



# NASHVILLE NOTES

March 2013  
Volume 36, Number 5

## *President's Message*



*Ray Register*  
2012 - 2013 AGA Nashville  
Chapter President

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>CEC Meeting</b>	<b>3/28/13</b>
<b>Chapter Meeting</b>	<b>4/1/13</b>
<b>Southeast Region PDC</b>	<b>4/4/13 4/5/13</b>
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>4/6/13</b>
<b>St. Jude Country Music Marathon</b>	<b>4/24/13- 4/28/13</b>

Back in January I wrote about a number of community service projects undertaken by the chapter. It has been my intention to make community service a centerpiece of my year as chapter president, so I hope you will indulge me as I use this space again to promote community service. This time I'll stick to one project — Habitat for Humanity.

By now pretty much everyone is somewhat familiar with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville as an ecumenical Christian ministry that helps people achieve home ownership with the help of donors and volunteers. Our chapter will be providing a team of volunteers on Saturday, April 6, and you can find out more details about that specific event elsewhere in this issue. I'd like to share some reasons why I think this organization is so vital to our community.

The need is great. The Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) of Harvard University found in 2008 that roughly one in six Americans is in need of a decent, affordable place to live. This includes not only homeless and those living in severely substandard conditions but also households that spent 50 percent or more of their income on housing.

Good housing has a positive impact on children. A 2002 study on the impact of homeownership on child outcomes found improved test scores (9 percent in math and 7 percent in reading) and reduced behavioral problems (by 3 percent) in children living in homes owned by their families compared with children in other living situations. Another study found that children who live in bad housing have lower educational attainment and a greater likelihood of being impoverished and unemployed as adults.

Housing strengthens communities. A 2006 study, again by JCHS, found that owner-occupied housing has a beneficial effect on the local economy by increasing consumer spending, providing tax revenues and fees, and growing

businesses and jobs. Building additional homes requires additional employees, goods, and services from the general economy. Other studies found homeowners more likely to be involved in civic and political activities working to resolve problems in the community.

Habitat homes are not free. Homes are purchased through a mortgage loan provided by Habitat for Humanity at 0% interest. The delinquency rate is less than 2 percent, and repayment provides funding for additional homes. Habitat partner families are required to provide sweat equity, working on their own and/or neighbors' homes and completing the HomeWORKS curriculum. It's 70 hours of classroom and homework that is designed to teach life skills and encourage new habits, including financial management and budgeting, as well as home construction, maintenance, and repair.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville is having an impact. To date, they have built or recycled more than 600 homes locally and are ranked as the 17<sup>th</sup> largest builder in Nashville in terms of number of homes built. They have served more than 2,000 families which include 1,325 children. Park Preserve, where we will be working, is a 200+ acre, all-Habitat neighborhood with convenient access to public schools and transportation. The homes are built to LEED for Homes standards and are Energy Star certified. Park Preserve also includes a rain garden to filter storm water runoff, further helping the environment.

I hope some of you will take this opportunity to spend a day in fellowship with your fellow AGA members, learn some new skills, and help a family move closer to home ownership.

*Ray*



## ***April Luncheon Speaker***

### ***Melinda Crutchfield, CFE***

Investigative Auditor  
Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury  
Division of Investigations

Melinda Crutchfield is an Investigative Auditor for the Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Investigations. Melinda has been with the Tennessee Comptroller's Office for over 14 years investigating allegations of complex fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds and property. She provides training across the state on matters related to the detection and prevention of fraud in governmental entities and private businesses. Melinda has a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, both from Middle Tennessee State University, and has been a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) for over 13 years. Melinda is currently Vice-President for the Middle Tennessee Chapter of Certified Fraud Examiners and a member of the National Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Melinda has served on boards for the Wilson County Boys and Girls Club, Wilson County HeadStart Program, Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, and the Wilson County Black History Committee. Melinda is a charter member of Leadership Wilson and a graduate of the Tennessee Government Management Institute.

Melinda has been awarded the Lebanon High School Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service, and she received the Instructor of the Year Award for the Department of Audit in 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2011.



# March Luncheon Pics



*Melvin Jones introduces Gerry Boaz*



*Gerry Boaz discusses the CGFM*



## 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](mailto:Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov) no later than April 5 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 March Chapter Luncheon, please visit the chapter website. The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for April 1, 2013.

[www.nashvilleaga.org](http://www.nashvilleaga.org)

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## ***Member News***

**Maya Angelova** has been promoted to Legislative Auditor 2 in the Division of State Audit in the Comptroller's Office.

**Katie Armstrong** has passed all parts of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) exam. She is a Legislative Auditor 3 in the Division of Local Government Audit in the Comptroller's Office.

**Mason Ball**, CGFM, has been promoted to Legislative Performance Auditor 3 in the Division of State Audit.

**Janora Bryson** has been promoted to Legislative Performance Auditor 2 in the Division of State Audit.

**John Dunne** has been promoted to Legislative Auditor 3 in the Division of State Audit.

**Laura Isbell** has passed all parts of the CGFM exam. She is a Legislative Auditor 3 in the Division of State Audit.

**Paula Rosenberg** has been promoted to Legislative Auditor 2 in the Division of State Audit.

**Congratulations to our members on their accomplishments! We wish them the very best as they continue to work for accountability in government financial management.**

*We would also like to welcome our newest members:*

**Michael L. Galey**, University of Tennessee CTAS

**Emily Gray**, Tennessee Department of General Services

**Heather T. Roe**, Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of State Audit

**John S. Sims**, City of Franklin

**Rachel S. Thompson**, Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of State Audit

**Jerome W. Trice**, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

**Jack M. Williams**, Tennessee Department of General Services

**James Michael Winston**, Tennessee Department of General Services

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## ***Have You Renewed Your Membership?***

It's time to renew your AGA membership!!! Please visit the website at [www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx](http://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!!



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## *Luncheon Survey Results*

Thanks to all of you who filled out the recent survey on our luncheon venue. After several years of having our monthly luncheon meetings at the City Club, we changed the venue for this year because of the change in pricing at the City Club. After about six months of having our meetings at the DoubleTree Hotel, we decided to take the pulse, take the temperature, and kick the tires to see how things are going. And here are the results.

One hundred and nineteen members filled out the survey. Yeah! The CEC really appreciates your participation and feedback as we begin to plan for next year's meetings.

When asked if changing the venue to the DoubleTree Hotel made a difference in one's decision to attend, about two and half times more said no, it did not make a difference. When asked if changing the day of the week from Thursday to Monday made a difference, almost three times as many said no, it did not make a difference. Many of those who said yes to these two questions gave us their feedback as to why they voted one way or the other on these two questions. Most of

who said "yes" changing the day of the week made a difference simply said Mondays are too busy or they have conflicting meetings on Mondays.

When asked if one is willing to pay up to \$2 more and move back to the City Club, the vote was close. Those voting "no" had about two-thirds of the total number and those voting "yes" the other one-third.

So in each case, the vote tally says the majority of people want to stay with the Monday meeting at the DoubleTree Hotel. Hopefully, those of you with Monday conflicts can come on occasion.

One of the really good things that came out of the vote, besides confirming the day and location of our meetings, is we received a lot of good suggestions for programs for the coming year. The CEC is always looking for your feedback and participation in chapter events. Please keep passing along your thoughts to us.

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## *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](http://www.nashvilleaga.org/regionalaga.htm) for more information.

# Community Service Committee News

## Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity House Build

On **Saturday, April 6**, our AGA chapter is helping **Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville**. We will help on at least one house under construction in the Park Preserve neighborhood, approximately 7 miles north of downtown.

Park Preserve, an all Habitat neighborhood, offers craftsman style homes with brick accents, and a new 1.5 story model design, all built to LEED for Homes standards and ENERGY STAR® certified. Currently, over 40 families live at Park Preserve, and this next phase of building will add more – with over 200 families once construction is completed in the next several years.

**Interested volunteers should** provide their name, e-mail address, phone number, and any comments (special construction or home improvement knowledge/skills) to David Lannom. Additional family members at least 16 years old may also volunteer. ([David.Lannom@nashville.gov](mailto:David.Lannom@nashville.gov))



## St. Jude Country Music Marathon

April 24-28

**Sign up to Volunteer or Run now!!**

### **St. Jude Country Music Marathon and ½ Marathon presented by Nissan**

You can obtain community service points by volunteering, running in the marathon, or making a donation to St. Jude!! Please notify Tammy Fruscione [Tammy.Fruscione@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Tammy.Fruscione@cot.tn.gov) if you plan to participate.

To volunteer: <https://www.eventunited.com/Events/Nashville-Sports-Council/2013-Country-Music-Marathon-and-12-Marathon-Volunteers/Register/Volunteering>

To donate or register to run: <http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/nashville>



### **Southeast Region PDC Silent Auction Item Request**

**April 4-5, 2013**

**Benefiting the American Cancer Society**

**If you have any items you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact:**

**Jennifer Garoutte :** [Jennifer.Garoutte@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Garoutte@cot.tn.gov)

**Tammy Fruscione:** [Tammy.Fruscione@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Tammy.Fruscione@cot.tn.gov)

# *Scholarships Available!!!*

The 2013 scholarship applications are available on the website <http://nashvilleaga.org/scholarships.html>. This year the Nashville Chapter is giving away FOUR scholarships! The deadline for application submission is Friday, March 29, 2013. Contact [Jeff.Hughes@tn.gov](mailto:Jeff.Hughes@tn.gov) with any questions.



AGA National also awards scholarships each year. Visit [http://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Awards---Recognition-\(1\).aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Awards---Recognition-(1).aspx) for more information. The deadline to submit applications for these scholarships is Friday, April 12, 2013.

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## *CGFM Award Program Announced*

March is Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Month. It is so designated by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) National Leadership and by the Legislature of the State of Tennessee. We have two new CGFMs within the ranks of the Nashville Chapter of AGA. This is a distinction that deserves recognition. Congratulations to:

Laura Isbell, **CGFM**  
Legislative Auditor 3  
Comptroller of the Treasury  
Division of State Audit

Katie Armstrong, **CGFM**  
Legislative Auditor 3  
Comptroller of the Treasury  
Division of Local Government Audit

If you would like more information about how to become a CGFM, you can visit AGA's website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org). You can also contact Jerry E. Durham, CGFM, who is the CGFM Committee Chairman for the Nashville Chapter of AGA. His contact information is [Jerry.Durham@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Jerry.Durham@cot.tn.gov) or 615.401.7951. The Nashville Chapter announced monetary incentives to study and sit for the CGFM at its March chapter meeting. The monetary incentives involve reimbursement for study materials and/or the cost of taking the CGFM exam. To get your name in the running for one of these awards worth hundreds of dollars, chapter members should send your name, employer, street address, email address, and telephone number to Jerry E. Durham at the email address above or contact him by telephone. Winners will be announced in the newsletter and at the monthly AGA luncheons. Jerry will also contact you personally. That is all you have to do to be enrolled in the drawing. Since the number of CGFM candidates is fairly small at any given time, your chances of winning an award are good. Laura was a winner from last year.

# CEC Member Spotlight – Joe Waldrum

## Two-Year Director

The many experiences, trials, and tribulations of life shape and mold us into what and who we are. Whether they are for good or for ill depends on our response to those experiences.

Like most of you, I too was born...born in Nashville. We moved around a bit throughout my childhood primarily between Columbia and Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Shortly after graduating high school, I began working in the electrical construction industry in Georgia and Tennessee where I met a lot of interesting characters from many different walks of life. After several years, I decided to make a change and pursue a career more in line with my interests. I chose Physical Therapy (PT) and began my studies in Pre-Physical Therapy at Columbia State in the fall of 1991. While working part-time in the PT Department, I met my bride-to-be, Nelia. We were married a year later. After several failed attempts at getting into PT school, God apparently had other plans. Married now, I felt that business school, specifically pursuing a degree in Accounting, would enable me to find work readily. We moved to Memphis where I began my studies.

It didn't take us long to tire of the heat and the hustle and bustle of the city, and we decided to make a trek to Cullowhee, North Carolina to a small university where I continued my studies in Accounting and Corporate Finance. During my final year, we decided to add a little more challenge, and we had our first of three children.

I graduated in 1997, and my first gig

as a newly degreed accountant was working in the Commercial Department, which was in its infancy, at a local bank. This experience enabled me to utilize my degree in a unique and creative way. Utilizing my knowledge of Excel, I helped grow the department by streamlining the commercial loan analytical processes. I continued to work with the bank until the coming of my third child in 2002, after which we decided to make things interesting, and I resigned my position to become a stay-at-home dad. This was a fantastic experience, and I tapped into several other loves I had, including gardening and hiking. Bella (my third born) and I hiked many miles along mountainous trails along the Blue Ridge Parkway. We also started gardening along with raising chickens and goats. It was not unusual for Bella to be on my backpack carrier while I was tilling, weeding, and harvesting fruits and vegetables.

A couple of years later, I began working in the afternoon and evening hours with a custom woodworker in the front office doing the finances, estimating and marketing woodworking products. Periodically, I would go out on the production floor where I learned some rudimentary woodworking skills. This continued several years until I was asked to go on a mission trip to Bosnia in 2007. After some fund raising over the course of several months, I found myself building barns in this small rural community called Srebrenica (means silver mine) in the former Yugoslavia, a town very much like the town in which I lived in North Carolina.

Upon returning and under the urging of folks I was in Bosnia with, I decided to start my own business as a carpenter/handyman/custom woodworker where I rented space from my former employer to "do my own thing." I was able to scratch out a living and somewhat do my own local mission work, sometimes performing jobs for money, sometimes in exchange for cookies or a smile or a nod, whatever folks might have in exchange for the work I did. I enjoyed working with my hands and felt good about this arrangement, but the economic times eventually forced me to put away the Carharts and pull out the suits.

We were vacationing in Miami in the summer of 2009, when I received notification to take a test for employment with the State of Tennessee. With the family in tow, I was in downtown Nashville the following morning. Several months later, I was offered a position with the Tennessee Department of Revenue Internal Audit working alongside Melvin Jones. It was a stretch for my wife and me, as we would have to live apart for a period of time, but we decided to go for it. This is also the time in which I was introduced to AGA where I have been involved in varying degrees.

Since that time, I have worked with TDOT in the Office of Strategic Planning as the Risk Manager and more recently with the Governor's Highway Safety Office as the Fiscal and Marketing Administrator where I work primarily in contract and grant management. Whew... 47 years whittled down to several paragraphs.



# 2012 - 2013 AGA Nashville Chapter Leadership Directory

## Officers

### President

Ray Register  
(615) 532-0216  
[Ray.T.Register@tn.gov](mailto:Ray.T.Register@tn.gov)

### President-Elect

Rusty Lacy  
(615) 401-7764  
[Rusty.Lacy@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Rusty.Lacy@cot.tn.gov)

### Immediate Past President

Shirley Henry, CGFM, CPA  
(615) 747-5253  
[Shirley.Henry@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Shirley.Henry@cot.tn.gov)

### Secretary

Sharon Shaneyfelt, CFE  
(615) 747-5354  
[Sharon.Shaneyfelt@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Sharon.Shaneyfelt@cot.tn.gov)

### Treasurer

Kay Ulmer, CPA  
(615) 253-8203  
[Kay.S.Ulmer@tn.gov](mailto:Kay.S.Ulmer@tn.gov)

## One-Year Directors

Jerry Durham, CGFM, CPA, CFE  
CGFM Chair  
(615) 401-7951  
[Jerry.Durham@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Jerry.Durham@cot.tn.gov)

Steve Henley  
(615) 532-6993  
[Steve.Henley@tn.gov](mailto:Steve.Henley@tn.gov)

David Lannom, Jr., CGFM  
(615) 862-6122  
[David.Lannom@nashville.gov](mailto:David.Lannom@nashville.gov)

Valerie Oliver, CPA  
Membership Chair  
(615) 532-7121  
[Valerie.Oliver@tn.gov](mailto:Valerie.Oliver@tn.gov)

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

## Two-Year Directors

Leigh Anne Hagar  
Finance Co-Chair  
(615) 862-6364  
[LeighAnne.Hagar@nashville.gov](mailto:LeighAnne.Hagar@nashville.gov)

Jacqueline Laws, CFE  
Community Service Co-Chair  
(615) 747-5209  
[Jacqueline.Laws@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Laws@cot.tn.gov)

Ron Queen, CGFM, CPA  
Education Co-Chair  
(615) 401-7862  
[Ron.Queen@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Ron.Queen@cot.tn.gov)

Joe Waldrum  
(615) 253-5221  
[Joseph.Waldrum@tn.gov](mailto:Joseph.Waldrum@tn.gov)

Jennifer Whitsel, CPA, CFE  
Program Co-Chair  
(615) 747-5265  
[Jennifer.Whitsel@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Whitsel@cot.tn.gov)

## Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Nathan Abbott, CISA, CFE  
Webmaster Co-Chair  
(615) 401-7842  
[Nathan.Abbott@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Nathan.Abbott@cot.tn.gov)

Penny Austin, CGFM, CPA, CISA  
Newsletter Editor  
(615) 401-7841  
[Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov)

Mason Ball, CGFM, CPA, CFE  
Education Co-Chair  
(615) 401-7932  
[Mason.Ball@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Mason.Ball@cot.tn.gov)

Gerry Boaz, CGFM, CPA  
Corporate Sponsorship Chair  
(615) 747-5262  
[Gerry.Boaz@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Gerry.Boaz@cot.tn.gov)

Bridget Carver, CFE  
Meetings and Attendance Co-Chair  
(615) 401-7959  
[Bridget.Carver@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Bridget.Carver@cot.tn.gov)

## Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Tammy Fruscione, CGFM  
Community Service Co-Chair  
(615) 747-5221  
[Tammy.Fruscione@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Tammy.Fruscione@cot.tn.gov)

Jeff Hughes, MBA, CFE  
Awards Chair  
(931) 729-6700  
[Jeff.Hughes@tn.gov](mailto:Jeff.Hughes@tn.gov)

Angela McElrath-Prosser  
Finance Co-Chair  
(615) 862-6189  
[Angela.McElrath@nashville.gov](mailto:Angela.McElrath@nashville.gov)

Sharon Shaneyfelt, CFE  
Program Co-Chair  
(615) 747-5354  
[Sharon.Shaneyfelt@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Sharon.Shaneyfelt@cot.tn.gov)

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

## Chapter Address:

AGA Nashville Chapter  
PO Box 198025  
Nashville, TN 37219

Visit the Nashville Chapter  
website at  
[www.nashvilleaga.org](http://www.nashvilleaga.org)