



**Rusty Lacy**  
**Nashville Chapter President**  
**2013-2014**

## *President's Message*

Ah, fall. The air is getting cool and crisp, leaves are turning red and orange and dropping from the trees and bushes. Football is on every day of the week, it seems. Hockey and basketball are on the horizon. Who doesn't love fall? But, that's not what I'm here to talk about.

I thought for the October luncheon we had a great program. The room was packed and Dr. Glenda Glover, President of TSU, gave a great speech. I would like to comment on some of Dr. Glover's remarks.

"Leadership is about action." I frequently harken back to my military days when I think of the great leaders I have been associated with. They were always men and women of action. They were not reticent to jump into a situation, take charge and get the job done.

"Bring people together and listen to all sides." Any leader who does not allow all sides to have their say is risking getting only part of the information needed to make a wise, well thought out decision. Besides that, giving everyone an opportunity to say their piece gives each one a sense of knowing their ideas have been heard and count for something. Not allowing each idea to be heard is a sure way to stifle innovation.

"Doing things right vs. doing the right things." Many of us have heard this quote from Peter Drucker (who may have gotten it from Warren G. Bennis) before. He was pointing out that management is about doing things right. Following procedures and processes, crossing all the T's and dotting all the I's. Whereas, some think

that for Leadership to be effective the leader must do the right things. Both concepts are valid and have their place in the work environment. Makes for interesting reading also.

"If you do a good job you will get noticed." We all know we should not do a good job just to get noticed. Getting recognition should be a natural outflow of doing a good job. As leaders we have to be aware of when someone is doing a good job and ensure they get noticed. After the luncheon on October 14<sup>th</sup>, I saw an email sent by our own Melvin Jones, Jr., to the manager of the Doubletree Hotel commending the wait staff who served us that day for the way they performed their jobs. That is an example of a leader taking the initiative to point out someone who did a good job.

I could go on and on reciting some of the quotes from Dr. Glover's presentation, but I hope you get the message. Being a leader involves many, many things. Dr. Glover didn't get to where she is by not following these ideas. She has made them a part of her life and we should too.

AGA calls itself the 'Thought Leader' for government accountability. To be the thought leaders we must take a leadership role in our own organizations to keep the accountability concept going every day. What are you doing to stand out as a thought leader for accountability in your organization?

*Rusty*

### Inside...

- Luncheon Speaker Spotlight
- CEC Spotlight/Member News
- Training Opportunities
- Community Service

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 4, 2013 — Luncheon Meeting
- November 13, 2013 — Breakfast Seminar
- December 2, 2013 — Luncheon Meeting
- January 6, 2014 — Luncheon Meeting
- January 14—15, 2014—Winter Seminar at Clement Auditorium, Nashville State Community College
- February 3, 2014 — Joint Luncheon Meeting with ACFE and IIA.

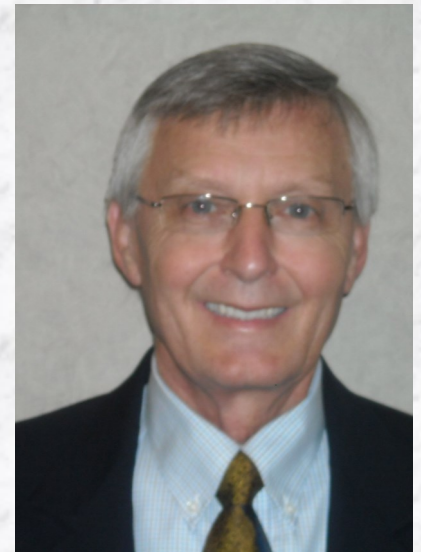
## November Luncheon Speaker — Jerry Durham, CPA, CGFM, CFE

### CGFM Committee Chair

Jerry is an Assistant Director for the State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Division of Local Government Audit. The division has statutory responsibility for audits of local governments in Tennessee. A 29-year veteran of the division, Jerry has served as an auditor, audit supervisor, training instructor, technical manager, and assistant director. Jerry is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). In his role as assistant director, he is responsible for developing professional compliance procedures and monitoring the division's quality perfor-

Intergovernmental Audit Forums, and various county official's associations.

He has served the National State Auditors Association External Peer Review program as a reviewer, team leader, and concurring reviewer and assists in performing field reviews for GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program. Jerry has also provided training for state auditors in Kentucky, Minnesota, North Dakota, Idaho, North Carolina, and the New York City Comptroller's Office. In addition to these duties, Jerry currently serves on the state's Interagency Cash Flow



**Jerry Durham, CPA, CGFM, CFE**



mance under GASB, AICPA, OMB, and GAO accounting and auditing standards. Jerry also has responsibility for the supervising the contract review process within the division. Most recently, Jerry assisted the division in implementing the new Clarity Standards. In addition, Jerry teaches training classes for the Tennessee Department of Audit (Yellow Book and Audit Findings) and has made training presentations for several other professional organizations including the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants; Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association; National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers; Association of Government Accountants; County Technical Assistance Service; Southeastern

Committee which operates under the authority of the Tennessee State Funding Board.

Jerry was a partner in the accounting firm of Crosthwaite Durham and Associates. He also served as controller for Rural Healthcare of America, Inc., and taught accounting as a member of the adjunct faculty for Columbia State Community College and Austin Peay State University.

Jerry received his accounting degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA); the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) CGFM committee for the Nashville

chapter; the Government Finance Officers Association (TGFOA) where he serves as chair of the Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association (TGFOA) where he serves as state liaison to the Board of Directors; and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). Jerry is also a graduate from the Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI) which is a training program for government leaders through the University of Tennessee.

Jerry is married and has three children and one grandchild.

## Committee News

### Education Committee

#### AGA Audio/Web Conference

The next audio/web conference will be held on November 20, 2013. The topic will be *How to Stay Cutting Edge in Tough Financial Times*.



#### AGA Breakfast Seminar

The Breakfast Seminar will be held November 13, 2013 at the Hard Rock Café. Registration is open. The registration deadline for members and non-members is November 8. Members who make a reservation will be responsible for the \$15 breakfast fee after November 8 but transfers to other members are permissible. Non-members are required to pre-pay \$20 and may also be transferred but no refunds will be permitted after the November 8 deadline.

Please email [reservations@nashvilleaga.org](mailto:reservations@nashvilleaga.org) to cancel or change a reservation before the deadline. If you have reservation questions, please call Chas Taplin at (615) 747-5287.

### Education Committee Cont.

#### AGA Winter Seminar

The Winter Seminar is January 14 and 15, 2014 and will be located in the Clement Auditorium at the Nashville State Community College. Be sure to save the date, because this seminar offers up to 16 CPEs and will be and should prove to be a great event. Please make plans to attend.

### Awards Committee

Anyone wishing to make nominations for National Awards need to have those submitted to Jeff Hughes no later than October 30, 2013. Nominations being accepted may be found on our website at <http://nashvilleaga.org/winterawards.html>



### Community Service

#### A Kids' Place Child Advocacy Center

Donations are currently being accepted for A Kid's Place Child Advocacy Center and will be through the end of October 2013. Our chapter will match member donations up to \$500. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so via the Community Services page of the AGA website at <http://nashvilleaga.org/communityservice.html>.



#### Coming Soon

Community Service projects coming soon are:

**November** — Second Harvest Food Bank to collect can goods and monetary donations.

**December** — Little Soldiers to provide gifts and supplies to children of service members deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**December** — Hats, Coats, Gloves and Socks Drive to donate items or money to children or individuals in need.

**January** — Nashville Union Rescue Mission to serve dinner or make monetary donations to the Nashville homeless.

## Why Become a CGFM? — by Ronald H. Queen, MA, CGFM, CPA

### Southeast Regional Certification Coordinator

Why should you achieve the distinction of being a Certified Government Financial Manager? Accounting and financial management are unique among professions because you can obtain a position and maintain an entire career without acquiring a professional certification. Government financial management is particularly prone toward this peculiar arrangement. Looking at the careers of the most successful practitioners of government financial management, one would note that most have achieved some type of professional certification.

If certifications were not required, why would so many of the most successful practitioners obtain one? I think the answer is simple: they desire to be the best. Obtaining a professional certification shows the world that you are striving to achieve the highest level of professionalism and competence. This desire shines through in all their career endeavors. Certification is one way they clearly exhibit their worth to their peers and their employers.

Public accounting has the CPA, the Institute of Management Accountants has the Certified Management Accountant and the Institute of Internal Auditors has the CIA; but, what about government financial managers and their unique industry? The Association of Government Accountants developed the Certified Government Financial Manager to meet the unique needs of government finance professionals and their employers.

Why be a CGFM? The answer is that you want to show that you have the knowledge and skills to keep pace with today's constantly changing financial management environment. Standing out from one's peers by achieving the status of a CGFM holder should be a career boost when promotion time comes or when seeking a different position.

Many public accounting firms practicing in the area of government accounting now require practitioners to hold the CGFM even over the CPA, requiring passage of the exam within two years of employment. The federal government shows preference to CGFM holders in promotion and hiring. Several states, including Tennessee, recognize the CGFM certification. Why do these organizations support the CGFM? They want to achieve better performance in government financial management.

How does the CGFM exhibit the achievement of the highest level of professionalism and competence for government finance professionals? A CGFM candidate must successfully pass three examinations, possess two years of government finance experience, agree to adhere to the AGA Code of Ethics and have a bachelor's or higher degree meeting certain requirements to achieve certification. Successfully passing the three exams to achieve the CGFM displays the wide range of knowledge and skills needed by government finance professionals to meet the unique challenges of state and local government finance or to

succeed in the federal government financial environment.

Above all, achieving the CGFM indicates a commitment of professionalism and competence in the calling of government financial management.

This commitment to possess current knowledge and skills to meet the challenge of the constantly changing financial management environment continues through a CGFM's completing at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects. During the first year of his/her CPE cycle, a CGFM must earn at least 20 hours of CPE. By close of the second year of the cycle, a CGFM must have earned at least 80 hours of CPE. The first CPE cycle starts on January 1 of the year following earning the CGFM. CGFMs maintain documentation of their CPE to support that they maintain the standard of competence by staying current.

Why should you achieve the distinction of being a Certified Government Financial Manager? If you desire to achieve the highest level in the profession of government financial management, you need the CGFM. If you wish to demonstrate your commitment and your competence to your employer and peers, you need the CGFM. If you want to set yourself apart, you need the CGFM. Make the commitment this year to achieve the CGFM. Please contact your Chapter's CGFM director, coordinator or committee chair if you want to be a CGFM holder.

## Welcome to the Guests of the October 2013 Meeting

**Jennifer Bounnara** — guest of Rachel Blanchard

**Kevin Bradley** — guest of Andy Furlong

**Sandra Brown** — guest of Alicia Reynolds

**LaShondia Chambers** — guest of Charlotte Gentry

**Jonathan Craycraft** — guest of LoriAnn Davis

**LoriAnn Davis** — guest of Alicia Reynolds

**Carrie Dawson** — guest of Michelle Earhart

**Ayodeji Folayan** — guest of Kay Ulmer

**Annette Franklin** — guest of Melvin Jones , Jr.

**Jerome Franklin** — guest of Melvin Jones, Jr.

**Arlene Hailey** — guest of Karen B. Hale

**Shanta Head** — guest of Melvin Jones, Jr.

**Jessica Kanaski** — guest of Charlotte Gentry

**Katie Loomis** — guest of Alicia Reynolds

**Alfredia Martin** — guest of Keevia Battle

**Dale Maxfield** — guest of Karen B. Hale

**Ada Omelogu** — guest of Alicia Reynolds

**Brittany Pressley** — guest of Alecia Reynolds

**Alicia Reynolds** — guest of Michelle Earhart



## Member Spotlight

## Welcome New Members!

**Drew Sadler** — My name is Drew Sadler, I work in the Performance Audit section in the Division of State Audit. Before joining the office I received my Masters of Business Administration from Middle Tennessee State University. I have been with the office for two years now and I have just completed all three of the testing sections to become a CGFM.



**Satrice Allen**, Metro Social Services, No sponsor

**Carrie Dawson**, Department of Finance and Administration, Sponsored by Michelle Earhart

**Jessica Kanaski**, Department of Veteran's Affairs, No sponsor

**Jane McCoy**, Department of Finance and Administration, Sponsored by Donna Nicely

**Gathelyn Oliver**, TN Housing Development, Sponsored by Melvin Jones, Jr.

## News and Just the Facts!



### LUNCHEON/CEC MINUTES

To read the minutes from the most recent CEC and luncheon meeting, please visit the chapter website at [www.nashvilleaga.org](http://www.nashvilleaga.org). The luncheon minutes will be presented for approval at the next business meeting scheduled for October 14, 2013.

### 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>.



### Editor's Corner

We truly enjoy reading articles submitted from our membership. Please share your thoughts and ideas or interesting news with us by submitting your article to [Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Karen.B.Hale@cot.tn.gov) no later than October 18 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know.



Thanks!

## 2013—2014 AGA Nashville Chapter Leadership Directory

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