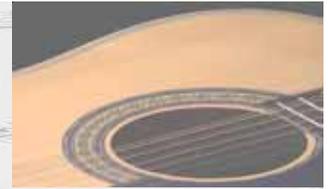




Nashville Notes

Nashville Area Chapter
Association of Government Accountants



December 2006

Volume 29, Number 4



President's Message, Gerry Boaz, CGFM, CPA

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. We have many reasons to consider ourselves blessed in this great United States of America we live in. I also want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As you travel to your families to celebrate the holiday season, be careful in your travels. We want everyone back safely.

We continue to have excellent member and guest attendance at our luncheon business meetings. Our joint meeting in November with the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) was a gleaming success. It gave us an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues we might not have seen since our joint meeting last year.

I thought this month I would take a break from the themed messages thusfar and focus on the community service and educational activities currently under way and other activities that have been achieved this program year. The Community Service Committee informed us that the Project Pencil drive was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause, a total of 27 boxes of supplies were delivered to the Alex Green Elementary school. The committee also presented the PE, Music and the Computer departments each with \$25.00 checks. Pictures of the supply delivery or donation drop are on our website. Furthermore, the community service committee collected food for the Second Harvest Food Bank Collection during the months of October and November. As of this writing, we are optimistic

Continued on Page 3

CHAPTER MEETING

**Thursday, December 7, 2006
11:30 a.m., Nashville City Club**

Speaker

Hazel R. O'Leary

COST: \$10.00 per member

Make your luncheon reservation online at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org>.

If necessary you may call
Penny Austin
(615) 401-7838
**by 6:00 p.m. Monday,
December 4, 2006**

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Chapter Recognition Points YTD • Annual National Maximum May 1 through October 31, 2006 • Points 2006-07

Leadership	3,350	•	3,000
Education	1,450	•	4,000
Certification	1,075	•	4,000
Communication	3,133	•	3,000
Membership	200	•	3,000
Early Careers	625	•	2,000
Community Service	300	•	2,000
Awards	1,500	•	1,000
Total Points YTD	11,633	•	22,000
Chapter Goal		•	10,000

National recognizes up to a maximum number of points in each category for the designations earned and presented to the chapters at the annual PDC. For the 2006-2007 year, the Platinum designation will require 19,501-22,000 points.



December Speaker Hazel R. O'Leary



Hazel R. O'Leary was named the 14th President of Fisk University on August 16, 2004. A native of Newport News, Virginia, Mrs. O'Leary is a *cum laude* graduate of Fisk University. She was inducted into the graduate chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Fisk University. O'Leary holds a J.D. degree from Rutgers University Law School. She began her career in the energy field in the public sector as a presidential appointee at the DOE and the Federal Energy Administration during the Carter and Ford Administrations.

Mrs. O'Leary has proven management skills, garnered through 30 years of experience in energy and environmental policy and large project development. Previously she served as President of the natural gas subsidiary of Northern States Power (NSP), a diversified utility holding company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Prior to that, she held the office of Executive

Vice President, Corporate Affairs.

At NSP, Mrs. O'Leary shared major responsibility with the Chairman and CEO, Jim Howard, for a change in management and philosophy to prepare the company for open markets in the wholesale and retail electric and gas business. She shaped efforts to focus on customer service and accountability considered revolutionary in the Utility Industry 20 years ago. These changes: information management; quality; putting decision making in the hands of frontline employees and aligning performance of measurable goals with pay rapidly opened the door for cost cutting and improved services to industrial and commercial customers.

"My vision is to build on the strength of this history, on our outstanding faculty and our cutting edge research, particularly in science and technology and move Fisk to the forefront of top ranked liberal arts universities in the nation."
-Hazel R. O'Leary

She served as President and Chief Operating Officer at Blaylock & Partners, L.P., a top ranked African-American investment banking firm. O'Leary directed the day-to-day operations of this full service investment banking firm with Fortune 1,000 clients in the Energy, Communication, Transportation, Technology, and the Retail sectors. Responsible for reworking the strategic vision of the firm, she directed the development of new business management systems to implement a strategic business partnership with a Fortune 10 financial service company.

During President Bill Clinton's first administration, President O'Leary served as U.S. Secretary of Energy. She was the first African American, the first woman, and the first energy executive to hold this Cabinet post. Under Mrs. O'Leary's direction DOE entered into extensive negotiations which led to securing nuclear materials in the states which formerly comprised the Soviet Union (The Russian Federation and the Newly Independent States). The result has been substantial reductions in nuclear danger in the former Soviet Union – setting the stage for the international negotiations to dispose of nuclear materials.

She was named "Person of the Week" by the ABC television network for her courageous decision to lift the veil of secrecy from decades-old information detailing government sponsored radiation experiments on human subjects. In addition, she was the recipient of the Averell Harriman Award and named as one of 100 fearless women in the United States by *Mirabella* magazine for her principled stand to end nuclear testing and secure nuclear materials globally.

From the November Joint Meeting with the Middle TN Chapter of ACFE



Fred Pasteur, ACFE President; Beth Pendergrass, ACFE Secretary ; and Kerry Dye, ACFE Treasurer



AGA Members Elaine Driver and Sherry Kast with Speaker Phil Williams of News Channel 5.



President's Message continued



that we will surpass last year's total donation for pounds of food. The Little Soldiers drive began in November and the Channel 8 (Nashville Public Television) pledge drive is currently scheduled for December 7, 2006. For the NPT Pledge Drive, the committee got the needed 14 volunteers within 24 hours of promoting the event. Thank you volunteers for dedicating your time and efforts to these events.

In regard to the education committee, we recognize that most individuals with certification letters (e.g., CPA, CGFM, CFE, CISA, etc.) at the end of his or her name want to continue that process we often call "continuous improvement." One way in this profession that we go about doing that is participating in continuing professional education events. We have a major event coming up in January. This will be our annual Winter Seminar which will be held at Nashville State Technical Community College on January 10-11, 2007. This event promises to be enlightening because of the timely topics and excellent lineup of speakers. You will NOT want to miss this event! Additional details are or soon will be available on the website. As an added bonus, the ACFE will host a one-day seminar following our AGA Winter Seminar on January 12 also at Nashville State Technical Community College. For all members and non-members, especially CPAs and CGFMs, this represents an unbelievable opportunity to get 24 hours (over half) of the 40 CPE hours needed each year or 80 CPE hours over a two-year reporting period. Mark you calendars now for this event.

Finally, I want to encourage each AGA member to educate your colleagues in each of your departments or agencies about the benefits you have gained from being an AGA member and the benefits and opportunities the CGFM can provide. Share AGA with others. There is no better way to demonstrate your competence and professional skill sets to your employers than to become a Certified Government Financial Manager. Continue to recruit new members, improve your professional skill sets, and share innovative and creative ideas for improving government accountability.

"Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself."
~Norman W. Brooks, "Let Every Day Be Christmas."



Look!



Look for individuals wearing name badges with purple and white ribbons attached. These are visitors and Early Career Members. Please introduce yourself and help make them feel welcome in our chapter!



News from National

Survey: Young CPAs Say Firms Fail to Deliver

With the ongoing talent war in the accounting profession, and no end in sight, accounting firms have a gap to fill as they try to attract and retain up-and-coming professionals, according to the findings of the 2006 CCH Young Accounting Professionals Survey. Conducted by Harris Interactive, the survey measured what is important to CPAs with four to seven years of experience and how well their firms were doing at delivering on key attributes in four areas: firm resources and infrastructure; benefits and compensation; professional training and development; and firm culture. In nearly every instance, fewer than one-half of firms received a very good rating on their ability to deliver on the attributes most important to these professionals. The most important attributes, according to young CPAs: 74 percent say good compensation; 67 percent say comprehensive resources to get the job done; 63 percent say an ethical leadership culture; 51 percent say flexible hours; 49 percent say support for continuing professional education. "The findings of the CCH survey show a gap between what is most important to young professionals today, and how well firms are doing in meeting those needs," said Mike Sabbatis, CCH executive vice president of global sales and marketing. —*SmartPros*. To view the entire article, visit

<http://accounting.smartpros.com/x55352.xml>

What Keeps Managers Up at Night?

A recent survey reveals that 95 percent of managers feel life is stressful at the office. As a result, stress caused 28 percent to take time off from work. And stress at work is not restricted to managers. "Stress in the workplace is a major issue for businesses," Managing Director of SoftSkill EMEA, Kevin Young says of the study. "Helping people to manage stress can have a positive effect on their effectiveness at work and reduce the number of stress-related absences." The top causes of managerial stress are workload, at 61.6 percent, and deadlines at 50.3. Managers also cited feeling undervalued at 38.9 percent and working longer hours than they should at 37.3 percent. —*AccountingWEB*. To view the entire article, visit

<http://www.accountingweb.com/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=102777>

Once Safe, Public Pensions Are Now Facing Cuts

After losing a leg in the line of duty, Dan Toneck, a San Diego police officer, spent nearly a year in rehabilitation before returning to work, doing his job for another five years with an artificial limb. Toneck, 37, was granted a disability retirement last year after 16 years on the job. Some of his fellow officers wept as he left headquarters for the last time. Then, 10 months later, the impossible happened. San Diego cut his pension by about 10 percent, along with those of about 180 other disabled city retirees. Across the country, government workers' pensions are protected by guarantees even stouter than those on pensions in the private sector. The legal promises, often backed up by union contracts, cover more than 15 million people. Years of supporting court interpretations have enshrined the view that once a public employee has earned a pension, no one can take it away. But now a number of state and local governments are quietly challenging those guarantees. Financially troubled San Diego is the highest-profile example, but a handful of states, cities and smaller government bodies have also found ways to scale back existing promises and even shrink some current payments. —Mary Williams Walsh, *The New York Times*. To view the entire article, visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/publications/agateoday/articles/111306/pensions.aspx>



■ CGFM Exam Preparation and Continuing Education

The CGFM is the designation for government financial professionals. This is the year you should strive to show your excellence by achieving the CGFM. In the coming program year there will be several opportunities for review classes:

Nashville AGA Continuing Education

- Governmental Environment March 29, 2007
- Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting April 26, 2007
- Governmental Financial Management and Control May 31, 2007

Each of these classes serves as 8 hours of governmental CPE as well as qualifying for CGFM and CPA continuing education. These classes are offered free of charge. The texts for the classes are the three AGA CGFM Study Guides (available on line at [AGA CGFM Study Guides](#) at \$85 per copy).

■ Management Concepts

CGFM review classes will be offered in Nashville

- Nashville, TN 3/21/2007 Governmental Environment 8 hrs
 3/22/2007-3/23/2007 Governmental Financial Management and Control
 3/26/2007-3/28/2007 Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting

Please check the Management Concepts website for costs and CPE information.

■ National PDC

During this program year's National PDC in Nashville an intense review course will be made available for those wishing to take the exams at the PDC.

Nashville AGA Chapter CGFM Committee will offer weekly directed study if enough interest is expressed. Additionally, CGFM mentors can be requested by those wishing direction on their journey to attain the CGFM. We have also provided an exam review website at [Government Finance: CGFM Exam Review](#).

Please check the Chapter website for continuing education opportunities if you currently hold the CGFM. Remember 80 hours of CPE are required every two years. Please read the AGA National website section – [How Do I Maintain My CGFM?](#) for exact requirements.

If I or a member of the committee can help you please do not hesitate to contact us: Ron Queen, Rebecca Barr, Gerry Boaz, Mary Anne Queen, and Jim Raybeck. Our committee needs more committed members to help us in assisting government finance professionals, if you would be interested in serving please contact us.



CGFM News continued

CGFM Directed Study

The Nashville Chapter of AGA CGFM Committee would like to offer you the opportunity to prepare for the CGFM exam through Directed Study. This is the year you should show your excellence by achieving the CGFM.

Directed Study consists of eight one hour classes held over a period of eight weeks. Participants are required to have a copy of the appropriate CGFM study guide for each Directed Study Session. Each eight week session will cover one exam. Participants are asked to commit to taking the session's exam at the end of the class. Participants are also asked to read and review the class's material prior to each class. You do not have to be a member of AGA to attend these free classes.

Cost to enroll in the CGFM program is \$85 to register and \$327 for the three exams. Study guides are \$85 from AGA. Please visit the AGA website at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/> to find out more about the program requirements and to obtain enrollment materials.

If you are interested in Directed Study to aid you in your journey to achieve the CGFM please contact Ron Queen (ron.queen@state.tn.us). If a minimum of 12 people commit to attending these classes on Thursday at 12 noon we will begin with exam 1 preparation.

CGFM Continuing Education Requirements

Please check the Chapter website for continuing education opportunities if you currently hold the CGFM. Remember 80 hours of CPE are required every two years. Please read the AGA National website section – [How Do I Maintain My CGFM?](#) for exact requirements.

3 Ways to Make a Luncheon Reservation

1. **Standing Reservation** (automatic reservation each month, will still need to cancel if unable to attend) To update or make a standing reservation or to see if you have a standing reservation, go to <http://www.nashvilleaga.org/reserv.html>
2. For **Reservation On-line** go to the Nashville Area Chapter website at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org/reserv.html>.

PLEASE NOTE: Any on-line reservation made after the deadline, 6 pm the Monday before the meeting, will NOT be accepted.

3. For **Reservation or Cancellations** by Phone or E-mail, contact Penny Austin at (615) 401-7838 or Penny.Austin@state.tn.us

Cancellations – Made NO LATER than 6 pm on the Monday before the luncheon. A member may send someone in their place to the luncheon. If none of the above occurs, then the member must pay \$10.





November CEC Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Tammy Fruscione, Chapter Secretary

The Nashville Chapter's Executive Committee met on Tuesday, October 30, 2006, in the 15th floor conference room of the James K. Polk Building. President Gerry Boaz called the meeting to order. Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) members present were Ann Collett, Teresa Hensley, Penny Austin, Nathan Abbott, Robbie Hunter, Tammy Fruscione, Mary Anne Queen, Angela McElrath-Prosser, Brian Derrick, and Kathy Anderson. Committee chairs present were Tammy Thompson, Britt Wood, Amy Abbott, Jennifer McClendon, Ron Queen, Suzanne Smotherman, and Dan Willis.

Welcome

Gerry Boaz welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of October 2, 2006 CEC Minutes

Gerry Boaz asked for approval of the October 2, 2006, CEC minutes. A motion was made by Nathan Abbott to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Kathy Anderson and passed.

Treasurer

Teresa Hensley distributed the current financial statements for review. Due to the low turnout for the Business Tax Seminars revenues are expected to be lower than anticipated. Gerry Boaz requested that all CEC members and Committee chairs review their current budgets for cuts and submit potential cuts to him by Thursday, November 2, 2006.

Chapter Recognition & Committee Strategic Plans

Ann Collett reported that the second quarter points have to be entered into the National database by November 20, 2006. Committees should have items to Ann as soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday, November 8, 2006, for the activities not reported to her already for the months of August, September, and October. The deadline to submit suggestions to National for improvements in the Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) is November 15, 2006. Committees should look at their sections of the CRP and see if there are areas that are unclear, seem inconsistent with other sections, deserve more points, or if there are additional activities that your committee does that you feel are worthy of being added to the National program. Suggestions should be made to Ann also no later than November 8, 2006. The Quarterly CRP report deadline for online reporting is November 20, 2006. Ann has entered 10,083 points so far into the in-house spreadsheet up through September 30, 2006. Committees were asked to verify that all points are accounted for thus far.

Committee Reports

Program

Robbie Hunter reported that the speaker for the November meeting is Phil Williams, News Channel 5. Fred Pasteur, ACFE President will be introducing Mr. Williams during the November Meeting. Hazel O'Leary, President of Fisk University is lined up for the December meeting. There are several social event options and due to budget constraints the committee will send out a survey to inquire as to which scenario the membership would be willing to attend.

Finance

Suzanne Smotherman reported that the committee is currently working on the tax return.

Education

Mary Anne Queen reported that there were thirty-five individuals signed up for the Memphis Business Tax Seminar and thirty-one for the Nashville Business Tax Seminar. The committee has sent out a survey to individuals who were invited to the seminars, but did not attend requesting information that could make the seminars more productive. The committee's expenses and revenues have been updated. The next audio conference will be held on November 8, 2006, on the new Yellow Book. The Winter Seminar is set for January 10-11, 2006, at Nashville State Community College.

Early Careers

Gerry Boaz reported that various committee members continue to work on planning the student careers in government day.

Awards

No report.



November CEC Meeting minutes continued

Membership

Brian Derrick reported that thirty points would be the amount the members would need to achieve in order to receive the \$45.00 subsidy for membership dues. A motion was made by Gerry Boaz to approve the 30 point threshold. The motion was seconded by Robbie Hunter and passed.

Newsletter

Amy Abbott and Jennifer McClendon reported that the deadline for newsletter submissions will be Wednesday, November 8, 2006. Tammy Thompson and Angela McElrath-Prosser are scheduled for the December and January profiles respectively. A volunteer is needed for February. The committee has a proposal for the CEC on redesigning the header of the newsletter. The CEC supported the redesign.

Community Service

Tammy Thompson handed out the totals for the Alex Green Elementary Project Pencil drive. She reported that the committee is currently working on the Second Harvest Food Drive throughout the month of November. The Little Soldiers drive will begin in November and Channel 8 pledge drive is currently scheduled for December 7, 2006, with more information as it arrives. Tammy Thompson will make an announcement at the November meeting.

CGFM

Gerry Boaz reported that this month's activity has been soliciting participants for the CGFM drawing. Twelve candidates have signed up to date. A meeting of the CGFM committee will be held in November to coordinate further activities and develop a survey. One request has been made for directed study sessions. If enough interest is shown (i.e., a minimum of 12 to sign up for the sessions with a minimum attendance of 5 to make the time effort effective) directed study sessions will be started again.

Meetings and Attendance

Penny Austin reported that the reservation number for the November meeting is currently 127. Melvin Jones will give the invocation at this month's meeting.

Internet

Dan Willis reported that all submitted updates have been posted.

Gerry Boaz announced that Fred Pasteur, Phil Williams, Melvin Jones, and ACFE members will be sitting at the head table.

The next CEC meeting is set for December 4, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned.



October Chapter Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Tammy Fruscione, Chapter Secretary

The Nashville Area Chapter held its joint ACFE and AGA November monthly meeting at the Nashville City Club on Thursday, November 2, 2006. President Gerry Boaz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Melvin Jones offered the invocation. Gerry Boaz asked for approval of the minutes for October's meeting published in the newsletter. The minutes were approved. Gerry introduced the head table, guests, and new members. Fred Pasteur, ACFE President, announced ACFE business.

Fred Pasteur introduced guest speaker, Phil Williams, Investigative Reporter for Channel 5 News. Mr. Williams discussed who was looking out for the public's interest in regards to waste, fraud and abuse within the government. The chapter donated \$35 to the charity of Mr. Williams' charity of choice which was the Cumberland Heights Foundation.

Donna Jewell announced that the upcoming audio conference covering the New Yellow Book, being held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006, was currently full, but individuals could still register to be placed on the waiting list. The Winter Seminar will

Continued on page 10



November Chapter Meeting minutes continued

be held on January 10-11, 2007 at Nashville State Community College. She reminded the members that the ACFE will be holding their free seminar on January 12, 2007 also at Nashville State Community College and encouraged individuals to sign up for both.

Brian Derrick reported that thirty points would be the amount the members would need to achieve in order to receive the \$45.00 reimbursement for membership dues. The point structure that will be used will be the same as that of the PDC drawing at the end of the year to cut down on confusion. There were two individuals who sponsored the same number of new members this month. A coin toss was performed and Mitzi Martin won the PDC bag.

Ron Queen announced that fourteen members signed up for the CGFM exam subsidy. A drawing was held and Kristy Carroll, Amy Abbott, and David Lanum each won the subsidy.

Tammy Thompson announced that the community service committee is currently sponsoring the Second Harvest Food Drive. If anyone wants to sponsor a box please contact Ray Register at ray.register@state.tn.us. Gerry Boaz announced that the Project Pencil supply drive was a huge success.

A door prize of \$25.00 was awarded to Greg Worley. Ron Anderson provided the answers to the monthly puzzle.

The meeting was adjourned.



**CGFM Subsidy
Winners**

Congratulations to the winners of the Nashville Chapter CGFM Subsidy Drawing on November 2, 2006!

- Amy Abbott, Division of State Audit, Comptroller of the Treasury State of Tennessee
- Kristy Carroll, Division of State Audit, Comptroller of the Treasury State of Tennessee
- David Lannom, Finance Department Division of Accounts Metropolitan Government of the City of Nashville and Davidson County

Each subsidy will pay the cost of the three exams, a total value of \$327. The three winners have until September 30, 2007 to document that they have paid for the three exams to receive the subsidy.



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Read All About It!

Thursday, November 15, 2006

Volume 1

AGA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SPONSORS MONTHLY GIVEAWAY

- WHO?** The person who sponsors the most new members for the month
- WHAT?** Goody Bags
- WHEN?** October Thru April

Fine Print: In the event of a tie a drawing will be held; an individual can win only once per year; sponsor information will be obtained from National Reports so be sure the new member puts correct sponsor information on the application.



DON'T FORGET
THE ACTIVE MEMBER INCENTIVE!
 One point system is being developed to help avoid confusion with the PDC drawing.
STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!



Announcement from AGA National of \$20 rebate on CGFM Application Fee

We at AGA national want to help. From September 1 until November 30, 2006 we'll give a rebate of \$20 for CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters. In order to receive a \$20 rebate,

1. the complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and copy of the transcript) must be received by AGA Office of Professional Certification during the period of September 1 through November 30, 2006.
2. the CGFM application form must have the promotional phrase: "CGFM chapter promotion - [name of your chapter]" written at the bottom of the form. If the application is submitted online, the applicant must put this phrase in the last question: "How did you learn about the CGFM Program?:".

Important notes:

- A full application fee of \$85 must be paid at the time of application. The \$20 check will be sent to the applicant by mail in January.
- The applicant must put the words "CGFM chapter promotion" AND the name of your chapter on the application form in order to receive the rebate.
- It is preferable that the applications are submitted by the applicants themselves and not by the chapter. The applicant does not have to be a chapter member in order to receive the rebate.



Career Opportunities

For more detailed information, please visit www.nashville.aga.org/career_opportunities.htm

Tennessee Emergency Communications Board Auditor/Accountant

submit resume, cover letter, list of references, and contact information to TN.ECB@state.tn.us

City of Lavergne Finance Director

Contact:
Kathi Payne
Human Resources Director
615-287-8622
kpayne@lavergne.org

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Staff Auditor

Contact:
Mollie Mennell
Internal Audit Director
615-253-1760
Mollie.Mennell@state.tn.us

Metro Nashville Finance Officer 2- Accounts (salary range \$39,655-\$44,943)

Apply online, by mail, or in person. Visit www.nashville.gov

Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance TennCare Examiner (CPA or CFE required)

Contact:
John R. Mattingly
TennCare Examinations Director
Fax 615-532-8872
John.Mattingly@state.tn.us

Finance and Administration ERP Consultant 1 (beginning salary \$34,000)

Contact:
John Ferguson
Submit Resume by e-mail or fax
615-253-2980 F
John.Ferguson@state.tn.us

Finance and Administration ERP Consultant 2 (beginning salary \$38,000)

Contact:
John Ferguson
Submit Resume by e-mail or fax
615-253-2980 F
John.Ferguson@state.tn.us

Tennessee Department of Children's Services Audit Director 1

Contact:
Debra Valentine
Inspector General
436 6th Avenue N.
Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, TN 37243



Earning a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation - a step-by-step guide.



Interested in the CGFM designation? Want to know where to start or what happens next?

Here is a step-by-step guide on how you can earn the CGFM designation:

Step 1 - Applying for the CGFM Program. Submit an application form for the CGFM Program via internet, fax or mail, including the application fee of \$85. Fax or mail a copy of your transcript from an accredited college or university. The transcript must show that a degree (bachelor's or higher) was awarded and must list at least 24 credit hours of courses in financial management or related topics. Your name and the name of the college or university must appear on all transcripts.

Step 2 - Eligibility Letter. Once your application, payment and degree documentation are received and processed, the Office of Professional Certification will mail you an Eligibility Letter with instructions on how to purchase your CGFM Examinations. Your eligibility for taking the CGFM Examinations expires in three years from the date your CGFM application was processed.

Step 3 - Work Verification. Submit a Verification of Government Financial Management Work Experience form as soon as you have at least two years of professional-level experience in the government financial management field. You do not have to submit this form before taking the examinations, but the experience requirement must be met before the designation can be granted.

Step 4 - Studying for Examinations. You have several options, including classroom courses, study guides and a reading resources list. You may also want to contact a local AGA chapter to find out if there are any study groups or other support available to help you prepare for the examinations.

Step 5 - Examination Purchase. Following the instructions on your Eligibility Letter, purchase CGFM Examination(s) through the AGA website and print the Test Authorization Letter. Examination fees are \$109 for each of the three examinations.

Step 6 - Taking the Examinations. Follow the instructions on the Test Authorization Letter to schedule a testing appointment at a Prometric Test Center near you. Show up at the testing center on your appointment date (be sure to read and follow the testing procedures described on the Test Authorization Letter).

Step 7 - Score Reporting and Retakes. After you complete an examination at a Prometric Test Center, you will immediately receive a pass/fail score on the computer. Numerical scores are not provided. If you did not pass your exam, there is a 30-day waiting period before you can repurchase and retake that examination. If you fail the same exam more than once, the waiting period is 90 days.

Step 8 - Award Letter. Once you pass all three CGFM Examinations, and your Verification of Government Financial Management Work Experience form has been submitted and accepted, the Office of Professional Certification will send you an award letter announcing your new CGFM designation. You can start using the "CGFM" after your name only after you receive the official award letter from AGA.

Step 9 - CGFM Certificate. A CGFM certificate will be mailed within a few weeks of issuing the award letter.

An excellent source of additional information on the CGFM Program is the AGA website (www.agacgfm.org, select "CGFM Certification" on the navigational bar). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Professional Certification at 1.800.AGA.7211, ext. 306 or 305.

IRS News Release

Media Relations Office for Tennessee
www.irs.gov/newsroom

Media Contact: 615.250.5951
Public Contact: 800.829.1040

September 28, 2006 – Active-Duty Reservists Get Relief on Retirement Plan Payments: Refunds of 10-Percent Tax Available Back to 2001, New Law Says

Eligible reservists activated after September 11, 2001 and before December 31, 2007 qualify for relief from the early-distribution tax imposed on 401(k) plans and 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities. The newly enacted Pension Protection Act of 2006 eliminates the 10-percent early-distribution tax that normally applies to most retirement distributions received before age 59 ½.

October 16, 2006 – IRS Announces Online Payment Agreement Application

Individuals who owe delinquent federal income taxes will now be able to apply online for a payment agreement with the IRS. This new web-based application allows eligible taxpayers or their authorized representatives to self-qualify, apply for, and receive immediate notification of approval.

October 17, 2006 – Treasury and IRS Update Rules on Exchange Annuities

The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service issued proposed regulations that would address the tax treatment of an exchange of property for an annuity contract. The proposed regulations would apply the same rule to exchanges for both private and commercial annuities.

October 26, 2006 – Car and Truck Expense Deduction Reminders

In order to claim a deduction for business use of a car or truck, a taxpayer must have ordinary and necessary costs related to one or more of the following:

- Traveling from one work location to another within the home area
- Visiting customers
- Attending a business meeting away from the regular workplace
- Getting from home to a temporary workplace with the taxpayer has one or more regular places of work.

Expenses related to travel away from home overnight are travel expenses; however, costs related to travel between the taxpayer's home and regular place of work are commuting expenses and are not deductible. Taxpayers can choose to use the standard mileage rate or actual expenses to compute the appropriate deduction amount.

November 1, 2006 – IRS Announces 2007 Standard Mileage Rates

Beginning January 1, 2007, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

For more information on these articles please visit: www.irs.gov/newsroom



Meet Your Chapter Leadership



Tammy Thompson
Community Service Chair

My employment with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of State Audit began on June 26, 2000. Working for State Audit has been an adventure because I have visited many unique places and have met some interesting people.

I am a native of Santa Fe, Tennessee and a graduate of Santa Fe High School. About a week after graduation I married my husband, Donnie. I spent four years working as a presser at Public Shirt Factory. Almost six years after my marriage, on March 20, 1989, I had my son, Dustin Thompson. After I had Dustin I became a stay at home mom where I kept two other children in my home.

From August 1998 to May 1997, I attended Columbia State Community where I graduated with an Associates Degree in Business Administration. While attending CSCC, I worked at J.C. Penny and tutored adults in the mathematics lab on campus.

In August 1997, I moved to Cookeville where I attending Tennessee Technological University. While attending TTU I worked as a reading tutor at Jere Whitson Elementary School. I graduated in May 2000 with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration.

I currently live in Santa Fe with my husband, an engineer for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and my son, a freshman at Columbia State Community College. I enjoy reading, fishing, and camping. I also stay active in my community by being a Meals-on-Wheels volunteer and a 4-H leader.

I have been an AGA member for six years. I have served as a two-year director on the Meetings and Attendance committee and am now serving as Community Service Chair on the Community Service committee. I would encourage all members to become more involved with their chapter, especially in a leadership role.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AGA's Fifth Annual National Leadership Conference

14 CPEs
February 12-13, 2007
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
Washington, D.C.

Register by January 12, 2007 and save!

		Fax/Mail	Online
AGA Members	Early	\$500	\$475
	Standard	\$600	\$575
Non-members	Early	\$675	\$650
	Standard	\$775	\$750

For more information, visit the conference site at
www.agacqfm.org/nlc_2007/index.htm

Center for Fraud Prevention and Detection In Association with AGA Tallahassee Chapter

Fighting Fraud in Government Conference
12 CPEs
February 22-23, 2007
Park Plaza Hotel
Tallahassee, Florida
Register before December 15, 2006 and save \$30!

To register or for more information, please visit
www.CFPD.net

December 2006



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4 CEC Meeting 11:00-1:00	5	6	7 AGA Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m.	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 2007



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 CEC Meeting 11:00- 1:00	3	4 AGA Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m.		6
7	8	9	10 11 Winter Seminar - Nashville State			13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 CEC Meeting 11:00- 1:00	30	31			

February 2007



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 AGA Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m.	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 CEC Meeting 11:00-1:00	27	28 Audio Conference (2 CPEs)			

Looking Ahead:

March 2007 *1st: AGA Chapter Meeting, 11:30 a.m.*
 28th: Audio Conference, Procurement Fraud (2 CPEs), TBA

April 2007 *2nd: CEC Meeting, 11:00-1:00*
 5th: AGA Chapter Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
 30th: CEC Meeting, 11:00-1:00

May 2007 *3rd: AGA Chapter Meeting, 11:30 a.m.*
 9th: Audio Conference, Ethics (2 CPEs), TBA

Spring 2007 *Breakfast CPE (2 CPEs), TBA*

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Visit the Nashville Area Chapter's web site at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org>

Also, visit these other AGA sites:

AGA National Site	www.agacgfm.org
Southeastern Region Site	agaservp.tripod.com
Atlanta Chapter	www.aga-atlanta.org
Central Kentucky Chapter	www.ckyaga.com
Chattanooga Chapter	www.aga.taxpro.net
Columbia Chapter	www.columbiaaga.com
East Tennessee Chapter	www.kornet.org/etaga/
Tallahassee Chapter	www.tallahasseeaga.org