



NASHVILLE NOTES

April 2012
Volume 35, Number 8

President's Message



Shirley Henry, CGFM, CPA
2011 - 2012 AGA Nashville
Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

CEC Meeting	4/30/12
Chapter Meeting	5/3/12
Volunteer Opportunities at Country Music Marathon	4/25/12-4/28/12
National PDC	7/29/12-8/1/12

Greetings Fellow AGA Members and Prospective Members:

I hope you were able to attend the April chapter meeting where we heard from Ralph J. Schulz, Jr., President and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Schulz gave a very interesting and informative presentation about the regional economy and some of the opportunities and challenges for prosperity in Middle Tennessee. We were also honored to have Cynthia Teddleton, our Regional Vice President, from the Atlanta Chapter, who highlighted some of our chapter's accomplishments and talked about AGA's initiative on citizen-centric reporting, and Phil Nally, our Senior Vice President for Regional Services, from the Central Kentucky Chapter, who shared some updates from the National Office.

Our May meeting will be our Annual Awards Luncheon, when we will recognize our members who have contributed so greatly to the success of our chapter this year, recognize the students who have been selected to receive the chapter scholarships, and honor our members who have or are retiring this year. Watch for the reservation announcement and please make plans to attend this special event. I look forward to greeting you at the meeting.

The May meeting will also be when I pass the gavel to the incoming Chapter President, Ray Register, and turn the chapter's administration over to him and his leadership team for 2012-2013. My 2011-2012 chapter year as President has been a **GREAT** experience for me, and I appreciate

having the opportunity to serve the chapter in this capacity. I want to sincerely thank each and every one of the members who served on my leadership team for their wonderful support. I also want to thank all of the members who supported the chapter through attendance at the monthly meetings, participation in chapter educational events, sponsorship of new members, participation in chapter community service events, and service on a committee. I hope it has been as rewarding for you as it has been for me. I look forward to continuing with the Chapter Executive Committee in 2012-2013 as Immediate Past President.

Although we will not have chapter meetings in June, July, and August, there will be a lot of planning going on behind the scenes to prepare for the 2012-2013 chapter year so if you are called to serve on a committee, please seriously consider service to the chapter. If there is a committee that you are particularly interested in, please let us know of your interest, and we can match you up with the committee chair.

AGA's 61st Annual Professional Development Conference and Exposition will be in San Diego, California from July 29 through August 1. The PDC provides a great opportunity to network with other AGA members from all over the country and meet the National Office staff.

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May Awards Luncheon

Please join us May 3 at the DoubleTree Hotel for our awards luncheon. Seating is limited so make your reservation today.

Welcome New Members!!

Janora Bryson, TN Comptroller of the Treasury, Early Career

Joyce Merrell Raulston, United States District Court

Dr. William M. Beale, Jr., CGFM, US Army, Transfer from Montgomery Chapter

Jean Kyoung Suh, CGFM, TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Recognition of Membership Milestones

We have several members that have reached a membership milestone in AGA. Congratulations to these longtime members!

20 Years

Cynthia Gail Camp, CGFM

Scarlet Z. Sneed, CGFM

25 Years

Charles Richard Brown, CGFM

Linda R. Howard, CGFM

Prabhakar Pallapothu, CGFM

30 Years

Debra Bloomingburg, CGFM-Retired

Edward Burr, CGFM

Sharal B. Huegele, CGFM

E. Paul Long, CGFM

50 Years

Doyce R. Bailey

Doyle J. Bailey

Lifetime Membership

AGA bylaws give the National Executive Committee approval to bestow Lifetime Membership upon those individuals who have remained paid members for at least 40 consecutive years. Three of our members have achieved this status.

John C. Stanton, Jr. - joined December 23, 1959

Doyce R. Bailey - joined January 1, 1960

William E. Sisson - joined June 1, 1966

April Luncheon



Ralph Schulz, Speaker



Phil Nally, Senior Vice-President for Regional Services



Shirley and Amy with Mr. Schulz



Member Networking Activities

Attention: We Need Your Current Email Address

To ensure that you are kept up to date on all the exciting happenings of the chapter, please take a few moments to sign-up for our Google group. If you are already a subscriber but have recently changed your address, please join using your current address. Long time subscribers may also need to rejoin if they were receiving forwards from the old state.tn.us account as those emails will no longer be forwarded. Comptroller employees need to sign-up with the new @cot.tn.gov address.

To join go to <http://nashvilleaga.org/membership/listserv.html> and enter your current email address. You will receive an email message from Google asking you to verify the new address. Please click the Join Group link in this email to complete your subscription.

Organizational Changes in the Tennessee Department of Audit

In October 2011, the Comptroller of the Treasury, Justin Wilson, announced two organizational changes in the Department of Audit to be implemented this spring.

First, the investigative function of the three audit divisions – State Audit, County Audit, and Municipal Audit – are to be consolidated into a single investigative unit of the Department of Audit. The Investigations Managers will report to Rene Brison in her new position as Assistant Director for Investigations. Rene will report to the Assistant to the Comptroller of the Department of Audit, Richard Norment, CGFM. This consolidation will better position the department to place more emphasis on the detection of fraud, waste, and abuse in state and local governments.

The second change will be to consolidate the audit and contract review functions of the Division of County Audit and the Division of Municipal Audit into the newly titled Division of Local Government Audit with Jim Arnette, CGFM, as Director.

The Comptroller believes that these organizational changes will allow the Department of Audit to better serve both the General Assembly and the people of Tennessee.

Chapter Member Retirees

At our May meeting, we will recognize two members who retired or will be retiring during this chapter year. Please congratulate them on their careers in the field of government financial management.

Dennis Dycus, CGFM

Dennis began his career with the Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Municipal Audit, on April 15, 1973, and he will be retiring from his position as Director in June 2012. Dennis is a charter member of the Nashville Chapter and a past Chapter President. He has also helped out numerous times through the years with some of our chapter's training events.

Chuck Richardson, CGFM

Chuck began his career with the Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of State Audit, on October 1, 1986, and at the time of his retirement in December 2011, he was a Manager in the Information Systems section. He joined the Nashville Chapter in 1987.

Best wishes to both as they pursue a new phase of life.

More Member News

Congratulations

Andrew Furlong, CPA, who joined the chapter last fall while employed by the Division of State Audit, is now the Director of Internal Audit in the Tennessee Department of Treasury.

Charter member Herman G. (Jack) Henry, CGFM, CPA, recently joined the staff of the Office of Internal Audit of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

Cynthia Setters, CPA, Chapter Director and Co-Chair of the Meetings and Attendance Committee, recently accepted an Accountant position in the Construction, Facilities, and Maintenance Office in the Military Department of Tennessee.

We wish these members great success in their new positions.

Our Deepest Sympathy

Bruce Petty, CGFM, passed away January 21, 2012. Bruce was the Director of Accounts and Budget for Tipton County for 35 years and joined AGA in 1995.



Come join us on Facebook!

Early Careers now has a Facebook group. The group name is Nashville AGA - Early Careers. All members, including members who are not Early Careers members, are encouraged to join the group.

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

I wanted to express my thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter this year. I have truly enjoyed serving as the editor. Please continue to share your ideas and thoughts next program year.

Penny

Luncheon/CEC Minutes

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC meeting and from the April Chapter Luncheon, please visit the chapter website. The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for May 3, 2012.

<http://nashvilleaga.org/monthlymeetings.html>

Nashville Chapter Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) Case Challenge

You are invited to take part in the Nashville Chapter Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) Case Challenge. We are asking teams (up to two members each) to develop a CCR for their cities, counties, departments, educational institutions, etc. based on the most current calendar or fiscal year data and guidelines set forth by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

Submissions will be due Friday, April 27, 2012. Judges will review the CCRs based on the criteria set forth by AGA and select one Early Career/Student team award winner and one Full Government/Private team award winner. Each participant of the winning teams will receive a fully paid/reimbursed membership at the May Awards Luncheon. Teams must be comprised of AGA members to participate.

Please contact Karen B. Hale at Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov or 401-7742 to register and for more information.

AGA 61st Annual Professional Development Conference



Training to Solve Today's Fiscal Challenges

AGA's 61st Annual PDC is the premier education and training event for government financial managers and accountability professionals nationwide. The outstanding technical program features experts on the battle to reduce improper payments, the newest innovations in financial systems, and the latest management techniques and technological advances to increase efficiency in government operations.

**San Diego, California
July 29 – August 1**

[More Information](#)

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 2011 and will go through May 2012, 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.

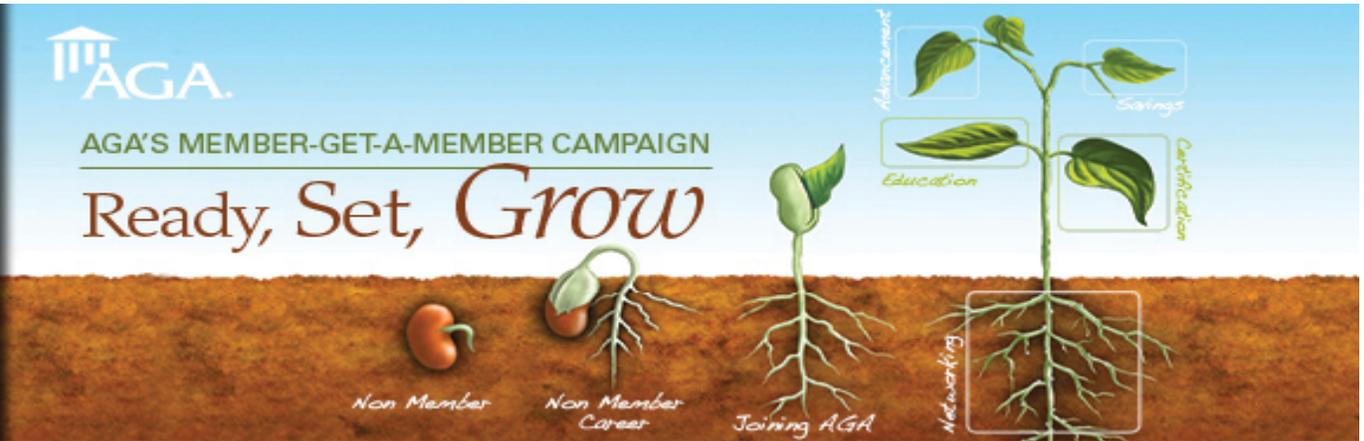
Chapter Recognition Program As of End of Third Quarter (June – March 2012)

Section	Credits
Chapter Leadership, Planning and Participation	3,675
Education and Professional Development	6,500
Certification	5,550
Communications	6,116
Membership	3,400
Accountability	750
Community Service	3,000
Awards	500
Total accumulated credits	29,491



AGA'S MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER CAMPAIGN

Ready, Set, *Grow*



Help Transform Careers and Lives by Sponsoring A Member Today

You depend on AGA, and we count on you, too! Sharing the benefits of AGA helps grow careers and AGA's network of financial management professionals. Nominate your colleagues for AGA membership.

The "Ready, Set, Grow" Member-Get-A-Member Campaign is the new AGA membership recruitment and rewards program running from May 1, 2011 until April 30, 2012. The campaign challenges AGA members to encourage their colleagues, friends and other interested individuals to join AGA during the program year. Current members are the best source for new members who could benefit from all AGA has to offer.

Each member who sponsors a new member is eligible for special recognition and rewards. Here's your chance to get someone new involved in the personal and professional benefits of your Association.

How the campaign works:

Download a [membership application](#). You can also order applications by calling the Customer Satisfaction Center at 800.AGA.7211 and/or e-mailing agamembers@agacgfm.org.

Tell your peers and co-workers about AGA. Simply encourage them to fill out AGA's membership application or complete the application online. Be sure to include your name as the sponsor on the application.

You will be eligible to receive a sponsor pin when your first referral joins AGA.

After six of your referrals join AGA (prior to Dec. 31, 2011) you earn free dues during the 2012–2013 membership year.

The "Ready, Set, Grow" Member-Get-A-Member Campaign ends April 30, 2012. The grand prize recipient will be announced shortly thereafter.

Campaign Incentives

Everyone Wins!

- Recruit ONE or more members, receive a **Sponsors Only lapel pin**.

Sponsor a Member Before April 30

- Recruit a member before April 30, 2012 and be entered into a fishbowl drawing to win an iPad.

Sponsoring Six or More

- Recruit SIX members by Dec. 31, 2011 and receive next year's **membership dues renewal FREE**.

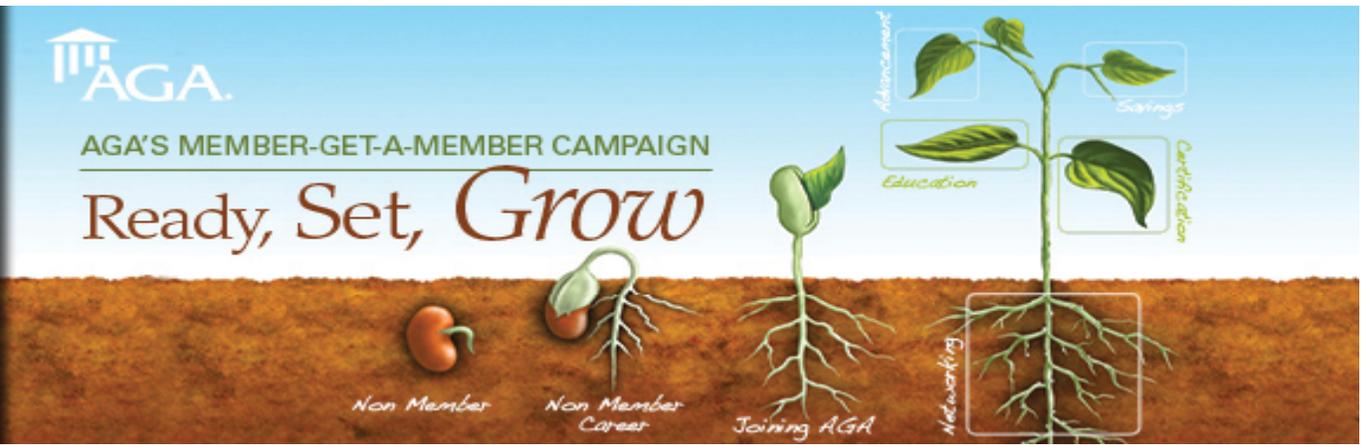
Sponsoring 10 or More

- Recruit 10 or more members by March 31, 2012 and be placed into a drawing for a **\$200 American Express Gift Card**. After 10, each new member sponsored gives you another chance at the drawing. Recruit 10 members, get one chance at the drawing, recruit 16 members, get seven chances, and so on. The more members recruited, the more chances to win.



AGA'S MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER CAMPAIGN

Ready, Set, *Grow*



Spotlight on Early Career/Tomorrow's Professionals New Members

- An **AGA national meeting registration** will be awarded to the AGA member who recruits the most new Early Career members during the campaign.

Spotlight on Chapters

- A recruitment stimulus in the form of a **\$100 American Express Gift Card** will be raffled to chapters that have at least five members who have actively sponsored new members into AGA during the program year. There will be two drawings for members sponsored from May 1–Dec. 31 and Jan. 1–April 30. The gift cards must be used toward chapter recruitment and retention programming.

Sponsor Achievement Awards and Recognition

- **Recruiter of the Year** (one winner)—The member who recruits the most new members from May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 will be presented with the Recruiter of the Year distinction and receive a **complimentary registration to the 61st Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition in San Diego and two tickets to Sea World San Diego.**
- **Top Sponsor** (two winners)—The next two members who recruit the most new members from May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 will each be presented with the Top Sponsor distinction along with a **complimentary registration to the 61st Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition in San Diego.**

- **Chapter Overall Growth** (six winning chapters)—The six chapters achieving the highest overall growth percentage in their chapter size grouping for the membership year will each win a complimentary **AGA national meeting registration.** Chapters decide who receives the registration. Each chapter president and membership chair will be presented with an achievement plaque as well.

Only you can best communicate to your colleagues what AGA does for you, your professional development and your career.

Help AGA Grow and Thrive. Start Recruiting Today.

Rules/Eligibility

All AGA members in good standing are eligible to participate in the “Ready, Set, Grow” Member-Get-A-Member Campaign. The campaign period includes all new members joining AGA from May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012—AGA’s membership year. The new member being sponsored must include the name of their sponsor on the membership application to participate. All federal, state and local laws apply. Void where prohibited.

Please feel free to contact the Membership Committee Co-Chairs with any questions:

Valerie Oliver (Valerie.Oliver@tn.gov)
Eugene Hampton, II, CGFM,
(Eugene.Hampton@cot.tn.gov)

Committee News

Membership

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce a great lineup of retention and recruitment incentives for existing members, new members, and guests for the 2011-2012 AGA year!

Local Prizes!!!!

Existing Members

- Earn a point for every guest you bring to the chapter meeting (3-point maximum)
- Recruit two new members and receive a lunch voucher for a free lunch (\$11 value)
- Earn 3 points for every new member that you sponsor (unlimited points)
- Earn 30 points throughout the 2011-2012 AGA year from such things as meeting attendance, educational events, community service participation, and sponsorship of new members AND pay your dues by March 31, 2012, and the Nashville Chapter will pay \$45 towards a full (not a student or early career) membership for the next year. That means you get half of your dues back, so start earning points early!

Recruitment Incentives

The current campaign will run from December 2011 - April 2012. The top recruiter will take home \$100, and any member that recruits at least one member will be entered into a drawing for \$50.

New Members

- Receive a lunch voucher for a free lunch (\$11 value) with paid membership.
- Start earning incentives and points by bringing guests to the luncheons and recruiting new members.

Guests

- Receive a free lunch for being a first time guest at a chapter meeting.
- Join and start receiving all other AGA membership benefits.

Please feel free to contact the Membership Committee Co-Chairs with any questions:

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(Valerie.Oliver@tn.gov)
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Community Service

Volunteers Needed for the Country Music Marathon & ½ Marathon

The 2012 St. Jude Country Music Marathon and 1/2 Marathon Presented by Nissan will be held Saturday, April 28th! There will be over 30,000 runners and walkers in Music City, and volunteers are needed to help make sure they have a great experience while in town.

AGA members can participate in this event by either serving as a volunteer or actually walking or

running in the event. If you would like to be a part of this fun and exciting event, please sign up via <http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/nashville/volunteer>. Once you have signed up, please contact Tammy Fruscione at 615-747-5221 or Tammy.Fruscione@cot.tn.gov to get your community service points.

Volunteers are needed at the Health and Fitness Expo presented by Power Balance at the Nashville Convention Center Wednesday, April 25 - Friday, April 27; at the ING Kids Rock Race Friday, April 27; and on Race Day, Saturday, April 28, at the Start & Finish Line!

All volunteers will receive a Race Crew t-shirt and a ticket to the post-race concert. This year's post-race concert will feature Rodney Adkins with opening act Gloriana!



A Thought on Ethics

By: Melvin Jones, Jr., CGFM

“Relativity applies to Physics, not Ethics”—Albert Einstein

As government accountability professionals and certified individuals, we are called to participate in “ethics” training every year. I do not know if ethics change from year to year, but I guess those who are over the governing bodies believe we should all have ethical reminders regularly lest we forget how to be “ethical.”

In every ethics class attended, I am amazed how much of what is called ethics is really what grandma and granddaddy called “common sense” or “doing the right thing.” I have heard it said that you can teach “ethics.” However, I have also heard other people say, “You cannot teach ethics.” I do not know if I am in either camp. Often, what we call ethics in the workplace is really more about what is legal, acceptable, or within corporate or governmental policies and procedures.

Defining what is proper can sometimes be challenging for persons facing an “ethics” issue, whether in the public or private sector. For example, it may appear on the surface that it is unethical or inappropriate to reveal confidential information about your organization, but what if you are certain your management has committed documented fraudulent activity? Your duty will be to report the information to the

appropriate authorities. That is the ethical and prudent way to handle the situation.

The irony of such situations is that a manager, who has committed an illegal or unethical act, could be the same person who made certain you attended Ethics training and understood the organization’s system of internal controls and its ethical structure.

Russian novelist and Nobel Prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn once stated, “Even the most rational approach to ethics is defenseless, if there isn’t the will to do what is right.” You might ask yourself, “Am I ethical?” Most would answer with an introspective “Yes.” Have you ever wondered how someone else would answer that same question about you? Would their assessment of your ethics be the same as yours? The answer is ultimately that ETHICS can often be in the eye of the beholder; perhaps it is not a true measure of right and wrong, but may be perceived as what an individual deems ethical in his or her mind.

The most recent issues of Internal Auditor and public cio contained articles titled, “Navigating Risk,” “Government Cannot Afford Business as Usual,” and “A Smarter Compliance Process.” Ultimately, any initiatives in government or the private sector depend on well trained, informed, visionary, and ethical staffs. No matter how effective your ethics

apparatus may be, your organization cannot be assured of an ethical operating environment if you have people whose core values are not aligned with those of the organization in determining the ethical, best practices to follow in carrying out their duties.

A quote from an English poet by the name of Samuel Johnson reads, “Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless; and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.” If your organization is fine tuned for success, but does not have a knowledgeable and ethical staff with integrity, it is like building a beautiful car, adding all the luxury features, and putting a go cart engine in it. It may run, but not far, not fast, not effectively, and not very efficiently.

An organization requires a robust and energetic “ethics” engine that is reliable, dependable, and capable to reach its destination and to obtain and maintain the best performance possible. All of us should strive to build our operations and our organizations on a sound ethical foundation, on which we can build the proper tone and tenor for success.



2011 - 2012 AGA Nashville Chapter Leadership Directory

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