



NASHVILLE CHAPTER

"And the Year Is Coming to A Close"

Spring 2011
Volume 34, Number 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Committee Appreciation Luncheon	5/5/11
Chapter Award Luncheon	5/9/11
Second Harvest	Ongoing
AGA National PDC	July 2011

We have had holidays, training, a Regional PDC, storms, sunshine, and everything in between this winter and early spring. We have seen some of our long-term dedicated members, including Secretary Debra Bloomingburg, decide to call it a career. Debra was joined in retirement this year by Dianne and Glen McKay, Beth Chapman, Steve Phillips, and Larry Perry. If I have left out anyone, I apologize. This chapter year the state has lost some very fine, experienced, and professional employees. This chapter is a source for information and training to help government and academia prepare for such departures, but these folks along with others who have left government in recent years will be hard to replace.

We have had a wonderful year, but I will save the fullest remarks for the final newsletter, that will follow our Awards Luncheon to be held on Monday, May 9, 2011. We will also have a Committee Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, May 5, 2011.

Our meetings in February, March, and April, were all very successful. We had wonderful speakers and wonderful attendance, and we hope that you all were as enriched by speakers like Marcus T. Henderson, John Morgan, and our own Dennis Dycus as I was.

We have been fortunate to have a great list of speakers this year, which has led to the great attendance numbers we have enjoyed, especially this latter part of the year. We came into this year with a solid idea and objective, "TO GO BIG!" The CEC and the membership have accomplished some great things. It has been good to be able to hear our chapter members like Comptroller Justin Wilson, Dr. Robert "Smitty" Smith, Dennis Dycus, Richard Norment, Melinda Parton, Jerry Durham, and others be a part of the training and presentation schedule this year.

We have seen some very active early career members, and I know this chapter is in good hands moving forward. However, I challenge more of our younger members and career members, who have chosen not to get involved very much, to step up in 2011-12, and make next year even more magnificent.

God bless you all and I pray we will always stay true to our profession and our calling as civil servants and keepers of this sacred trust called, "The American Government."

Talk again soon.

peace.

Melvin Jones, Jr., President
Nashville Chapter AGA



*Melvin Jones, Jr., CGFM
2010 - 2011 AGA Nashville
Chapter President*

AGA Newsletter

AGA Today

Read This Week's Issue...

How a Tennessee Town's Bond Bust Led to a Model State Debt Policy

State treasurers do not usually intervene in the debt decisions of local governments. But when Justin Wilson took over as Tennessee's comptroller in 2009, he saw no other way. Lewisburg, a small town south of Nashville, had become entangled in a risky municipal bond deal. The fallout from the transaction exposed weaknesses in the borrowing practices of many of Tennessee's small counties and cities. Wilson concluded he had no choice but to increase the state's oversight of local government debt transactions to protect Tennesseans from getting socked by sudden increases in borrowing costs. First, Wilson cracked down on high-risk interest rate swaps, a form of

instrument known on Wall Street as a derivative. Then, in an effort that concluded last month, he developed a model debt management policy for local governments. The goal is to ensure that county and city officials—as well as Tennessee residents—clearly understand the risks of debt transactions and the fees paid to make them.

—Stephen C. Fehr, *Stateline.org*.
Read more.



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 and click on Career Opportunities for detailed information:

<http://www.nashvilleaga.org/whatsnew.htm>

From the Editor

Thank you for your patience this year and know that next year there will be many opportunities and newsletters to enjoy and to contribute to. My apologies for the fallow months we have experienced this chapter year.

peace.

Melvin

Chapter Luncheon Minutes

To read the minutes from Chapter Luncheon Meetings please visit the chapter website. The April minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for May 9, 2011.

Minutes

http://www.nashvilleaga.org/monthly_meetings.htm



April Luncheon Speaker

For our April meeting, we were fortunate to have Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor John Morgan. Morgan is married to Donna Morgan; they have two sons, Brian and Kevin. He graduated from Austin Peay State University in 1974, and did graduate work at LSU 1974 – 1976.

John is no stranger to this chapter, and he was happy to come back to speak. The membership was receptive to his timely message on education and its place in society. Mr. Morgan gave a wide range of statistical information on the benefits of a good education and on the quantifiable negative effects of not having a solid post secondary education can have on someone's life.

Morgan started his career in state government as a Research Assistant for the Legislative Fiscal Review Committee in 1976. From 1978 to 1980, he was a Research Assistant in the Department of Finance and Administration, and from 1980 to 1982, he was an Administrative Assistant to the State Treasurer. In 1982 he began working in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury as Assistant Director of Bond Finance, and in 1983, as Director of Bond Finance. In 1987 he also became Assistant to the Comptroller, as well as Director of Bond Finance. After a stint in the private sector, Morgan returned to state government as Executive Assistant to the Comptroller of the Treasury, and in January 1999, he was elected Comptroller of the Treasury by the Tennessee General Assembly. He was re-elected to this position in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007.

In January 2009, he was appointed to the position of Deputy to the Governor and served in that position until his appointment as Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents on October 1, 2010. Morgan is a member of the American Society of Public Administration and a former member of the Association of Government Accountants.

April Luncheon Pictures



March Luncheon—Marcus T. Henderson

Marcus gave a rousing speech about life and living your life to the fullest. He offered a number of anecdotes and quotes to inspire and carry the chapter members present to a place of recognition of life and all that we can glean from it in our decisions, both good and bad. Henderson's experience as a Financial Planner has given him insight into how people prepare for the every day and the unexpected of life. We could all learn from the lessons shared...



WINTER SEMINAR, EDISON TRAINING, NATIONAL EVENTS

This year's Winter Seminar was a great success. We had 219 attendees and a host of wonderful presenters, including State Treasurer Lilliard. The Nashville Chapter served up 16 solid hours of training and capped that off with an Oracle-sponsored session on the state's new Edison system for which over 282 people registered. It was a hot ticket, and we thank Oracle for their generous sponsorship of both events.

In addition to these training events, the chapter was able to offer an additional 10.5 hours of training by hosting two events in February, the ARRA Dialogue and the Transparency in Reporting Focus Group. Helena Sims, National's Director of Intergovernmental Relations, and Anna Miller, National Director of Research, hosted the events, respectively. The chapter was able to bring in national, state, and local gov-

ernment officials to discuss the merits, difficulties, and overall results to date of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA event and Focus Group were held in Nashville because of the reputation of this chapter as being in the know on what is happening in governmental financial management, and they recognized the chapter's commitment to excellence.

AGA Names Recipient for Excellence in Government Leadership Award



Richard V. Norment, CGFM, CIA, Assistant to the Comptroller, recently received a well deserved award for Excellence in Government Leadership from the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) at the 8th Annual National Leadership Conference and Exposition in Washington, D.C. The Excellence in Government Leadership Award was formally established to recognize a government professional who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government, outstanding leadership, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures.

The award was presented in recognition of Richard's distinguished record of service to the Comptroller of the Treasury's office, where he is responsible for the annual audits of all 95 Tennessee county governments. Due to his successful management of the audit process, all 95 counties are now in total compliance with the financial reporting standards outlined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board in Statement 34.

Mr. Norment has spent his professional career with the Comptroller's office after joining the Division of County Audit as a financial and compliance auditor soon after graduation from college. Mr. Norment progressed through various supervisory audit levels within the division prior to assuming the responsibilities of his current position.

Mr. Norment serves in a key management position for the Comptroller of the Treasury, a constitutional officer elected by the General Assembly. The duties of the Comptroller include the audit of state and local government entities as well as participation in the general financial and administrative management of state government. Mr. Norment was appointed in December 2005 to serve as the office's strategic planning coordinator.

Mr. Norment has held numerous leadership positions within AGA. He served as national president in 2001-2002 and as national treasurer in 1997-1998. He served as president of the Nashville chapter in 1982-1983 and as chair of several committees. He received the Achievement of the Year Award for 1985-1986.

AGA, a national professional association of 15,000+ members, represents every level of government financial management, and the association awards the CGFM to those who exhibit excellence in the specific skills needed for the broad area of government financial management.

The Nashville AGA Chapter represents approximately 400 members who are dedicated to improving financial management in federal, state, and local governments in Tennessee. For more information on the Nashville AGA Chapter, log onto www.nashvilleaga.org; the national website is at www.agacgfm.org.

Chapter Recognition Program Report

Credits at End of Third Quarter (June 2010 - March 2011)

	Section	Total Accumulated Credits
I	Chapter Leadership, Planning and Participation	3,525
II	Education and Professional Development	8,125
III	Certification	3,450
IV	Communications	5,513
V	Membership	800
VI	Early Career and Student Members	975
VII	Community Service	4,700
VIII	Awards	1,000
	TOTAL	28,088



Membership

Welcome New and/or Returning Members!!!

- Linda Adair sponsored by Ralph Cross
- Barry Monson sponsored by Rusty Lacy
- Debora McMullin sponsored by Ralph Cross
- Sharon Schmuker sponsored by Alla Cox
- Lee Vestal sponsored by Shirley Henry
- Daniel Clanton - no sponsor
- Tammy Dotson - no sponsor
- Stanley Fitzgerald - no sponsor
- Lisa Parker - no sponsor
- Phyllis Schaeffer sponsored by Lisa Parker

Community Service

The Community Service Committee would like to send out a great big thank you to everyone that has contributed to the drives so far this year. The Committee spearheaded an awesome effort that resulted in local and national donations that will allow the chapter to provide a full wish under the Make-A-Wish Program. The wish will be fulfilled, beginning with a party for the recipient and his family, hosted by Make-A-Wish and AGA. We would like to thank everyone that has had a hand in this effort, and especially the members of the Community Service Committee.

Also, we will be conducting teacher appreciation for the teachers and staff of Alex Green Elementary, and hope to have members volunteer to assist at the school for their annual field days in May. Check the web site for pertinent dates on Community Service.

Community Service cont...

In January, committee members volunteered at the Nashville Rescue Mission. Some members served dinner, and others made monetary gifts. Pictures of the Nashville Rescue Mission event are included below. Chapter members also assisted in the annual NPT phone drive, providing much appreciated phone bank staffing and received pledges of \$7,000. Pictures of that event are on the chapter website. At the Regional PDC, we provided a "Nashville" gift basket to a patient's family at the Chattanooga Children's Hospital. Thank You to Everyone Who Has Contributed This Year!!!

Members Serving at the Nashville Rescue Mission





Teresa Purcell, Budget Director for Lawrence County, Tennessee, was selected as the winner of the AGA **Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award for 2011**. The award recognizes the outstanding leadership in local government that led to improved financial management practices, policies, systems, or operations and consistently exhibited the highest personal and professional standards.

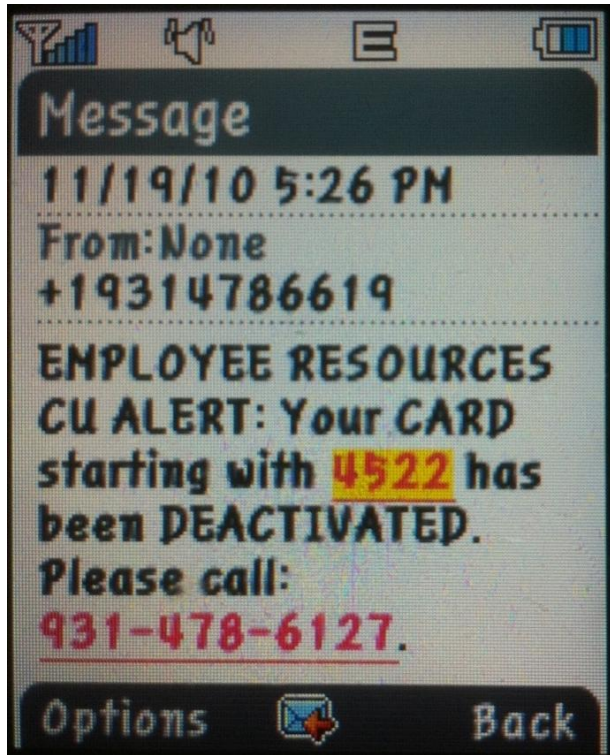
Since Purcell's employment with the Lawrence County Government in 2004, she has made several significant contributions in government and sound financial management. Her accomplishments include cost savings of over \$4,000,000 for Lawrence County, establishment of accounting and financial management, restructure of the EMS billing system, establishment of internal control policies and procedures, implementation of GASB 34, establishment of a solid waste management and billing system, initiation of several cost saving measures and restructure of the debt service.

Purcell was recognized along with other county officials on the front cover of the July-August 2007 issue of the *Tennessee Public Works* magazine to spotlight efforts to develop a recycling program that concentrated on maximizing the price of materials during economic downturns.

Purcell has an MBA with a concentration in accounting from the University of North Alabama. She is currently enrolled in the Leadership Lawrence County and is pursuing a certification as a certified government financial manager (CGFM).

I have known Teresa for several years now, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving for this award. Teresa is often found working in her office late at night and through the weekend and this is all done to help the taxpayers of Lawrence County. She has a real dedication to her job and does a great job at helping to cut costs and save money for Lawrence County—**Jeff Hughes**

Watch Out for Text Scams – Jeff Hughes



Beep, *Beep Beep*. So your cell phone just went off and you received a text message like the one in this article. What do you do? Do you call the number, do you text back, or even call the police?

This actually happened on Friday, November 19, 2010, in Lawrence and Giles County, TN. The text started around 4:30 and continued well into the night. The picture in this article is the one that my wife actually received. Luckily for us my wife asked me to look at this message and didn't respond, but that's not always the case.

Employee Resources Credit Union is a local Credit Union based out of Lawrence County with a branch in Giles County. It's not a large credit union, but it does serve a good number of people in the two counties. While the texts have not been traced, it's my belief that the perpetrator was purchasing prepaid cellphones with cash to go undetected. As you can see in the picture, the "from" number and the number to call are two different numbers. A person's first clue this is a scam is that it's a TEXT! Yes, you may receive text messages from your bank, but at no time will one tell you to call them about a deactivated card, fraudulent purchase, etc.

Secondly, the "from" number and the number to call are two different numbers. Thirdly, local banks are not open past 4:30, especially on a Friday.

So far there are two known people that called the number and when they did it asked them to enter their card number, pin number, as well as the expiration date. Hmm – isn't that a red flag?? One customer had \$400 removed and the second lost \$1,500.

Scammers are really trying hard to do anything they can to get your money right now and this is a very testing way of doing that. My wife has never had an account with ERCU, but if you ever receive a text like this you should 1) call the bank to let them know and 2) not respond! In this case, they did not have anyone's personal info but were randomly texting people. If you respond to such a message, you should immediately contact the police as well as the bank. If the bank is closed, your ATM/debit card should have an 800 number on the back so you can report your card lost or stolen.

I know as accountants or financial workers we all are aware to never release our personal information to anyone, but the overall public still is not fully aware of that. Please make sure your family and friends are aware of this. Our elderly and college age students are prime suspects to quick fraud schemes.

2010 - 2011 AGA Nashville Chapter Officer Directory

Officers

President

Melvin Jones, Jr., CGFM
(615) 532-6165
Melvin.Jones@tn.gov

President-elect

Shirley Henry, CGFM, CPA
(615) 747-5253
Shirley.Henry@tn.gov

Immediate Past President

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

Secretary

Debra Bloomingburg, CGFM, CPA
(615) 747-5239
Debra.Bloomingburg@tn.gov

Treasurer

Scarlet Sneed, CGFM, CPA
(615) 401-7897
Scarlet.Sneed@tn.gov

One-year Directors

Ralph Cross, CGFM
(615) 532-4946
Ralph.Cross@tennessee.edu

Eugene Hampton, CPA, CGFM
Membership Co-Chair
(615) 401-7956
hamptones@bellsouth.net

Jane Lacy, CGFM
Program Co-Chair
(615) 532-6164
Jane.Lacy@tn.gov

Mel Marcella, CPA, CIA, CFE
(615) 862-6113
emmanuel.marcella@nashville.gov

Sandra Tulloss
(615) 747-5266
Sandra.Tulloss@tn.gov

Two-year Directors

Keevia Battle
Finance Chair
(615) 253-6783
Keevia.Battle@tn.gov

Hank Clay
Early Careers Chair
(615) 747-5236
Hank.Clay@tn.gov

Cynthia Setters
Meetings and Attendance Co-Chair
(615) 253-5978
Cynthia.Setters@tn.gov

Corey Tester
Education Chair
(615) 401-7772
Corey.Tester@tn.gov

Rhonda Williams
Awards Co-Chair
(615) 532-2608
Rhonda.D.Williams@tn.gov

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

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

Gerry Boaz, CPA, CGFM
Corporate Sponsorship Chair
(615) 747-5262
Gerry.Boaz@tn.gov

Tammy Fruscione, CGFM
Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 747-5221
Tammy.Fruscione@tn.gov

Chuck Holland
Program Co-Chair
615-741-1153
Chuck.Holland@tn.gov

Jeffrey Hughes, MBA
Awards Co-Chair
(615) 401-7897
Jeff.Hughes@tn.gov

Jacqueline Laws, CGFM
Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 747-5209
Jacqueline.Laws@tn.gov

Jennifer Lewis, CGFM, CFE
Membership Co-Chair
(615) 253-6400
Jennifer.Lewis@tn.gov

Sandra Patterson
Newsletter Editor
(615) 401-7722
Sandra.Patterson@tn.gov

Ron Queen, MA, CGFM, CPA
CGFM Chair
(615) 401-7862
Ron.Queen@tn.gov

Hellens Tamimi, CPA, CFE
Program Co-Chair
(615) 401-7897
Hellens.Tamimi@tn.gov

Tammy Thompson
Meetings and Attendance Co-Chair
(615) 747-5219
Tammy.Thompson@tn.gov

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

Visit the Nashville Chapter
website at:
www.nashvilleaga.org