



NASHVILLE NOTES

January 2013
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President's Message

In November I wrote about some of the reasons I am thankful for AGA. Different folks join AGA for different reasons and participate at different levels for their own reasons. Even individual members' needs and wants may change as they move through their lives and careers. Last month this message focused on the number and variety of quality educational opportunities AGA has to offer. This month I'd like to focus on the aspect of AGA that has motivated my participation the most over the long term — community service.

In AGA's Core Values — Service, Accountability, Integrity, Leadership — Service is listed first. Clearly this means service to our fellow citizens through our careers in government financial management. But another meaning is demonstrated by the strong community service tradition in AGA at the national, regional, and local levels.

Already this year, the AGA Nashville Chapter members have volunteered for the Women's Half Marathon, benefiting the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America; participated in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer for the American Cancer Society; donated food and money to Second Harvest Food Bank to help alleviate hunger in Middle Tennessee; made Christmas a little brighter for Little Soldiers, children of service members deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan; donated money to A Kid's Place, supporting services to victims of child abuse; and helped serve a meal to homeless people at the Nashville Rescue Mission. In just a few days we'll be wrapping up our drive for coats, hats, socks, and gloves to wrap our less fortunate neighbors in warm clothing against winter's cold.

For more than ten years, we have maintained an ongoing partnership with Alex Green Elementary School through the PENCIL Foundation to help young people achieve academic success and prepare for life. Our program year coincides roughly with the school calendar, providing a variety of opportunities for participation to enrich the educational experiences of the students, beginning with our annual school supply drive.

Next month we will be collecting money for the Elephant Sanctuary to provide for the care of animals that have been rescued from zoos, circuses, and other harsh environments. At the sanctuary near Hohenwald, these highly intelligent and social creatures can live out their lives in peace in the nation's largest natural-habitat refuge developed specifically to meet the needs of endangered elephants.

Coming up in March is the WNPT pledge drive where we provide a bank of volunteers to answer phones during the on-air pledge breaks. Besides helping to support Middle Tennessee's public television station, this event provides an opportunity to raise AGA's profile in the community when we get a minute or two on the air to talk about our organization. It's also a lot of fun. Between pledge breaks we always have plenty of free time to socialize with our fellow AGA members and get to know one another a little better.

The Country Music Marathon is an exciting event that brings thousands of visitors to Nashville and also benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. There are numerous volunteer opportunities at registration tables, the starting line, water



Ray Register
2012 - 2013 AGA Nashville
Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

CEC Meeting	1/31/13
Chapter Meeting	2/4/13
Southeast Region PDC	4/4/13 4/5/13

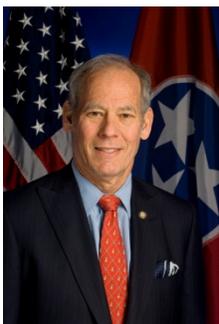
stations, and the finish line at any time of day to meet the needs of each individual's schedule. AGA has provided volunteers for this event since its very first year.

In April we'll be providing a team of volunteers to help build a home for a Habitat for Humanity partner family. Habitat family partnerships enable dignity of life for those who choose it and work to achieve it, help to create safer neighborhoods for more children, and facilitate a pathway of hope. Cooped-up cubicle dwellers enjoy a day of working with their hands and maybe learn a valuable skill or two along the way.

The community service committee works hard to plan and coordinate these events for the benefit of the community and of our members. I hope many of you will find the time to come out and participate and contribute. I promise you will gain more than you give.

Ray

February Luncheon Speaker



Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury

Justin P. Wilson, of Nashville, Tennessee, was elected Tennessee's 34th Comptroller of the Treasury on January 15, 2009.

Prior to his election, Mr. Wilson was a partner in the Nashville law firm of Waller Lansden Dortch and Davis. He served as commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation and as deputy to the governor for policy under former Governor Don Sundquist. He is a graduate of Stanford University, Vanderbilt University School of Law, and New York University. He is an adjunct professor of law at Vanderbilt Law School.

Welcome New and Returning Members!!

Kelly Armes, TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Phillip R. Buell, CPA, TN Office for Information Resources

Vincent Finamore, TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Randall Edward Haley, CIA, TN Department of Revenue

Mitzi F. Martin, CGFM, TN Department of Finance and Administration

Leston Andrew McArthur, TN Department of Treasury

Jason Mumpower, TN Comptroller of the Treasury

January Luncheon Pics



Evelyn Brown, AGA National President



Melinda, Richard, Evelyn, Ray, and Karen



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>

From the Editor

We truly enjoy reading articles submitted by our members. Please share your thoughts and ideas or interesting news with us by submitting your article to me at Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov no later than February 8 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks and start writing!

Luncheon/CEC Minutes

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC meeting and from the January Chapter Luncheon, please visit the chapter website. The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for February 4, 2013.

www.nashvilleaga.org

Winter Seminar Pics



Mark Crocker, Nathan Abbott, and Don Mills



Jerry Durham answers a question



John Greer discusses a fraud case study



Kevin Huffman discusses fraud standards



Cheerful Attendees



Attentive Listeners

AGA Chapter Recognition Program

AGA's mission is to serve professionals in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability. The Chapter Recognition Program is designed to support, encourage, and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission and to provide flexible, noncompetitive guidelines for a well-rounded chapter. The program recognizes a chapter's performance in relation to a standard or benchmark linked to AGA's mission. The program is divided into eight sections, which each have related goals for which the chapter can earn credits. The program for this chapter year started in June 2012 and will go through May 2013, and the chapter submits quarterly reports to the National Office. Our goal is for the Nashville Chapter to achieve the Platinum Chapter Designation, which is the highest level of recognition in the Chapter Recognition Program.

Chapter Recognition Program As of End of Second Quarter (June – December 2012)

Section	Credits
Chapter Leadership, Planning and Participation	2,900
Education and Professional Development	1,800
Certification	75
Communications	2,795
Membership	1,275
Accountability	1,350
Community Service	725
Awards	100
Total accumulated credits	11,020

It's Renewal Season!

It's time to renew your AGA membership. Email notifications for renewals were sent on January 15th encouraging online renewals. Please follow the instructions in the email or visit the website at www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx. Enter your login and password and then select the gray billing button at the right side of the screen.

Don't wait – renew today!!

Community Service Opportunity



Coats, Hats, Socks, and Gloves Drive

It's not too late to donate! We will be collecting new and slightly used coats, hats, socks, and gloves for those individuals in the Nashville area who are in need through the end of January. Help keep everyone warm this winter season. To donate please contact Scarlet Sneed, Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov.

Training Opportunity



AGA Southeast Region Professional Development Conference “The Sounds of Accountability”

**April 4-5, 2013
DoubleTree Hotel
Nashville, TN**

Please visit www.nashvilleaga.org/regionalaga.htm for more information.

CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORTING

By Shirley Henry

The national Association of Government Accountants (AGA) has the following four paragraphs of introductory information on their website about citizen-centric reporting.

Many governments struggle to communicate the business of government to residents, particularly when presenting information about how taxpayers' money is allocated and spent. Traditionally, financial information has been presented in forms accessible only to trained accountants—reams of information, which, though vital, have little meaning for the average person.

AGA's Citizen-Centric Government Reporting Initiative is intended to foster innovative means of communication between governments and their citizenry. AGA believes that government financial information should be provided to citizens in forms that are clear and understandable, updated regularly and often, delivered to all, easy to locate, honest in breadth and technically accurate in detail. In fact, as the owners of government, citizens have a right to this information.

CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORTING (Cont.)

AGA's Citizen-Centric Reports detail government finances in a visually appealing, clear and understandable four-page document. The suggested format shows community information—such as population figures, regional characteristics and government goals for the community—on the first page, and the second page presents a performance report on key missions and service. The third page details cost and revenue information, and the fourth looks forward to the year ahead.

AGA believes that these reports will make governments more accountable to their citizens and will help Americans become better educated and better able to participate in government activities.

The association has established a "Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting" program where governments can submit their reports for evaluation.

In addition to encouraging governments to publish citizen-centric reports, the association also encourages its individual chapters to publish

a "Report to Members" that follows the citizen-centric report's four-page format. The AGA Nashville Chapter submitted reports for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 chapter years, and for each year, the chapter received a Certificate of Excellence in Member-Centric Reporting. These reports are available on the chapter's website, and I encourage you to take a look at those. Please share with me any suggestions that you may have to improve the report content in order to provide the most meaningful information to our members.

The national office has also tasked its individual chapters with encouraging governments in their areas to produce citizen-centric reports. In the letter that accompanied our certificate for 2011-2012, Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, AGA's Executive Director, stated, "AGA members believe that government accountability and transparency are essential to a healthy democracy and are committed to fulfilling our obligation to advance government accountability." Please encourage your entity to prepare a citizen-centric report.

CEC Member Spotlight – Rusty Lacy President-Elect



I was born. My roots are in Alabama where I grew up and went to grade school, high school, and college (Roll Tide!). I was a political science major at the University of Alabama and received an Associate's Degree in computer information systems at Nashville State. I landed on the shores of Nashville in March 1998, so I'm a transplanted Tennessean.

I began my tenure with the State of Tennessee in March 1998, as a trainee to become a COBOL programmer. Yep, that's right, a mainframe programmer. A mainframe seems like a dinosaur to some people, but it still has its uses. So I'm approaching my 15th year with the State of Tennessee.

CEC Member Spotlight (Cont.)

I started my COBOL training in the division of Systems Development and Support (SDS) in the Office for Information Resources (OIR), Department of Finance and Administration (F&A). After a few months of training as a programmer, I had an opportunity to move into desktop support still within SDS. Let me back up just a little for the benefit of all you who have never worked in F&A. SDS was made up almost entirely of COBOL programmers. All of the state's COBOL programmers were centrally located in SDS, and they supported all mainframe programs for all agencies. There were a few other non-COBOL types in SDS as well. SDS has since been disbanded, and all those programmers were dispersed to the agencies.

When I began my tenure as a desktop support person, SDS was just getting into the PC business for COBOL programmers. So we were bringing in a few hundred PCs and deploying them to all these people who had been using dumb terminals for 20 years or more. That was a significant change for many of them. I had my hands full deploying PCs and training people how to do things we all take for granted now. For instance, the concept of a mouse was totally new to many of the COBOL programmers. It was a good time for me. I learned a lot and was able to help many people in the process.

After a few years working in SDS, I was hired by the Director of Information Systems Management (ISM) for F&A to manage the desktop support team. A little more explanation may be in order here. The IT situation in F&A is complicated. Everyone thinks of OIR as the top IT organization in F&A and the state. But there is also an IT division in F&A that is not part of OIR and that division provides the normal IT support to the department. The name has changed over the years from ISM when I was there to ITM (Information Technology Management) today.

Then after a few years in that position, I met Melinda Parton as we both worked on a committee putting together an IT Conference. I was offered a job in the Comptroller's Office of Management

Services, IT section, building a desktop support team. Shortly after coming on board, I became the Infrastructure Manager and now I'm the Assistant Director of Information Technology.

Before joining the Comptroller's Office, I had no idea about all the things going on over here. All those divisions doing many different things for the citizens of Tennessee, the Legislature, and other departments was totally unknown to me and I suspect most state employees. Working in the Comptroller's Office has been a great experience and shown me a lot about how government works in the State of Tennessee.

I became interested in AGA shortly after joining the Comptroller's Office. At first I saw it as a way of getting to know more people in the office and becoming more familiar with the audit side of what the office does. But, as I have attended many meetings and training functions and held different positions, it has become an organization I really appreciate for its commitment to making government more accountable. As a political scientist, I can really get into that. My goal this year as President-Elect and looking forward to becoming President is to continue to build upon the strong foundation put down by my predecessors in those positions. As much as this AGA chapter has contributed to the national organization, I believe our best days are still ahead as we grow leaders to take the reins tomorrow.



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