



Penny Austin
Nashville Chapter President
2015-2016

Inside this edition...

Luncheon Speaker Spotlight

Committee News

Members News

Training Opportunities

Upcoming Events...

1/4/16 Luncheon Meeting

1/13-14/16 Winter Seminar

1/17/16 — Audio Conference

1/27/16 Audio Conference

1/28/16 CEC Meeting

December is here!

As the year comes to an end, we will be showered with lists of the top ten songs, movies, and moments of 2015. The old cliché “time speeds up as you get older” is true. It seems like only a few months ago that the nominating committee was putting together the slate of officers for this AGA year. Now, we are half way through the year and I am very grateful to everyone for all we have accomplished thus far. From participating in community service events to listening to insightful luncheon speakers, chapter members have been busy.

January is shaping up to be a busy month too. Our luncheon will be the first Monday of the new year. Because of the holidays, I encourage everyone to sign up as soon as you receive the reservation email. This will be a great help to the meetings and attendance committee. Our speaker will be Ethel Detch with the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The chapter will also host the 2016 Winter Seminar on January 13-14, in the newly renovated Tennessee Room at the William R. Snodgrass Tower. The education committee has lined up great speakers and interesting topics for this event. More information is available later in the newsletter.

For those of you who did not get the opportunity to attend the December luncheon, I wanted to share a couple of tips that our speaker John Dunn, Public Information Officer for the Comptroller of the Treasury, discussed regarding working with the media. When talking with a reporter, it is important to speak plainly. Do not use acronyms or jargon that the public may not be familiar with. Also, although it is most likely that the reporter has contacted you, you should have your own agenda for the interview. When answering questions be sure to incorporate the message that you want to convey. Hopefully, by following this advice, your experience will be a positive one.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope everyone has the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends observing old traditions or making new ones.

Penny

SAVE THE DATE!

2015-2016 Luncheon Meeting Dates

August 31, 2015
October 5, 2015
November 2, 2015
December 7, 2015
January 4, 2016
February 1, 2016
March 7, 2016
April 4, 2016
May 9, 2016

2015-2016 CEC Meeting Dates

August 27, 2015
October 1, 2015
October 29, 2015
December 3, 2015
December 17, 2015
January 28, 2016
March 3, 2016
March 31, 2016
May 5, 2016

Deadlines for Newsletter Submissions 2015-2016

September 4, 2015
October 9, 2015
November 6, 2015
December 11, 2015
January 8, 2016
February 5, 2016
March 11, 2016
April 8, 2016
May 12, 2016

2015-2016 Audio Conference Dates

September 2, 2015 — Cyber Security
September 23, 2015 — Human Capital
October 21, 2015 — Fraud Prevention
November 4, 2015 — Omni-Circular
January 27, 2016 — Government Financial
Management
February 17, 2016 — Fraud Prevention
March 9, 2016 — Grants
April 13, 2016 — DATA Act
May 11, 2016 — Ethics

January Luncheon Speaker

Ethel R. Detch — TACIR



Ethel Detch, MPA

<https://www.tn.gov/tacir/>

Since 2009 Ethel Detch has been a Senior Research Consultant for the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Before that she worked for Tennessee's Comptroller of the Treasury for 28 years, the last 14 as the Director of Research and Education Accountability. For both of these state agencies, Ethel has contributed to over 150 policy reports on various state and local government topics, including government transparency, Tennessee's future, K-12 and higher education, housing, health, corrections, transportation, and the environment. Ethel also worked as a performance auditor in the Division of State Audit for 10 years and was assistant director of the Comptroller's Office of Local Government for four years. She began her career in state government as a research analyst for the Department of Correction.

Ethel holds a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and a B.A. in political science from West Virginia University.

She served two terms on the Executive Committee of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, National Conference of State Legislatures, as well as NCSL's Standing Committee on Human Services and Welfare. She has an interest in civic education and has served as an assessor for Project Citizen, a national program that encourages middle school students to solve community problems where they live. She presently serves on the board of the League of Women Voters-Nashville. Ethel lives in Franklin with her husband, Steve, and is the parent of two grown children.

Member and Committee News

Welcome New Members!

Lin Johnson, Shelby County Schools, No Sponsor

Ange Nyirahirwa, Finance and Administration, Sponsored by Charles Larry Gardner

Frazier Williams, State of Tennessee, Sponsored by Karen Kay Wilson

Membership

As of our December 7 luncheon, our membership count was 376, just 24 short of our goal of 400 for January 1! Continue to share the benefits of AGA membership with your coworkers and acquaintances. Sponsors receive three points and a \$10 gift card, and at this writing we have an eleven-way tie for the \$100 recruitment prize for sponsors of new members through December 31.

Check out the new national AGA website at www.agacgfm.org and let us know your thoughts. All comments are welcome and if you can't find what you're looking for, let us know!

Do you need last minute CPE's? We're having a holiday sale on the Journal quizzes until December 20. The four subscription is \$89 and provides 12 CPE's when you pass the quiz. This is a great value and you can take the quizzes anytime online! Register online here: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Learn-Online/Journal-CPE-Quizzes.aspx>.

Please review your profile at the national site and update your information, especially email address and USPS mail address. Alternatively, you may send in changes to the national office at agamembers@agacgfm.org. Renewal season is upon us, so watch your USPS mailbox for a mailing from AGA.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Membership Benefits

As an AGA member, you gain access to a host of benefits designed to support your career growth and your success. Key benefits include:

- Education and networking opportunities through more than [100 AGA Chapters](#)
- Four annual [national training events](#) with member rates that save you more than \$150 per event
- Social networking on [LinkedIn](#)
- Access to the online members' directory
- [Awards and Scholarship](#) programs
- [Leadership](#) and Volunteer opportunities at the chapter and national level
- [Career Center and Online Job Bank](#)
- Young Professionals program
- Hundreds of [Continuing Professional Education](#) opportunities
- Complimentary members-only webinars
- Member discounts for [online CPE opportunities](#)
- Advocacy: AGA provides valuable input to standards-setting bodies and policy-makers on behalf of the government financial management profession
- Subscription to the quarterly [Journal of Government Financial Management](#)
- [Topics](#) weekly e-newsletter
- [Thought Leadership library](#)
- Discount on [CGFM renewal fees](#)
- [Web Conferences](#)

Highlights From the Fall Breakfast



Save the Date!

Save the Date!!! March 29-30, 2016

***Association of Government Accountants
Southeast Region Professional Development Training
“Envisioning the Opportunities”***

16 CPE Hours

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center

Nashville, Tennessee

More information on registration and speakers will be forthcoming!

Check out www.nashvilleaga.org/regionalaga.htm for details.



AGA Core Values: Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership (SAIL)

XXX-XX-XXXX (Data Encryption/Data Breaches) by Nathan Abbott



Nathan Abbott, CISA, CFE, EA

The title of this article is my social security number. You cannot read my number because it is encrypted. Data encryption is the act of changing electronic information into an unreadable state by using algorithms or ciphers. I was able to display my social security number to everyone because I am the only one that has the password to make it readable. Our social security number is one of the most valuable pieces of information we have, even though you can buy one on the black market for \$5 (according to Time magazine). We take great precaution on protecting our own social security number by not giving it to strangers, leaving it out in the open, not carrying the card in our wallet, etc. We need to take the same precaution with other people's data as well.

What do the following companies have in common: Anthem; Heartland; Sony; Target? Yep, you guessed it - they have had data lost or stolen from them in the past couple of years. These companies were the most publicized breaches that made major headlines.

Because they had data breaches, they not only lost revenues, they also lost the trust of consumers. We trust these companies with our data and our highly private personal information was compromised. It's the same thing for those of us who work in the public sector; the public trusts us with their data and that is why we have to have policies for encrypting data.

A good policy requires laptops and thumb drives to be encrypted. If we do not encrypt the data, we are at risk of a data breach and losing public trust. Many states now have a data breach law; for Tennessee it is Public Acts, 2005 Chapter No. 473. If we lose data or data is breached, we must notify the public immediately. On average, the recovery from a data breach costs 3.79 million dollars; however, you cannot calculate or recover the cost of losing your reputation and the trust of your clients/customers. Damage to your reputation is a very costly.

Let's not become another data breach case; take the appropriate actions and put policies/actions in place to keep data private.

Education Committee News

✦ NASHVILLE AGA ✦ WINTER SEMINAR 2016

January 13-14, 2016
William R. Snodgrass Tower
Tennessee Room
312 Rosa L Parks Blvd Nashville, TN 37243

This two day training event will provide attendees with accounting and auditing updates. The training will also include presentations about ethics, leadership training, and more! Sixteen hours of CPE will be offered.

Register at <http://nashvilleaga.org/Education/Winter2016.html> by January 6, 2016.

Registration Fees:

- Member - \$175
- Non-member - \$275
- Non-member group rate - \$225 per non-member for 3 or more non-members from the same agency.

Preferable methods of payment for the Winter Seminar include:

- Provide cash or a check made payable to AGA to Rachelle Cabading or Anna Nickell (payment will be accepted between now and the day of the training).
- Mail a check to: Nashville AGA ATTN Winter Seminar P.O. Box 198025 Nashville, TN 37219.
- State Agencies can pay through Edison using the vendor number for Nashville AGA 0000084336.

Due to PayPal fees, the payment methods above are preferable, but PayPal is an option. Go to: <http://nashvilleaga.org/Education/Winter2016.html> to the PayPal link at the bottom of the registration page.

Cancellation Policy

Any request for cancellation must be sent to: Rachelle.Cabading@col.tn.gov or Anna.Nickell@col.tn.gov no later than January 6, 2016. After that date, members and non-members who have a reservation but are not able to attend should find a replacement or be responsible for the registration fee.

Member News/Spotlight

Angela McElrath-Prosser

I grew up in Paducah Kentucky which is located in the western part of the state. In high school, I took my first Accounting class and decided that is what I wanted to do. I attended Paducah Community College for two years before transferring to Murray State University in Murray Kentucky. In my junior year at Murray State, I met my husband, Chris Prosser, who is from Nashville. After we graduated and got married, we lived in Knoxville Tennessee where he taught orchestra in the Oak Ridge Tennessee school system and I worked at the Tennessee Press Association as a reader. I enjoyed reading the newspapers from across Tennessee. Back then, the small town papers would publish who had visitors from out of town and who was in the hospital.

When Chris was offered a teaching position in the Metro Nashville Public School system, we moved to Nashville. I worked as a directory assistance operator for BellSouth prior to getting hired by the Metro Finance Department Division of Accounts. I started out in Accounts Payable where I worked for nine years before moving over to the Accounting Staff. I recently accepted a position at the Nashville Public Library as their Finance Manager. I have been with Metro for 23 years. Looking back the years have flown by.

A couple of years after I started in the Metro Finance Department, one of my co-workers asked me to attend an AGA meeting and later sponsored me to join. I have been a member since March 1994. Not only have I met some wonderful people through AGA, my skills have expanded with my membership. I have served as Treasurer, on the



Angela McElrath-Prosser

Finance Committee for several years as well as recently on the Community Service Committee. My latest challenge is accepting the position of President Elect.

My favorite AGA activities involve Community Service. The Lil' Soldiers Christmas Toys program is a particular favorite. With Chris being a teacher, I know how much the teachers and students at Alex Green Elementary need the school supplies we collect. Through my work on the Community Service Committee, I learned there are some extremely generous people in our Nashville AGA Chapter. I value being a member of a group that is so giving.

For our volunteer work, Chris and I serve on the Tennessee Chess Association Board as well as run scholastic chess tournaments in Middle Tennessee (and occasionally in Kentucky). It is an amazing sight to see 200+ players grades K-12 sitting quietly concentrating on their games.

When not working or promoting chess, I enjoy scrapbooking, classic cars, and reading.

Highlights From the December Luncheon



Thank You to Our Silver Level Sponsor

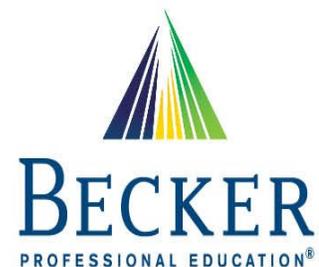
The knowledge you need
to prepare you for the next level of success.

Whether you're a CPA, CGFM, CMFO, CDFM, DoD FM, CIA, CFE, CMA or need GAGAS, Becker offers Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to help meet your needs.

With Becker CPE your accounting, audit and finance professionals receive the timely and relevant knowledge needed to help them stay ahead. Take advantage of our Subscription Program for unlimited use of Becker's CPE.

- Special rate for Government Agencies - \$100 per person, per year, unlimited use subscription
- Live Webcast and On-demand formats (24x7access)
- Includes streaming video and audio courses

To learn more, visit becker.com/cpe or contact Amy Johnson at ajohnson@becker.com.



News And Just The Facts

CAREER CENTER

A **Property Officer** position was recently posted. Qualified and interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to the link provided at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org/jobs.html>

OUR CURRENT STANDING AS OF 12/01/15, IS AS FOLLOWS:			
<u>Chapter Recognition Section</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Chapter Leadership, Planning & Participation	3,075	3,000	103%
Education & Professional Development	2,800	4,000	70%
Certification	2,175	4,000	54%
Communications	3,300	37%	110%
Membership	3,900	4,000	98%
Accountability	700	2,000	35%
Community Service	3,800	2,000	190%
Awards	200	1,000	20%
TOTALS	19,950	23,000	87%

LUNCHEON / CEC MINUTES

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC and luncheon meeting, please visit the chapter website at www.nashvilleaga.org. The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for January 4, 2016.

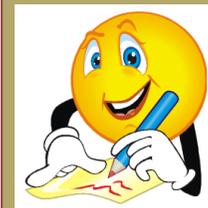


JOB OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time departments forward job opportunities to the Website Committee, which are posted for members' convenience. If you are interested in new job offerings or know someone who is, go to this link for detailed information — <http://nashvilleaga.org/jobs.html>



Editor's Corner



We truly enjoy reading articles submitted from our membership.

Please share your thoughts and ideas or interesting news with us by submitting your article to Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov no later than January 8, 2016 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks!

2015-2016 AGA Chapter Leadership Directory

Officers

President
Penny Austin, CGFM, CPA, CISA
(615) 401-7838
Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov

President-Elect
Angela McElrath-Prosser
(615) 862-5772
Angela.Mcelrath@nashville.gov

Immediate Past President
Michelle Earhart, CPA
(615) 253-6057
Michelle.Earhart@tn.gov

Secretary
Donna Jewell, CPA, CFE
(615) 747-5276
Donna.Jewell@cot.tn.gov

Treasurer
Katie Armstrong, CGFM, CPA, CFE
(615) 401-7841
Katie.Armstrong@cot.tn.gov

One-Year Directors

Rachelle Cabading, CFE
Education Co-Chair
(615) 401-7841
Rachelle.Cabading@cot.tn.gov

Charlotte Gentry
Membership Co-Chair
(615) 253-8515
Charlotte.Gentry@tn.gov

Cindy Hobbs
Program Co-Chair
(615) 741-6199
Cindy.Hobbs@tn.gov

Pamela Marks
Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 862-6212
Pamela.Marks@nashville.gov

Alicia Reynolds, CPA
Early Career Chair
(615) 741-9442
Alicia.Reynolds@tn.gov

Two-Year Directors

Bridget Carver
Membership Co-Chair
(615) 401-7959
Bridget.Carver@cot.tn.gov

Emily Gray
Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 741-1438
Emily.Gray@tn.gov

Debi Moss
Program Co-Chair
(615) 741-6199
Debi.Moss@tn.gov

Anna Nickell
Education Co-Chair
(615) 862-6212
Anna.Nickell@cot.tn.gov

Michael Winston, CGFM
CGFM Chair
(615) 741-8348
J.Michael.Winston@gmail.com

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Nathan Abbott, CISA, CFE, EA
Webmaster Co-Chair
(615) 401-7842
Nathan.Abbott@cot.tn.gov

Gerry Boaz, CGFM, CPA
Accountability Outreach Chair
(615) 747-5262
Gerry.Boaz@cot.tn.gov

Eddie D'Ovidio
Finance Co-Chair
(615) 741-9812
Edward.D'Ovidio@tn.gov

John Dunne
Meetings and Attendance Co-Chair
(615) 747-5286
John.Dunne@cot.tn.gov

Karen B. Hale, MAOM, CGFM
Communications Chair
(615) 401-7742
Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Jeff Hughes, MBA, CGFM, CFE
Awards Chair
(931) 729-5161
Jeff.Hughes@tn.gov

Scarlet Sneed, CGFM, CPA, CFE
Meetings and Attendance Co-Chair
(615) 747-5243
Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov

Alexander Warns
Finance Co-Chair
(615) 741-0578
Alexander.Warns@tn.gov

Jennifer Whitsel, CPA, CFE, CGMA
Corporate Sponsorship Chair
(615) 747-5265
Jennifer.Whitsel@cot.tn.gov

Dan Willis, CGFM, CPA, CISA
Webmaster Co-Chair
(615) 747-5247
Daniel.Willis@cot.tn.gov



Chapter Address:

AGA Nashville Chapter
PO Box 198025
Nashville, TN 37219

Visit the Nashville Chapter web-site at www.nashvilleaga.org

Visit the National website at:
www.agacgfm.org