures decreased from 37 to 35 in 2021-22 OUR MEMBERS WORK IN... All government sectors, nonprofit, private, and academia.





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# WHAT'S NEXT.

# 2023 Goals for East TN Chapter

We plan to provide the same level of service this year as last completing the requirements for a Gold Award. We plan to accomplish the following during this program year. Provider live CPE during lunch meetings in September, October, January, February, March, and April. Live annual two-day Professional Development Training will be in November (date TBD based on conference center availability). Our December meeting will be dedicated to a local charity. Our annual awards lunch will be in May 2023. We are maintaining our subscription through AGA to Conferences i/o and Zoom so we can quickly convert to hybrid or virtual meetings if necessary.

Our administrative goals for the year are to fill our empty board seats and develop a bench/training program for future leaders. We plan on finishing the process of updating our bylaws and legal name to AGA East Tennessee Chapter. AGA has a very good student program, and we are planning more outreach to the colleges around Knoxville. We already have University of Tennessee staff as active members in the chapter. Our chapter leadership is excited about this year's program and look forward to implementing it.

# **CGFM**

For more information regarding the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, go to http://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification.aspx

# **OUR COMMITTEES' LEADERSHIP**

Awards	Ginger Giffin
Community Service	Chris Simmons
Research	Caleb Wheeler
Meetings	Open Position
Webmaster	Emily Strange
Education	John Sutton
Social Media	Chandni Dularam
Immediate Past President	Travis Lowe

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

**We plan to accomplish these goals in the upcoming year:** 1.Working with an email service to provide better newsletter delivery and general email announcements to our members.

2. Work towards posting revised bylaws and policies on our chapter's AGA website.

3. Work toward posting chapter leadership job descriptions on our chapter's AGA website.

4. Formalize a chapter leadership development plan, the more hands the lighter the workload on any single individual to continue moving the chapter forward to better serve our members.

5. Develop a college outreach program for our local colleges, especially community colleges. Part of the program will be explaining our new name and the increased job categories that AGA serves in the government support arena.

6. Assist current members with outreach in their organizations to introduce AGA's expanded job categories along the lines of the college outreach.

7. Survey members to determine how to better serve them within the AGA framework

# OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

East	Tennessee AGA Chapter	Offic	ers	s 2022 - 2023
		-		

President	Dennis Green	
President-Elect / CGFM	Deborah Strahler (Deb)	
Treasurer	Connie Cook	
Secretary / NCC Rep	Karen McKee	
Newsletter Editor	Travis Lowe	
Early Careers	Nicholas Fitts	
Historian	Amy Paganelli	
Membership	Open Position	
Accountability	Gary Mitchell	
Chapter Recognition	Mary McDonald	

Stay Current on Our Events. The chapter website is available at <a href="https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/EastTennessee">https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/EastTennessee</a>. Email our chapter president dengreencpa@yahoo.com for more on how you may get involved.