

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CEC Meeting	7/14/08
CEC Meeting	8/5/08
CEC Meeting	9/2/08

For more information about the Nashville Chapter, check out www.nashvilleaga.org.

What's Inside...

President's Message	1
Gala/Awards	3
Committee News	8
National Awards	9
Meeting Minutes	9
A Tribute	11
Article	16
Leadership Listing	17

President's Message

By Ann Collett, CGFM, CPA

Happy 30th Anniversary Nashville Chapter!!!! On May 16, 1978 the chapter's charter was signed, and on June 9, 1978, the chapter was officially installed. Frank Greathouse was the first president, which makes it even more amazing to me that I've ended up being a president of this chapter.

Before my year started and I realized it was the chapter's 30th anniversary, I knew I wanted to do something special to recognize that achievement, and I am so thrilled that we were able to celebrate it with the 30th Anniversary Celebration on May 9. I wish everyone had been able to attend. Pulling off an event like that is no small task. Thanks so much to the gala committee for their hard work. Thanks to Paula Bingham, Rita Harrison and Sherri Joyner in the Comptroller's office for doing the decorations and putting the printed program together. A special thanks to Da Norm and Michelle Earhart for preparing the slide show.

You can see pictures from the Gala in this newsletter and even more on the website. The night started with an hour to mix and mingle followed by a great dinner. Deborah Loveless, Chair of the Gala committee, welcomed everyone and

recognized the charter members and past chapter presidents in attendance. Relmond Van Daniker, AGA National Executive Director, was a special guest and congratulated the chapter on our successful 30 years. Gerry Boaz talked about the chapter timeline (posted soon to the website) he has compiled that was on display. Because this event took the place of our regular awards luncheon, we presented awards, special recognitions and conducted drawings all of which you can read about in this newsletter.

Although the 2007-2008 CEC is still in business until June 30, we inducted the 2008-2009 officers and I passed the gavel to Kathy Anderson. Kathy wrapped up the evening, Ron gave his puzzle answers and we had some door prizes and then the dance floor came to life with a mix of dancing and karaoke. There was never a shortage of people willing to sing! And who knew so many people were so proficient at the electric slide!!!

The year goes by fast, and it's hard to do everything you originally planned. I mentioned that I think this would be a good job for a retired AGA member; someone who is going to have new found free time!!!! But we did get a lot accomplished. If you go on the website you'll see the committee annual plans which



really are an indication of how busy we are. One of several new things for this year was having someone to serve as the official chapter photographer. What better way to record the chapter's history than through pictures? We also had a person heading up public relations to handle such things as press releases. The chapter executive committee conducts a lot of business throughout the year and developing policies is one of those tasks we worked on. This is a long-term process and will carry forward to the next year. I've always enjoyed the chapter's community service projects, and we added a few new ones this year including working on a Habitat for Humanity house, serving dinner at the Nashville Rescue Mission and participating in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. We held several early career socials, including a new member and early career social at the Sports Page downtown. And in an effort to help new members and early career members as well as to encourage all members to meet and interact with their fellow AGA members, we had a "meet and greet" mixer at the April luncheon. We'll be putting together an annual report over the summer that will include more details on the year.

We have just recently learned about some National awards that the chapter will be receiving at the Annual Professional Development conference in Atlanta in July. For our group size Nashville won the Chapter Community Service Award, Chapter CGFM Award, and 1st place for the website. Gerry Boaz won the Regional Coordinator Award for CGFM, and Karen Hale won the Regional Coordinator Award for Education. Congratulations! Thanks again to the chapter executive committee, the committee co-chairs and committee members, and to all the members of the chapter. These awards help recognize some of the great work of the chapter! I've been honored to be the 30th chapter president. I'll be looking forward the next year of AGA, and I know that Kathy will do a great job! We'll see you in September!

Ann



Thanks 30th Anniversary Celebration Committee!!!

- Deborah Loveless, Chair
- Melinda Parton, Committee lead
- Nichole Curtiss, Committee lead
- Sandra Tulloss
- Jennifer McClendon
- Jennifer Lewis
- Ron Erickson
- Phil Carr
- Gerry Boaz
- Dan Willis
- Kathy Anderson

Chapter Recognition Points

Chapter Recognition Points	Annual National Maximum Points
Through April 30, 2008	2007-2008
Leadership	3,000
Education	4,000
Certification	4,000
Communication	3,000
Membership	3,000
Early Careers	2,000
Community Service	2,000
Awards	1,000
Total Points YTD	22,000

Through April 30, 2008

Leadership	4,350
Education	9,075
Certification	10,450
Communication	9,221
Membership	3,975
Early Careers	1,775
Community Service	4,700
Awards	3,200

Total Points YTD 46,746



AGA 30 Year Celebration

AGA Awards and Recognition

While everyone was ready to celebrate the Chapter's 30th Anniversary, the Chapter had a few people to recognize for their hard work, dedication, and excellence this year.



President's Plaque

Ann Collett was presented a plaque for her distinguished and devoted leadership as president of the Nashville Chapter.



Member of the Year

Britt Wood was presented a crystal award for member of the year. Britt has been a dedicated AGA member, and the diversity of participation, number of points earned and extra contributions were all taken into consideration for this award. Britt has been a member since 1996 and has served as a membership co-chair for three years including one year as a director. This year she has been active in a variety of ways, including taking and passing the CGFM exam at the PDC in June, serving as Membership Co-Chair, and participating in a variety of

community service events such as Habitat for Humanity and the Nashville Public Television phone banks. She made AGA T-shirts for us to wear at the Habitat build. She is always happy to take some photos, fun to be around, and is a good positive person to have in the chapter. Congratulations Britt! We have sweetened the award this year a little by giving not only a trophy but a cash prize of \$50.



President's Award

Terry Mason, Chapter Treasurer – Terry has held the job that has constant work throughout the year. Terry took the opportunity to revise the spreadsheets used for the monthly activity as well as the luncheon meeting reconciliations. Terry is someone I could count on not only for her elected role, but as a friend and advisor throughout the year. She has been putting the smack down on getting the chapter in gear on internal controls and getting a financial policy written. She's putting what she's learning through studying and taking the CGFM exams to good, practical use. The duties include a lot of record keeping, check writing, reconciling, financial accounting and the budget. Terry has put in a lot of her own time and helps keep me on track with things like "sign here". Thanks to Terry for all her hard work. Also, congratulations to Terry who took Exam 3 the day after the Gala and has now completed the CGFM exams!

AGA 30 Year Celebration Continued



President's Award

Ann Collett also presented Jennifer Lewis with the most coveted president's award. In addition to Jennifer's role within the chapter, she has essentially been the president's assistant. Every president needs someone they can run to in their office to do something for them, to take on a task without complaint, to fill in when needed, and to bounce ideas off of. This year Jennifer has served as a community service co-chair and has agreed to a two-year director position starting next year. She just can't say No! Before I started thinking about committee chair assignments over a year ago, I knew she would be perfect on this committee as she really likes to volunteer and participate in charitable projects and offers good ideas about new ones. She is willing to help out anyone who needs it. Thank you Jennifer!



Puzzle King Award

Ron Anderson was recognized for his many years of creative puzzle making and humorous contributions at chapter luncheons and events for the Nashville Chapter. Ron has been making puzzles for the chapter for over 20 years, and of course, created a special 30th anniversary puzzle for the Gala. Not only does he make interesting puzzles, but he's entertaining when he gives the solutions.



Dedication to AGA Award

Charter members and past chapter presidents, Richard Norment and Charles Harrison were recognized for their 30 years of continued support of the Nashville Chapter. Both are dedicated to the chapter and helped sponsor a chapter social for early career and new members this year. Their involvement over the years with national, including serving as national presidents helps keep the Nashville chapter in the forefront as a successful chapter. Their encouragement and support are always helpful.



Dedication to AGA Award

A past chapter president and event planner extraordinaire, Deborah Loveless was recognized for her continued support and involvement in the Nashville Chapter. Deborah has served as senior vice president at large and host committee chair for both the 2007 National PDC and the 30th anniversary gala. She has always been ready to help plan a hospitality suite, silent auction or special event. Her years in AGA also make her a great advisor and resource on chapter information.

AGA 30 Year Celebration Continued



Phil Carr, CPA, CGFM
Past chapter president



Melvin Jones, Jr., CGFM
President-elect

Special Recognition

Officers and Committee Leaders

The 2007-2008 Chapter officers and committee leaders were recognized and given framed certificates for their hard work and dedication. Special certificates were presented to Gerry Boaz and Karen Hale.



Newsletter Awards

Gerry Boaz presented Phil Carr and Melvin Jones, Jr. awards for articles published in the AGA newsletter. Phil Carr was awarded for his financial article on *The Secret to the CAFR*. Melvin Jones, Jr. was awarded for his non-financial article on *Am I My Brother's Keeper?*



Membership Awards

Melissa Boaz won the two Universal Studio Orlando tickets plus \$100 for a drawing held for all sponsors of new members. Tommie Pendergrass won the second \$100 drawing (because Ann was generous and declined when her name was pulled), and Rusty Lacy won the goody bag for being the March top recruiter. Brian Brechon won \$50 for paying his membership dues before March 31.



Early Career MVP and Newsletter Award

Amy Abbott was awarded the early career MVP award and newsletter award for her article on the *Four Keys to Completing the CGFM*. Congratulations!

CGFM Early Career Application Subsidy
Congratulations to Patrick Cooper for winning the subsidy drawing for the CGFM application!

Continued Involvement Award

Gerry Boaz didn't seem ready to rest at all after being president. Gerry has continued to serve as the CGFM co-chair, including teaching the review classes with Ron Queen and has been the Southeastern Regional Coordinator for CGFM, just finishing his second 3 year term and now has been elected to National's certification board. He's also done things that have really helped out with the finance committee. He readily volunteered to do the chapter's tax returns and handled IRS correspondence. He's working with us on some other ongoing issues, including corporate sponsorship. He updated the chapter timeline that was on display at the Gala.



Save the Day Award

A special thank you to Karen Hale who when I asked about handling public relations, agreed to take on this task, really developing a new position. She also serves as the Southeastern Regional Education Coordinator. When I called in October to talk about the newsletter, she volunteered to take over the job of newsletter editor. I think I remember her saying, "That is the kind of thing I like to work on." I knew with everything else going on that she was taking on a lot, but Karen saw the need and really stepped in. She saved the day!!!

AGA 30 Year Celebration Continued

Special Recognition Continued



Pictured left to right are: Richard Norment, past national president; Ron Erickson, past chapter president and Chris Gingles, past chapter president.

Retiring Member

The Nashville Chapter of AGA would like to offer its congratulations and say thank you to one of its members who will be retiring at the end of June. Chris Gingles joined the Tennessee Department of Mental Health as Director of Fiscal Services in 1980, a position he has held for over 28 years. He was one of the early members of our Chapter joining in 1980 when we were only two years old. He has been an active member of AGA ever since and has served in various positions including Chapter President in 1986/1987.

Chris will certainly be missed in State Government, and his involvement in AGA has contributed to the current success of our Chapter. Thank you and enjoy your retirement.



Community Service Award

Tammy Fruscione was awarded the community service award. A \$100 donation will be made to the Brown Dog Foundation in her honor.



PDC Drawing

Da Norm was the winner of the PDC drawing with alternates Ed Burr, Joe Holzmer, Tammy Fruscione and Tammy Thompson. Congratulations!

Door Prize Drawings

One pair of Miss Marple's Dinner Theatre tickets was given to each Alla Baranova, Tonya Vanterpool and Susan Walker. The \$25 door prize was won by Victor Nwanso. Good for you!



Nichole Curtiss greeted attendees as they register for the celebration.



The dance floor was creatively decorated by a specially-designed logo in honor of the 30th Anniversary of the chapter.

AGA 30 Year Celebration Continued



Nashville Chapter Charter Members

The Nashville Chapter owes a great deal of gratitude to its charter members for establishing such a great organization for accountability professionals. Charter members who were in attendance at the 30th Anniversary Celebration are pictured below.



Pictured left to right are: Beth Chapman, Barbara White, Richard Norment, Jack Henry, Shirley Henry, Paul Long and Charles Harrison.

Nashville Chapter Presidents

The chapter will be forever indebted to the past presidents for their hard work and dedication in making our chapter the best in the nation! Past chapter presidents who were in attendance at the 30th Anniversary Celebration are pictured below.



Pictured left to right (back row): Ron Erickson, LeaAnn Boucher, Barbara White, Richard Norment, Paul Long, Deborah Loveless, Chris Gingles and Melinda Parton. On the front row are: Phil Carr, Ann Collett, Gerry Boaz, Charles Harrison and Dianne McKay.



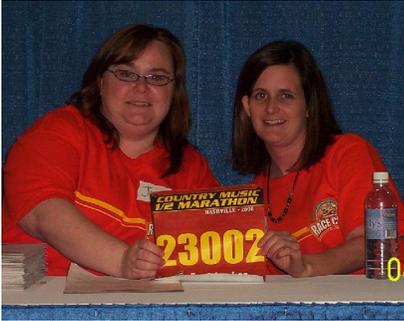
A special thanks is owed to Charles Harrison (far left above) and Richard Norment (far right above) for not only serving as chapter president but also serving as president and various positions and committees at the national level.

Committee News

Community Service

Updates

Country Music Marathon Update



Jennifer McClendon and Tammy Fruscione (left to right) pose while working registration for the Country Music Marathon.

Three of our very own members actually took part in the Country Music Marathon this year. Chas Taplin, Ron Crozier, Patrice Steinhart and Jennifer Lewis participated in the marathon. We also had six members to volunteer for the event. With the growth of the marathon, more and more volunteers are needed, and we are glad that our chapter could help out. Way to go to those that volunteered or participated!



Tammy Fruscione presents a check to Principal Steele at Alex Green Elementary.

Alex Green Donation

The chapter made a \$300 donation to Alex Green to assist with graduation and end of the year celebrations. Ann Collett and Tammy Fruscione attended a banquet on May 13 celebrating the accomplishments of Project Pencil this year.

Alex Green Field Day

Field Days for Alex Green Elementary were held on May 6th and 7th. I wanted to share that upon entering the office, the school secretary asked me, "Are you from AGA?" That goes to show that AGA's donations and volunteerism is known and appreciated at Alex Green. During field day, AGA volunteers assisted where needed at ten different stations. The teachers were very appreciative for all of the help. It was a great day to interact with the children and to enjoy some of the great spring weather!

Wrap Up

On behalf of the Community Service Committee, we want to thank the chapter for making all the activities a success this year. We all have hectic schedules, but many of you still found time to participate. If anyone has any ideas on activities for next year, please contact Beth Pugh (bpugh@thda.org) or Suzanne Sawyers (Suzanne.sawyers@state.tn.us). Thanks again for all of your hard work!

CGFM

Member Recognition

The CGFM Committee would like to congratulate Terry Mason on passing the CGFM exams. Good job!!!



Terry Mason, CGFM
Chapter treasurer

National News

Breaking News!!!

The chapter is proud to acknowledge the following awards being given to our chapter and individuals in our chapter at this year's 2008 National Professional Development Conference and Exposition:

Chapter Community Service Award

Each year AGA presents an award to chapters that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community service by participating in a number of community service projects or by participating in one project, which requires significant commitment of time and /or resources.

Chapter CGFM Award

AGA presents an award to chapters that have dedicated significant time and resources to further the recognition and integrity of the CGFM program.

Chapter Website Award

AGA presents an award to chapters in groups based on the size of chapter membership number. The chapter won first place in our group this year.

Regional Coordinator Award for CGFM

Gerry Boaz has been chosen to receive the regional coordinator award for CGFM. This award represents a willingness and dedicated service to further improve chapters' CGFM operations. Gerry has served five years as the Southeast Regional Coordinator for CGFM, and was recently elected to serve on the National Professional Certification Board beginning July 1, 2008.

Regional Coordinator Award for Education

Karen Hale has been selected as the first recipient of AGA's 2008 Regional Coordinator Award for Education. This award represents dedication to advance chapters' operations through their education programs. Karen has served as the Southeast Regional Coordinator for Education for three years, and has been asked to serve another three-year term beginning July 1, 2008.

Meeting Minutes

Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met on April 21, 2008, in conjunction with the AGA Committee Appreciation Luncheon, at the Spaghetti Factory. All CEC minutes will be posted on the website.

Minutes

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

Degrees Achieved

The Early Career committee wants to recognize Jeff Hughes for obtaining his master's degree in Business Administration from the University of North Alabama. He is also a past winner of an AGA scholarship. Well done, Jeff!!!

Congratulations to Victor Nwanso for earning his Master of Business Administration degree from Trevecca Nazarene University!

The Early Career committee would also like to commend Da Norm for obtaining his Master of Business Administration degree from Tennessee State University. He, too, is a past winner of an AGA scholarship. Way to go!

Committee News

Join the Fun

The Nashville Chapter of AGA is full of **smart** and **energetic** members with ideas on speakers, social events, newsletter articles, website savvy, etc.! **So come on, volunteer!**

The following is a list of chapter committees. **Remember, the more you put into an organization, the more you get out of it!** Contact Kathy Anderson at Kathy.Anderson@state.tn.us or 747-5241 for information and to volunteer. Committees will be working over the summer months, so volunteer today!

Awards

Acknowledges participation and contributions of chapter members; participates in the National awards program that acknowledges chapter committee work, and by nominating individuals in the government financial community for leadership awards. Coordinates scholarship program.

Certified Government Financial Manager

Promotes the CGFM designation by marketing the program and by assisting potential candidates in attaining the certification and supports current CGFMs.

Community Service

Promotes and conducts community service activities that enhance the chapter and AGA's image and reputation. Provides a means for chapter members to give back to the community.

Early Career

Promotes AGA participation and government to students and individuals early in their government careers.

Education

Provides professional training, education, and development opportunities to the government professional community.

Finance

Ensures the chapter meets its IRS reporting requirements; prepares the chapter history reports, and consults on financial matters as needed. The chapter leadership is looking to expand the scope to include corporate sponsorships, which will enhance specific programs and activities of the chapter.

Meetings and Attendance

Promotes and coordinates chapter meetings including meeting logistics and reservations.

Membership/Member Services

Works to attract new chapter members and retain current members. Provides assistance to members.

Newsletter

Provides timely information to the chapter on upcoming events, recaps of past events, articles, and job opportunities.

Program

Coordinates speakers for chapter luncheon meetings and develops a chapter social event for members.

Public Relations

Promotes the chapter's accomplishments and activities through notices, press releases, and other means of communication.

Website

Provides a mechanism for communication of chapter and national AGA information to

A Tribute to William R. Snodgrass

The State of Tennessee lost a legend last month when William R. Snodgrass died on April 20 at the young age of 85. He was highly respected near and far by the government financial community for having a reputation of being extremely fair and kind. In fact, he was so revered by his co-workers and peers that he was most often referred to as Mr. Snodgrass or the Boss. In honor of all that he did for the state in his 44 years of service as the comptroller of the treasury and subsequent years as comptroller emeritus, the General Assembly named the largest government building in the State of Tennessee for him upon his retirement. Many other honors were bestowed upon him when he retired, and his office atop the William R. Snodgrass – Tennessee Tower is filled with memorabilia from his time in office.

Mr. Snodgrass served three years in the military from 1943-1946 before beginning his state career in 1947 as a research analyst. He later became a consultant on municipal accounting and finance at the University of Tennessee, and was appointed as the state budget director by Governor Frank G. Clement in 1953. He was first elected as comptroller of the treasury in 1955, and he served 7 governors and 23 legislative general assemblies in his tenure.

It was his suggestion to conduct regular audits of local governments for adherence to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and he came up with a standardized system of audits for state agencies. He played an instrumental part in the formation of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) under the purview of the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF). He participated in the early discussions and later in the due process hearings that led to the establishment of GASB Statement 34 – *Basic Financial Statements – and Management’s Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments*. He also suggested that the state employee retirement system begin investing in the stock market.



William R Snodgrass, CPA
Comptroller Emeritus

Mr. Snodgrass was a leader and visionary for the accountability movement at all governmental levels. Throughout his service he served on numerous boards, committees and commissions for this purpose. He served on the executive committee of the National Legislative Conference from 1970-1974 and served as its staff chairman in 1973-1974. He went on to serve on the first executive committee of the National Conference of State Legislators in 1974-1975. Mr. Snodgrass was on the executive committee of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) from 1975-1980 and served as its president in 1978-1979. He also served on the executive committee of the Municipal Finance Officers Association (now known as the Government Finance Officers Association) in 1980-1983. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the FAF from 1990-1995.

Mr. Snodgrass' staff was instrumental in the founding of the Nashville Chapter of Association of Government Accountants (AGA) which has been one of the most active chapters in the organization. As an AGA member, Mr. Snodgrass received many honors, including the Outstanding Municipal Performance Audit Award from Council on Municipal Performance in 1980, Donald L. Scantlebury memorial Award for distinguished leadership in financial management from Joint Financial Improvement Program in 1988,

A Tribute Continued



Distinguished Leadership Award from Association of Government Accountants in 1988, Award for Excellence in Governmental Auditor Training Seminars for Government Finance Officers Association in 1988 and the NASACT President's Award winner in 1991. Years later, AGA named its Distinguished State Government Leadership Award for Mr. Snodgrass.

Some of his most notable achievements were: the National State Auditors Association established the William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award, AGA's Nashville Chapter established the William R. Snodgrass Scholarship Award, he was one of five recipients of AGA's 50th Anniversary Special Recognition Award for distinguished leadership, and under his leadership, Tennessee was the first state to receive the GFOA certificate of excellence and has since received the certificate of excellence for 28 years.

William R. Snodgrass retired as the comptroller of the treasury in 1999. He was named comptroller emeritus by the General Assembly upon his retirement which made him the only state constitutional officer ever given emeritus status.

Mr. Snodgrass' legacy is far reaching. Although his office now sits quietly and empty, his contribution and memory will live on for many long years.

A Tribute to a Legend

There is no other person in the history of Tennessee that has had the impact on the institutions of state and local government in Tennessee as Mr. Snodgrass. Over the years he built a system of financial accountability that has served us well and will continue to benefit future generations. We were blessed to have been in his presence. —**John Morgan, Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee**

I had the honor and privilege of working with Mr. Snodgrass for 41 years. He was a man of such honor, respect and stature that I have never been able to call him anything other than "Mr. Snodgrass," even though I came to know him on a personal basis and considered him a friend and a mentor. There will never be another person quite like him and I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work under his direction where I learned the real value of public service. If there ever was a person who symbolized the core values of our agency—honesty, integrity, accuracy, reliability and accountability—it was Mr. William R. Snodgrass. I thank Mr. Snodgrass for his devotion to public service and the passion he had for making government work better for Tennesseans and the entire country. And I thank him for allowing me to be a part of a special organization—The Office of The Comptroller of the Treasury. —**Richard V. Norment, CGFM, CIA, Assistant to the Comptroller, Division of County Audit, State of Tennessee; AGA Past National President**

While most people knew Mr. Snodgrass for his dedication and desire to improve government accountability and transparency, I also had the pleasure of knowing him in a different capacity. He had a real passion and love for his family. On many occasions when we would have lunch at his favorite meat and three, Wendell

A Tribute Continued

Smith's, he would always talk about what was going on with his family. This morning as I look out at the State Capitol with the flag being flown at half-mast, I thank God that I had the privilege of working for this man who we affectionately referred to as "The Boss." No matter what the challenge, he inspired us to do our very best. —**Charles L. Harrison, CGFM, Assistant to the Comptroller for Management Services, State of Tennessee; AGA Past National President**

I had the distinct privilege of working for Mr. William R. Snodgrass (the BOSS) for 26 years and was associated with him during his retirement as Comptroller Emeritus for another nine years. Mr. Snodgrass was beacon of light in an often-dark world. He only knew how to do things one way, and that was the way that best benefited and protected the citizens of his beloved state of Tennessee. He was a shining example of honesty and integrity. Every citizen in the state of Tennessee benefited from his actions, but few even knew his name, which was just fine with him. He never sought the limelight, preferring to work in the shadows. He may not be with us now physically, but he will be looking over our shoulders as long as we are serving the citizens of the state of Tennessee reminding us to do it the right way. —**Dennis F. Dycus, CPA, CFE, Director, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Municipal Audit, State of Tennessee**

Bill Snodgrass was an icon, a legend and a beacon of light for accountability and transparency in government. While his presence will be missed, the state of Tennessee and its citizens as well as the entire governmental community are most fortunate that Bill spent his career in service to them. I will miss him but it was a privilege to have worked with Bill for over 30 years. —**Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, Executive Director, AGA**

While I only knew Mr. Snodgrass a short time, my heart sunk when I heard the news. I felt like I lost a dear friend. I think he had that effect on many people--you met him once, and felt like a friend for life.

While I had heard his name and read about his many achievements over the years, I first met him last June at our PDC in Nashville. I was privileged to meet him and his family the evening before AGA was to surprise him with a tribute the next day. He was the kindest, most gentle and most humble man of his stature I have ever met. I will also never forget the loving way he talked about, and looked at, his wife Faye and the other family members who were there that evening.

We chatted for quite some time, and I asked him, "What factor would you most attribute your extraordinary success to?" He said something I will also never forget. He said, "Just try to do the right thing, even if it isn't popular."

As AGA National President, I had the honor of saying a few words and introducing a short film honoring him at the conference the next day. I am so glad that AGA was able to do that tribute for Mr. Snodgrass last June. I also feel lucky to have finally met this "giant" of our profession that I had heard about for so many years. I will always remember him as "the gentle giant" of our profession, as well as a friend. —**Jeffrey S. Hart, CGFM, CFE, AGA Immediate Past National President**

Below is something I wrote, which was presented to Mr. Snodgrass at our local AGA meeting upon his retirement. It is indeed a sad day in Tennessee. —**Ronald E. Anderson CGFM, CPA, CFE, Legislative Audit Manager, Division of State Audit, Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee**

A Tribute Continued

Not Long After Christmas

By: Ronald Anderson (as inspired by Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas not long after Christmas, on Capitol Hill
 Not a creature was stirring; the whole place
 was still;
 The lobbyists were all getting ready to work,
 Each one had their barrels all loaded with
 pork;
 Reporters were nestled all snug in their seats,
 Hoping to uncover liars and cheats;
 The General Assembly, with a somber
 expression,
 Had just settled down for a long winter's
 session,
 When down in an office there arose such a
 clatter,
 I sprang from my chair to see what was the
 matter.
 I ran all the way down to the main floor,
 To the Comptroller's office and opened the
 door.
 The office was neat, as neat as a pin
 But it looked somewhat different as I came on
 in,
 When, what should I notice as my eyes
 opened wide,
 But loads of boxes, most empty inside,
 With a tall, slender man taking things off a
 shelf,
 I knew that it was the Comptroller himself.
 Pictures of governors, each one in a frame,
 As he packed each of them, he called them
 by name;
 "Now, Frank, then Buford, then Winfield and
 Ray,
 And Lamar, then Ned, and Don's there today.
 I was here when you were, and I gave it my
 best.
 It's been great while it lasted, but I need a
 rest."
 He's not noticed me yet, and that's fine with
 me,
 As I watched a man who had served
 Tennessee.
 He continued the packing of his souvenirs,
 Awards and honors he had earned through
 the years.

He put things in their place, and with such
 precision
 It was like watching the work of a well-
 trained physician.
 As I started to leave, he was turning around,
 Before I could go, he said to sit down.
 He was dressed in a suit, with a white shirt
 and tie,
 And his clothes were conservative, I didn't
 ask why.
 He wore black glasses, all shiny and clean,
 And he looked like his picture – every one
 that I'd seen.
 Boy, I was nervous, but he put me at ease.
 I finally spoke, "Sir, could you tell me
 please?
 What does it take to stay here so long?
 And will you miss it once you are gone?
 How in the world did you get elected,
 After all of the flaws your audits detected?
 And why would you serve us with such
 devotion;
 For forty-four years without a promotion?
 One more thing sir, before you reply;
 Do you have some advice for us to go by?"
 "You have lots of questions," he said with a
 laugh.
 "To stay here so long takes an excellent
 staff.
 Of course I will miss it but the time is now
 right;
 To get out before 'Y2K' bugs start to bite.
 And as for how long I have kept this
 position,
 It's because I have focused on one central
 mission.
 Finding what's wrong may get you elected,
 But improving government; that gets you
 respected.
 And, finally some advice; first be polite;
 Then do what you like, do it well, and do it
 right."

The quotes contained herein were reprinted
 from the AGA *TOPICS* Newsletter, Volume
 48: Issue 8, April 28, 2008 with permission
 from Marie Force, National Director of
 Communications and Editor, Journal of
 Government Financial Management.

A Tribute Continued

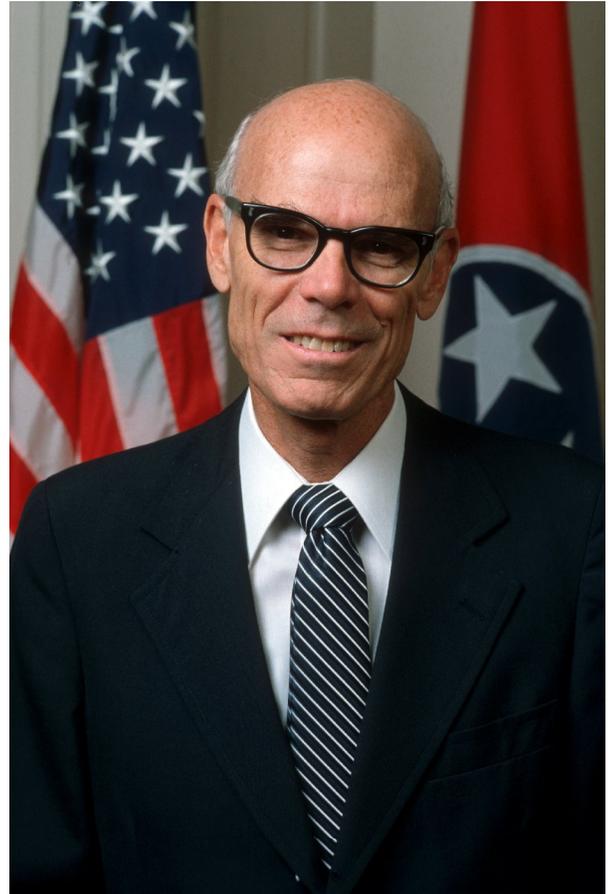


Flags at the Capitol fly at half staff in honor and memory of William R. Snodgrass, April 24, 2008.

IN THESE HALLS

In these halls are truth and justice
In these halls where freedom lives
In these halls I find sweet solace
In all that these halls represent
People drive by and may not notice
This beautiful symbol on the hill
They may not feel the pride I feel in me
But take notice one day they will
We were blessed to be born in this nation
To have symbols like the one standing
here
We are blessed to live in Tennessee
Where the Volunteer Spirit shows no fear
No fear of a life lived in service
No fear of losing life in defense of our own
No fear of doing what is right
Even when the world may tell us we're
wrong
In these halls live our traditions
In these halls this state's dreams are
fulfilled
We stand tall in our recognition
That in these halls life and liberty
And hope are made real

Picture and Lyrics By
Melvin Jones, Jr. ©
April 24, 2008



William R. Snodgrass poses in front of the State flag in his office in the building named in his honor, the William R. Snodgrass – Tennessee Tower.

Four Keys to Completing the CGFM by Amy Abbott, CGFM, CFE

I was very happy to complete the CGFM examination process last year. Hopefully, some thoughts from my experience will help you to complete the process as well.

Commitment

The first and foremost requirement to pass the exam is commitment – this process will take a commitment on your part. The best way I found to make that commitment was to schedule a test for a future date, giving myself a goal to work towards. I decided to schedule all three exams over a period of four months; this gave me a target to work towards for each exam. For me, finding a place to study was also very crucial. If I am at home, there are too many things that serve as a distraction. I made the commitment to spend time studying at the library and I found it easier to concentrate and focus in that type of environment. Setting aside a designated time each week to study may also help you make a commitment that you can live with. The bottom line is find a time and place that work for you, come up with a schedule, and stick to it!

Guide

The study guides that have been developed by AGA are very helpful. However, for my own personal learning, I developed outlines that helped me focus on the main topics and principles described in the study guides. I found that if I spent too much time on the examples and case studies in the study guides, that I may lose focus on the main principles. If you understand the main concepts and principles in the guide, you should be able to apply that to any situation given on the exam. I also highly recommend using the chapter review quizzes that are at the end of each section; these will help you apply the principles and concepts that are in the text in a way you will have to do for the actual exam. Exams 1 and 3 also offer a true/false test which I found to be another helpful study tool. The glossary in the back of each study guide will help you learn the terminology and are great to review before taking the exam. I also recommend highlighting main topics and concepts in the study guide – this will be helpful when you review the material and will help you focus on the main ideas rather than re-reading the entire text. Everyone learns differently so there are lots of different

approaches – find the way that works best for you. If outlines are helpful to you, I would definitely recommend developing one – or contact me and I'll be glad to share mine with you.

Focus

I studied and took the exams in numerical order. I found this



Amy Abbott, CGFM, CFE

helpful because some of the information on Exam 1 was repeated on Exam 2 and some information on Exam 2 helped me understand material on Exam 3. I don't think taking the exams in numerical order is necessary for success. If there is an area you feel particularly strong in, maybe you will want to take that exam first to build your confidence. The main point is to decide on an order that will work best for you and focus your attention on taking the tests in that order. Concentrating on one exam at a time will help you focus your efforts on the material that is necessary to pass that exam. Developing a study guide will also help you focus your attention on the material that you need to understand and know for each exam.

Motivation

Everyone has a reason for wanting to take this certification. You have to find what will motivate you to start and complete the process. Maybe your office offers a salary increase for certifications or maybe you will be more likely to receive a promotion with a certification – or maybe you want to have the certification for your own personal development. Whatever your reason, find out what motivates you and use it to help you successfully complete the process.

I hope these thoughts will help you be successful in obtaining the CGFM. If I can be of any help, please feel free to contact me.

Amy Abbott, amy.abbott@state.tn.us .



Chapter Leadership 2008-2009

The Chapter Executive Committee voting members for 2008-2009 were installed at the Chapter's 30th Anniversary Celebration. The list of voting officers for 2008-2009 is as follows:

- Kathy Anderson – president
- Melvin Jones, Jr. – president-elect
- Ann Collett – immediate past president
- Chas Taplin – treasurer
- Amy Czerwinski – secretary



Top picture (left to right) are: Chas Taplin, Melvin Jones, Jr., Kathy Anderson, and Ann Collett. Bottom right picture (left to right) are: Michelle Earhart, Beth Pugh, Rusty Lacy, Patricia Finney and Jennifer Lewis.



Kathy Anderson – 2008-2009 president

Serving the final year of term

- Ed Burr
- Michelle Earhart
- Teresa Kennedy
- Joe Kimery
- Beth Pugh

Two-year directors

These directors will chair or vice chair/co-chair committees and are voting members of the Chapter Executive Committee:

Serving the first year of term

- Patricia Finney
- Rusty Lacy
- Jennifer Lewis
- Tommie Pendergrass
- Suzanne Sawyers



Melvin Jones, Jr. – 2008-2009 president-elect

In addition to these individuals, other members will be serving as leaders of committees. A complete leadership directory will be posted on the website soon as well as in upcoming newsletters.



Nashville Chapter

2007-2008 Leadership

Officers

President

Ann Collett, CGFM, CPA
(615) 253-2159
Ann.Collett@state.tn.us

President-elect

Kathy Anderson, CGFM, CPA
(615) 747-5241
Kathy.Anderson@state.tn.us

Immediate Past President, CGFM Co-Chair

Gerry Boaz, CGFM, CPA
(615) 747-5262
Gerry.Boaz@state.tn.us

Secretary

Jennifer McClendon, CGFM
(615) 401-7950
Jennifer.McClendon@state.tn.us

Treasurer

Terry Mason
(615) 741-9740
Terry.Mason@state.tn.us

One-year Directors

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

Robbie Hunter, CGFM, CPA
Program Co-Chair
(615) 741-6537
Robbie.Hunter@state.tn.us

Hellens Kruszynski, CPA, CFE
Program Co-Chair
(615) 401-7909
Hellens.Kruszynski@state.tn.us

Angela McElrath-Prosser
Finance Co-Chair
(615) 862-6189
Angela.Mcelrath@nashville.gov

Mary Anne Queen, CGFM, CFE
Finance Co-Chair
(615) 401-7756
Mary.Anne.Queen@state.tn.us

Two-year Directors

Ed Burr, CPA, CGFM
Membership Co-Chair
(615) 747-5275
Ed.Burr@state.tn.us

Michelle Earhart, CPA
Early Careers Co-Chair
(615) 253-6057
Michelle.Earhart@state.tn.us

Teresa Kennedy, CPA
Awards Co-Chair
(615) 747-5260
Teresa.Kennedy@state.tn.us

Joe F. Kimery, CPA, CGFM, CFE
Meetings and Attendance
Co-Chair
(615) 401-7841
Joe.Kimery@state.tn.us

Beth Pugh
Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 532-8770
bpugh@thda.org

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Nichole Curtiss, CFE, CGFM
Education Co-Chair
(615) 401-7947
Nichole.Curtiss@state.tn.us

Donna Jewell, CPA, CFE
Education Co-Chair
(615) 747-5276
Donna.Jewell@state.tn.us

Ron Queen, CGFM, CPA
CGFM Co-Chair
(615) 401-7862
Ron.Queen@state.tn.us

Britt Wood, CGFM, CPA, CFE
Membership Co-Chair
(615) 253-2018
Britt.Wood@state.tn.us

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

Suzanne Sawyers, CFE
Meetings and Attendance Co-Chair
(615) 401-7948
Suzanne.Sawyers@state.tn.us

Jennifer Lewis, CFE
Community Service Co-Chair
(615) 253-6400
Jennifer.Lewis@state.tn.us

Karen Hale, CGFM
Public Relations Chair
and Newsletter Editor
(615) 401-7742
Karen.B.Hale@state.tn.us

Scarlet Sneed, CPA, CGFM, CFE
Awards Co-Chair
(615) 747-5243
Scarlet.Sneed@state.tn.us

Robyn Probus, CPA, CGFM, CFE
Early Careers Co-Chair
(615) 401-7960
Robyn.Probus@state.tn.us

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