



NASHVILLE NOTES



September 2014

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Nashville Chapter President
2014-2015

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- 10/14/14 — Luncheon Meeting
- 10/23/14 — Fall Breakfast Seminar, Hard Rock Cafe
- October 2014 — Hats, Coats, Gloves and Socks Drive
- 1/13-14/15 — Winter Seminar
- 3/25-27/15 — SE Regional PDT, Gatlinburg, TN
- July 12-15, 2015 — National PDT, Nashville, TN

Since I have been a member of AGA and have interacted with other AGA members around the country at various national events, I am always reminded of how successful we are as a chapter based on conversations I have had with other chapter leaders. We should naturally be curious as to why just as we would if we were failing. What have we done right over the years to sustain us and to help us to be successful?

Until Derek Young's presentation on Culture vs. Strategy, I have never considered the term "culture" in an organization. Sure, as a former auditor, I am familiar with the term control environment which I would probably deem the closest I have ever come to approaching the subject of an organization's culture. So, what is the difference and how have they played a role in our chapter's success? The GAO Green Book defines control environment as *the foundation for an internal control system. It provides the discipline and structure to help an entity achieve its objectives.* The

Cambridge Dictionary defines organizational culture as *the types of attitudes and agreed ways of working shared by the employees of a company or organization.* With that said, I think that the first is explicit and the latter is implicit. In other words, control environment is made up of our policies, our values (see our Strategic Plan), the structure of our delegated roles (e.g., our committee chairs) and so on. On the other hand, our culture is made up of the attitudes and behaviors of our members and officers. As Derek Young put it, "culture is the nutrition that strategy needs to succeed". So, just as an exercise, study your own organization or make an observation at the next AGA event and try to recognize the behaviors of your fellow members or coworkers. See if you can identify and/or evaluate those behaviors that play a role in your organization's effectiveness and success.

Michelle

Save the Date

Luncheon Meeting Dates

September 8, 2014
October 14, 2014
November 3, 2014
December 1, 2014
January 5, 2015
February 2, 2015
March 9, 2015
April 6, 2015
May 4, 2015

CEC Meeting Dates

August 28, 2014
September 25, 2014
October 30, 2014
November 20, 2014
December 18, 2014
January 29, 2015
February 26, 2015
March 26, 2015
April 30, 2015

Hands On Nashville Project —
September 20, 2014

Fall Breakfast Seminar — October
23, 2014, Hard Rock Cafe

Second Harvest Food Drive — Oc-
tober 2014

**Hats, Coats, Gloves and Socks
Drive** — October 2014

Winter Seminar — January 13-14,
2015, Nashville State Community
College

**Southeast Regional Professional
Development Training (PDT)** —
March 25-27, 2015, Edgewater
Hotel Gatlinburg, TN

**AGA's National Professional De-
velopment Training Event (PDT)**

July 12—15, 2015

Gaylord Opryland
Nashville, TN

AGA's annual premier education event offers up to 24 CPE hours and brings together the top officials in federal, state and local government as well as academia and the private sector for three and a half days of intensive training and networking. AGA's PDT has been the go-to event for the government accountability community for over 60 years.



Pictured above is the Nashville Chapter booth promoting the 2015 National PDT at this year's event.



OCTOBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER — SESE BENNETT



Sese Bennett, CISM, CISSP, PCI-QSA

Sese Bennett joined the State of Tennessee in October of 2012 with more than 15 years of experience with fortune 100 companies in a career spanning both the public and private sectors. His information security experience includes large telecommunications companies, health care organizations, governmental agencies, retail, software/hardware developers, manufacturing, and financial services.

Sese, a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) also holds the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Payment Card Industry Qualified Security Assessor (PCI-QSA) and EnCase Certified Forensics Professional certifications and has proven experience in identifying and remediating risk in highly complex environments. Prior to joining the State, he led the information security risk assessment, compliance, security architecture and security awareness teams at Time Warner Cable. He has also served as Director of Information Security for Crosslin Technologies, Sr. Security Architect for Blue Cross Blue Shield of

North Carolina and worked as a consultant for the National Security Agency, Sally Beauty Supply, Niemen Marcus, Lockheed Martin, and Johns Hopkins University.

In his role as Chief Information Security Officer, he leads up the Office for Information Resources – Information Security team, and is actively involved in identifying, remediating and reducing the State's business and technical risk to an acceptable level.

Sese is actively involved in a number of organizations including the local chapters of ISACA and ISC2 and is an active member of the Nashville Technology Council.”

Speaker — Phil Barnett, Fisher House Foundation

Mr. Barnett graduated from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio where he played as center on the Musketeers Basketball Team. He has a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration.

Mr. Barnett is the winner of the first military draft lottery -- #18. He joined the United States Navy on the delayed entry program and served for 31 years as a healthcare administrator. He retired in 2004 with the rank of captain. He had command in Hawaii and Sicily, and his last position was director for Administration at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD -- “The President's Hospital.”

Mr. Barnett was a certified healthcare executive and fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Four days after retirement, he began working as vice president for Operations

at Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He also served as vice president at Sumner Regional Health System and as director of Administration and Operations with Medical Practice Services, Dempsey, Vantrese, and Follis.

Mr. Barnett served as program director for the Tennessee Commission on Aging, and later decided to dedicate his life to (non-court ordered) community service in the following areas:

- President, Murfreesboro Symphony Orchestra
- President, Murfreesboro Center for the Arts
- President, Tennessee Fisher House Foundation
- Board Member, Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary
- Board Member, Jesse C. Beesley Animal Foundation
- Board Member, Heart of Tennessee Chapter. American Red Cross
- Ombudsman, Murfreesboro, Tennessee State Veterans Home
- Advisory Board Member, Interfaith Dental Clinic
- Allocation Committee Member, United Way
- Member, Service to the Armed Forces, Red Cross
- Past Board President, Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary
- Past Board Member, Alive Hospice
- Past Board Member, Middle Tennessee Chapter, ACHE

Life Is Very Good —I should have retired 20 years ago!

P.J. Barnett
President of the Board
**TENNESSEE FISHER HOUSE
FOUNDATION, INC.**
www.tennesseefisherhouse.org
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COMMITTEE NEWS

CGFM

CGFM Study Guide & Exam Drawing!

Send an email to the CGFM Chairman with your contact info to be included in this year's CGFM Drawing.

The drawing will be held in late October and winners will be contacted and announced during November's meeting

Contact- drew.sadler@cot.tn.gov to enter!!

Program

Work Hard and Then Mingle!

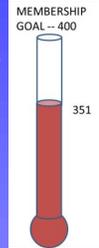


The Program Committee is planning a Fun Networking Activity for members and prospective members during the Fall 2014

More details to come!

Membership

- Membership in the AGA comes with benefits to you in your profession and financial awards to you personally. To help us achieve our goal of 400 members by January 1, 2015, the following financial incentives are in place for this year:
- First-time guests attend a chapter luncheon for free.
- Members receive one \$5 gift card per chapter luncheon, when they bring one or more first-time guests to the luncheon.
- New members receive a free luncheon certificate and welcome gift bag.
- The member who sponsors the most new members between September and December will win their choice of registration, travel, and fees for the AGA Southeast Regional Conference in Pigeon Forge or registration for the AGA National Conference in Nashville. If there is a tie, a drawing will be held. The member who wins the



Membership

conference is not eligible for the sponsor gifts at the awards luncheon discussed below. The sponsor ID number must be submitted by the new member on their application to join AGA.

- Members receive points for participating in chapter activities. Members who earn 30 points and pay their dues by March 31st will receive a reimbursement of \$45 of their regular membership dues. This incentive only applies to members who are classified as full members.
- At the awards luncheon in May, the member who sponsored the most new members during the year will receive \$100. The remaining members who sponsored a new member will be placed in a drawing for one \$50 prize. The member who wins the conference above is not eligible for these gifts.
- At the awards luncheon in May, an incentive drawing will be held for all members who renewed by March 31st. The amount of the award will depend on the budget.



COMMITTEE NEWS

Community Service

The Community Service team will roll out our service year with our first community event scheduled on September 20. Lead by our project chair Emily Gray, we team with “Hands on Nashville”, painting and landscaping at the Haywood Elementary School, located at 3790 Turley Drive. Our day is scheduled to end work at 12 noon and then be rewarded with a CMT One Country Celebration concert at the Hands on Nashville’s Trolley Barns. A complimentary lunch is included along with the music and fun.



AGA’s Community Service team partners with Alex Green Elementary School throughout the school year and our current drive is the donation of student T-shirts. We are asking our AGA members to purchase t-shirts for \$4.00 each. Melvin Jones is our

lead chair on this project and an email with more detail information is scheduled to generate on this project. Mr. Adams, principal of Alex Green, stressed at our September luncheon the importance of volunteer time given and the impact it has on the students.

The month of October our focus turns toward two vital community service projects: the Hats Coats, Gloves and Socks Drive, chaired by Scarlet Sneed and the Second Harvest Food Bank, with Angela McElrath-Prosser and Pamela Marks sharing the lead.



Donations of hats, coats, gloves, underwear and socks, and/or money will be collected at our October 14 luncheon. We will also collect can goods and/or money that will later be delivered to the Second Harvest Food Bank, a nonprofit agency that provides hunger relief to many in the Nashville, Davidson County and surrounding area.



Speaking of the October 14 luncheon, Mr. Phil Barnett of the Fisher House will speak and lead us into our Fisher House project that begins in November. The Fisher House project entails AGA collecting household supplies, food and monetary donations to share with military families who reside temporarily at the Fisher House, while they or their loved ones, receive medical care at VA Medical Centers.

In conclusion, please remember that giving, whether it is of your time or your money, is a quid pro quo action, something for something. You never give without getting something back in return.



Member News

CGFM

I grew up in a little town on a small farm in East Tennessee. When I grew up I went to Walters State Community College and graduated with an Associate Degree in Management Technology. After college I got married and had a daughter. My husband received a job with the State of Tennessee in Nashville so we moved to Nashville. After we got here, I also got a job with the Department of Commerce and Insurance as an Account Clerk. About 18 months later I came to F&A Division of Accounts as an Account Tech 1 working in pre-audit which is now called Accounts Payable

It was then that I decided that I needed to go back to college. It took a long time to finally get that degree because I had to work so I could only take a class or two at a time. While I was working on my degree, I got promoted to an Account Tech 2 and began to work in F&A Payroll, a section in the Division of Accounts.

After I graduated I came to work for Vendor Maintenance,

another section in the Division of Accounts. My focus here is to ensure that the State of Tennessee is in compliance with IRS regulations for 1099 reporting, 1042 reporting (Foreign Vendors) and Federal Excises taxes. It is a pretty big job and I am proud of what has been accomplished since I have been here.

Last year I decided that I wanted to get the CGFM because it focused on governmental accounting and management of government in general.



I learned a lot about internal controls and risk management. Those subjects came in handy when I was asked to work on a Fraud Prevention project for ACH processing, which falls under the realm of Vendor Maintenance. I am glad I took the exam and I would recommend it to anyone who wants a better understanding of how government works.



Donna Nicely, CGFM

It seems that my whole life has been spent learning something new. It has been fun. There are still a few things I want to accomplish in my career during the next 10 years, but then I plan to retire and enjoy the simple life on the farm. I'll probably get bored and find something new to learn about (ha ha).

Congratulations!



A Recipe for Success for Tennessee by Mary "Lou" Goins

As a youth, many of us may have been involved in the 4-H Extension Foods and Nutrition program and often entered into baking contests. The finished product was judged on appearance as well as taste. Often, a finished product may have tasted really good, but looked like a flop in appearance. Other times, the opposite occurred—it looked really great, but the taste left a lot to be desired. A prize winning product was the result of trial and errors, applying improvements and then following a set of instructions that was authored as a result of those experiences.

Let's look at a new and improved product of the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The so-called "Super Circular" (CFR Title 2, Subtitle A Chapter II Part 200-299) eliminates duplicate language found in previous OMB circulars (A-21, A-87, A-110, A-89, A-102, A-122, A-133, and A-50). This is the most expansive grant reform since the Single Audit Act of 1984. Now, relate the implementation of this New Super Circular to a recipe requiring specific ingredients. Carefully followed, one will succeed and have an outcome that will continue to benefit the residents of our great state.

A Successful Grant Management Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 "Super Circular"
- 1 Team of innovative and motivated minds
- Equal parts of Passion and Experience
- 1 Agency wide Standard Grant Management Business Process
- A dash of your federal cognizant agency
- 1 complete list of agency items to affect

- Contracts/Subrecipients
- CFDA/Award IDs
- Procurement methods
- Performance Management
- Indirect costs
- Standards of Conduct

Preparation:

- Take the 1 team and have them study the Super Circular
- Review current grants costs and see how they apply
- Review the agency's procurement policy and apply to the more restrictive sole sourcing requirements
- Review listing of agency items to affect

Combine:

- Items in 200.331(a) in Super Circular with contract language and other flow down subaward documentation
- 1 Agency wide Standard Grant Management Business Process
- A dash of your federal cognizant agency
- Risks identified and addressed

Season with:

- Equal parts of Passion and Experience
- New knowledge acquired from Super Circular
- Grant outcomes focusing on performance over compliance for accountability

Whisk in:

- A measure of Performance Management related to Financial Data
- Stronger Internal Controls

Mold with:

- 1 Team's acquired new Knowledge and Skills
- Thoughtful Discussion

Sprinkle with:

Positive Attitudes

Mary "Lou" Goins is a Grant Accounting Manager for the Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Statewide Accounting. She is the mother of 2 daughters and a grandmother of 5 grandsons.



Blue Ribbon Award Grant Products:

- An implementation guide
- Set standard business processes
- Stronger internal controls established and maintained
- Resolution of disputes pre-established
- Compliance documented
- Conflict of interest policies maintained
- Grants focused on performance over compliance for accountability
- Performance measurements demonstrating cost-effective practices

Everyone who receives federal dollars, whether directly as a grant award recipient or indirectly through billing federal programs will be impacted by the Super Circular as it will affect your grant management procedures and streamline the audit processes. Planning is essential and now is the time to begin. The COFAR website found at <https://cfo.gov/cofar> has various training links and webcasts to watch and an electronic version of the news rules is available online at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-30465>.

Strong controls yield better outcomes. Be prepared for changes taking effect on December 26, 2014, and the recipe for successful grant programs will produce blue-ribbon products for Tennessee.



Highlights from the September Luncheon



Head Guests at the head table are waiting for the luncheon speaker.



Nashville Chapter attendees eagerly await the meeting presentation.



A display of the national awards recently received at the 2014 National PDT in Orlando, Florida.



Members dine before the meeting begins.



Members of the Finance Committee hard at work



NEWS AND JUST THE FACTS



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 October 14, 2014.

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 October 17 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks!



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