

## 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 <https://www.agacgfm.org/About/Code-of-Ethics.aspx>.

## Our East TN Chapter President

2023-2024

Deb Strahler



## 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

**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 preminent 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.



Connect with us:

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

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

### GOLD

Achievement in Chapter  
Excellence Award.  
East TN Chapter.  
2022-2023



### Education

The East Tennessee chapter hosted eight monthly luncheon meetings, and provided six hours of continuing professional education (CPE).

Average attendance was around 17 which was a decrease from the previous year's average of 20 as more people opted out of in-person CPE nationwide.

November 15-16, the chapter hosted an in-person two-day Professional Development Training (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  
2022-2023

**Dennis Green**



### Community Service

The AGA of East TN welcomed Sue Beverly, Executive Director, Ronald McDonald House, to share on the vision and mission of this Knoxville nonprofit organization. The Ronald McDonald House of Knoxville provides a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. The House provides a comfortable, supportive, temporary residence where family members can sleep, eat, relax and find support from other families in similar situations. Since opening their doors, they have provided a home for over 57,000 people. We were proud to do our part with a cash donation in support.

### Special Thanks to our 2022-2023 Chapter Meeting Presenters

- Betsy Cunningham, *UT's Municipal Technical Advisory Service Institute for Public Service (MTAS)*
- Gary Mitchell, CPA, *Pugh CPAs*
- Ron Woody, CPA, CGFM, CSBA, *former County Executive for Roane County, Tennessee*

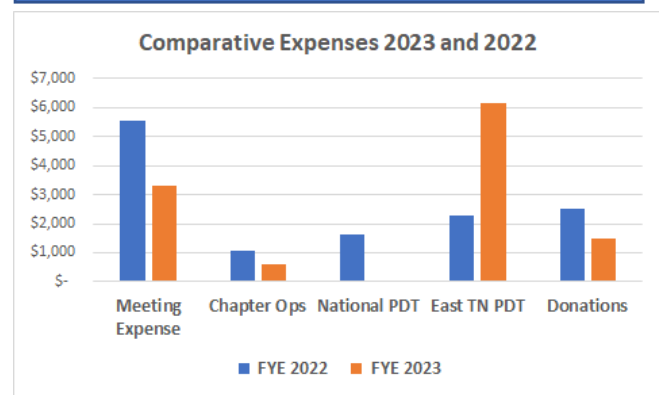
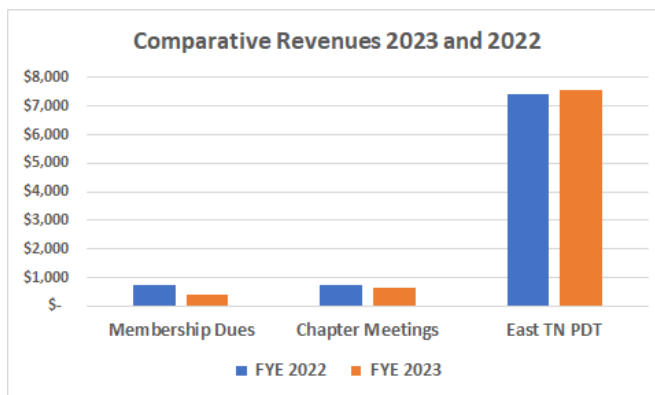
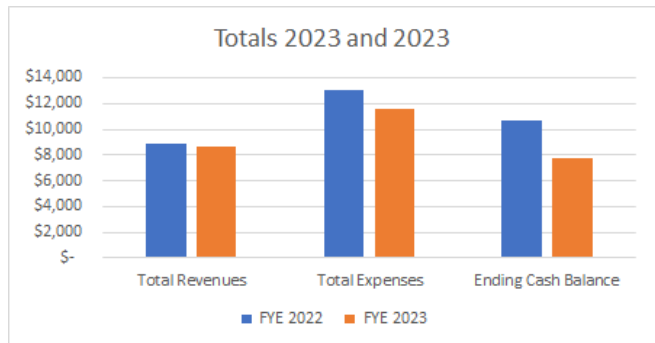
- Dennis Green, CPA, CGFM
- Pam Jeffreys, *Director of Risk Management at University of Tennessee*

During May 2023, 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 - year memberships.

We also recognized Dennis Green for his assistance as previous president and the executive board for their service.

Special appreciation to Deb Strahler for volunteering to serve as President during the upcoming year.

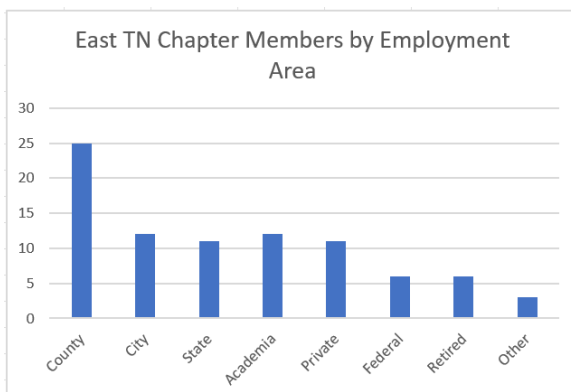
## REVENUES & EXPENSES



### Fiscal Year Financial Summary

The decrease in-person attendance since the Covid pandemic had a continuing negative impact on the finances of the East TN Chapter. Total revenues decrease in FY 2023 by \$237, mainly due to decreased meeting attendance. As a result, the chapter purposely reduced meeting expenses by \$2,237. However, meeting revenue was still not sufficient to offset meeting expenses. PDT revenues remained relatively flat as a higher price was charged for an in-person conference in the current year compared to the virtual option in the previous year, even though attendance was down. PDT expenses increased \$3,893 in the current year as result of being in-person instead of virtual. Finally, despite the decline in participation in the current year, the East TN chapter still donated a decent portion of its revenues to charity in the current year. The financials tell the story of a fiscal year riddled with participation 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

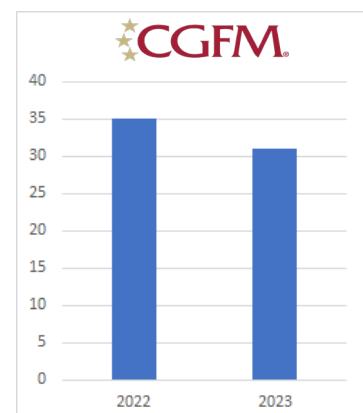


Current membership is 86; a decrease of 5 from prior period.

9 new members added 2022-23.

CGFM licensures decreased from 35 to 31 in 2022-23

Our members work in all areas of government sectors, nonprofit, private, and academia.





East Tennessee  
Chapter

Accountable. Responsible.  
The Citizen Centric Report  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST TN**  
Fiscal Year 2022-2023 [6/01/22 – 5/31/23]

## WHAT'S NEXT.

### 2024 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, November, January, February, March, and April. Live annual two-day Professional Development Training will be in October. Our December meeting will be dedicated to a local charity. Our annual awards lunch will be in May 2024. We are maintaining our subscription through AGA to Conferences i/o and Zoom so we can offer half of our meetings in a remote format to increase participation of those individuals who prefer remote formats.

Our administrative goals for the year are to reduce our board seats and fill the remaining ones with dedicated individuals and future leaders. We plan on finishing the process of updating our bylaws and legal name to AGA East Tennessee Chapter.

Our chapter leadership is excited about this year's program and look forward to implementing it.



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

### OUR COMMITTEES' LEADERSHIP

Community Service	Chris Simmons
Research	Caleb Wheeler
Awards	Ginger Griffin
Webmaster	Emily Strange
Education	John Sutton
Social Media	Chandni Dularam
Early Careers	Nicholas Fitts

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

We plan to accomplish these goals in the upcoming year:

1. To increase participation & interaction at meetings and events.
2. Obtain speakers to meet Chapter members needs and relevant topics and offer educational speakers at 8 monthly meetings.
3. To change the number & nature of board offices to better meet the chapter and national needs.
4. Provide CGFM candidates with additional support in the form of mentors and reimbursement for expenses.
5. To continue publishing the updated monthly newsletter, and continue to expand website and social media presence.
6. Survey members to determine how to better serve them within the AGA framework.
7. Support to local organization for the homeless and domestic abuse.

### OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

#### East Tennessee AGA Chapter Officers 2023 - 2024

President/CGFM	Deborah Strahler (Deb)
President-Elect	Gary Mitchell
Treasurer	Connie Cook
Secretary	Karen McKee
Newsletter Editor	Travis Lowe
Past President / NCC Rep	Dennis Green
Historian	Amy Paganelli
Meetings	Patti Rebholz
Chapter Reporting	Various
Chapter Recognition	Mary McDonald

Stay Current on Our Events. The chapter website is available at  
<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/EastTennessee>.