

UPCOMING EVENTS

December Luncheon	12/4/08
NPT Channel 8 Membership Drive	12/4/08
Little Soldiers	11/08 – 12/8/08
AGA's Winter Seminar	01/13 – 01/14

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President's Message

By Kathy Anderson, CGFM, CPA

At the last chapter meeting, John Medeiros from the FBI showed us what might be considered a "computer" for investigative purposes and what to do with it when you find it. In discussing all the different places where data can be stored, I found some of the new technology that he discussed to be fascinating. And everything is getting small! I mean, come on – when you can hide a "hard drive" under a postage stamp...? Incredible.

All this technology also made me think of how communications have progressed and where they might be going. One brave soul admitted that he still didn't have a cell phone, but he was definitely the exception rather than the rule. I'm sure that most of us have dabbled a little bit in text messaging or have family members who text. Some of us have become quite tied to blackberries and the ability to send and receive emails from anywhere. Have all of these computer communications taken some of the "talk" out of our daily lives?

I certainly can see that in the work environment where often times requests for information or documents are done via email. We used to have to actually walk down to talk to someone or call on the phone. Is email convenient? Yes. More convenient for the person on the other end of the email? Probably yes. But we miss out on that face-to-face or voice-to-voice communication. We may have been working with someone for a long period of time without really knowing them. Simple chatter doesn't often occur in the email format. I wonder if we know our coworkers as well today as we might have in an environment 20 years ago.

AGA monthly meetings are a good way to increase some of our face-to-face interactions with our fellow professionals. Networking is so important. The more people you know and/or the better working relationships you have, the easier your job is to accomplish! So our meetings are great for that. The social helps foster those relationships as well.

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This year, the program committee is taking it one step further and offering some smaller scale networking opportunities as well. One has already occurred, but keep your eyes on the newsletter and the website for more opportunities to spend some enjoyable time with others in our field.

And as Jennifer Lewis pointed out at the last meeting, there has never been a better time to recruit others to join our chapter. Between the National office incentives and the incentives we are offering locally, members can really take advantage of some great offers! So even if you don't feel comfortable being a chapter "salesperson", look around and at least invite a coworker to come to a meeting or a networking activity as a guest. Sometimes that's all it takes!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kathy



Chapter Recognition Points

Chapter Recognition Points	Annual National Maximum Points 2008-2009
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Through November 6, 2008

Leadership	4,850	3,000
Education	4,575	4,000
Certification	3,525	4,000
Communication	5,426	3,000
Membership	625	3,000
Early Careers	575	2,000
Community Service	2,625	2,000
Awards	7,200	1,000

Total Points YTD	29, 401	22,000
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Chapter Luncheons

December Luncheon Speaker

Mark Floyd
Executive Vice President,
Finance and Administration
Nashville Predators

Mark Floyd was named the Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer with the Nashville Predators in December of 2007. Mark also serves as the CFO for Diamond Jaxx Baseball Club, which owns the West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx, a Southern League AA affiliate of baseball's Seattle Mariners.

Mark's overall responsibilities with the Predators include budgeting, forecasting, club borrowings and interaction with lenders, as well as working with Metro Nashville on the lease and management agreement relating to the Sommet Center.

Prior to joining the Predators, Mark was most recently the chief operating and financial officer of 36 Venture Capital, LLC ("36VC"). 36VC was an entity formed and led by Predators Governor David Freeman. Mark worked with Freeman and the local investor group that was put together in order to acquire the Predators from Craig Leipold in December 2007. Just prior to joining 36VC, Mark was the chief financial officer of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce for two years.

By joining the Predators, Mark has come full circle. He previously worked for Gaylord Entertainment Company. During Mark's 17 years with Gaylord, he primarily worked in the broadcasting and media group of Gaylord, serving as CFO of this group.

While in that capacity, Mark had the pleasure of working on the Gaylord-led project to help bring a professional sports team to Nashville to be the primary tenant of the Nashville Arena, eventually handing off the project to Leipold and current Predators President of Business Operations Ed Lang.

Other positions that Mark held during his tenure at Gaylord include VP, Attractions, in which he had operational responsibility for Gaylord Springs Golf Course, the General Jackson Showboat, the Wildhorse Saloon, among others, as well as a period during which Mark was responsible for Gaylord's three radio stations and Gaylord's controlling interest in the Oklahoma Redhawks, a AAA affiliate of baseball's Texas Rangers.

Mark is a CPA and is originally from Oklahoma. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from East Central Oklahoma University in 1984 with a degree in Accounting. Mark and his wife, Devin, reside in Brentwood with their two teenage children, Drew and Hayley.



Luncheon Dates

There is still a great line up of speakers for this year's program. Don't miss out on these opportunities to network with fellow chapter members as well as hear a wide variety of educational and informative topics.

Tentative Luncheon Schedule

12/4/2008	Mark Floyd, Nashville Predators CFO
1/18/2008	David Kanne, Synovus Securities
2/5/2008	Jamesina McCleod Metro Airport Authority
3/5/200	Ann Butterworth Kevin Krushenski, Director of the Office of Open Records Ombudsman
4/9/2008	Melinda Parton, Regional Vice President
5/7/2008	Awards Luncheon



Meeting Minutes

Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met on November 4 2008, in the large Conference Room on the 15th floor of the James K. Polk Building. To read the approved minutes from the Chapter Executive Committee meeting, please visit the chapter website.

Minutes

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

Save the Date!



AGA's Winter Seminar

January 13 and 14, 2009

**Tennessean Room, William Snodgrass
Tennessee Tower**

Dr. Perry Moore, Lipscomb University will be presenting Tennessee Ethics

Other speakers are being lined up.

You will not want to miss this one!



Committee News

Community Service

Upcoming Event for the Month of December

Once again our Chapter is celebrating the holidays by helping National Guard families through the Little Soldiers program. This program provides holiday gifts for the children of the approximately 5,600 Tennessee residents serving in the National Guard on alert to deploy overseas in the next year. The servicemen, servicewomen, and their families sacrifice their civilian jobs and income – and possibly their lives – while serving our country. Because the National Guard was originally envisioned to serve local needs rather than lengthy international duty, their members cannot access discounted military commissaries or routine military medical care. In light of these challenges, the Little Soldiers program assists active duty National Guard families to support their children by providing clothing and other holiday gifts. Last year, our chapter provided gifts for approximately 40 children.

Our chapter will receive a list of 20 children this year, including both their clothing needs and other gift wish(es), in late November. Please seriously consider supporting one of these children. We will distribute the list of children and their needs to AGA chapter members by email. Please select a child and email this month's community service coordinator, Sandra Tulloss at Sandra.Tulloss@state.tn.us, with the selected child's name. Children will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. Small and medium sized gifts can be dropped-off with Sandra at the state Comptroller's Office in the Polk Building, Suite 1500. Please contact Sandra directly to arrange pick-up of larger items as we have limited, secure storage space. As a reward, you'll receive a point credit for each child you support!



Committee News Continued

Membership Committee

AGA's 2008-2009 Member –Get-A-Member Campaign: The Big Easy

National is offering AGA members the Opportunity to share the value of an AGA Membership while also earning BIG rewards.

National Prizes!!!!!!!

Recruit **ONE** or more members, receive a *Sponsors Only* lapel pin and get recognized in Topics and on the AGA website.

Recruit **TWO** members and start earning AGA Dollars. You'll earn five AGA Dollars for each new member that joins. AGA Dollars are like cash and can be redeemed towards publications, membership due renewals and national conference registrations.

Recruit **SIX** members by January 31, 2009 and receive next year's membership dues renewal **FREE!!!!**

Sponsor **10 or more** members by March 31, 2009 and be placed into a fishbowl drawing for a Sony Blu-Ray DVD player (valued at \$300). After 10, each new member is another chance at the drawing.

Recruit the most new Early Career members during the campaign, and earn a Garmin GPS Navigation System.

Recruiter of the Year will receive complimentary registration to AGA's 2009 Professional Development Conference in New Orleans and an Apple iPod Touch.

The next two members who recruit the highest amount of new members will receive a complimentary AGA national meeting registration.

The six chapters that obtain the highest overall growth percentage in their chapter size grouping will receive one complimentary AGA national meeting registration to give to a chapter member.

In addition to National's offerings, the membership committee is proud to announce some chapter incentives.

Local Prizes!!!!!!!

Starting with the November luncheon, each member that brings a guest will receive an AGA notepad (while supplies last).

If a member's guest decides to join AGA, that member will also receive a \$10 gift card to a national chain restaurant (while supplies last).

All of the above is in addition to the incentives that are already in place. See below:

Existing members:

Earn points for such things as meetings attendance, educational events, community service participation, and sponsorship of new members. If you meet the goal of 30 points, and pay your dues by March 31, 2009, the Nashville Chapter will pay \$45 towards a full (not a student or early careers) membership for the next year.

Renew your dues by the March 31, 2009 deadline and be entered into a drawing for \$100 cash.

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Committee News Continued

Membership Committee

For those who sponsor new members-

- a. get a free AGA lunch for every two new members sponsored.
- b. for every new member sponsored your name will be entered into a drawing with a first prize of two one day passes to Universal Studios in Orlando plus \$100 cash and a second prize of \$100 cash, and
- c. If a member sponsors six new members by January 31, 2008, national AGA will pay that member's membership dues for the 2009-2010 year.

Guest and new members:

Prospective new members who are first time guests get a free AGA lunch.

New members also receive a free AGA lunch.

I can't recall so many incentives ever being offered for recruiting! Everyone needs to take advantage and get involved. This is a great opportunity for our chapter to grow, and for you to earn some goodies along the way!

Please contact Jennifer Lewis (Jennifer.Lewis@state.tn.us) or Ed Burr (Ed.Burr@state.tn.us) with any questions

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS NASHVILLE CHAPTER

FREE MEAL CERTIFICATE - NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTOR

Thanks for contributing an article to the *Nashville Notes*!! This certificate entitles you to a free meal at any one of our regular meetings. Please make a reservation and present this certificate at the door on the day of the meeting.

Newsletter Contributor

Rhonda Williams
Newsletter Editor

Expiration date 4/09
**** NON-TRANSFERABLE ****

Submit a newspaper article and receive a free meal certificate.

News from National

Why Certification Matters. Why CGFM.

By: John Radford, CGFM, CIA, CFE, Oregon State Controller
Published in Government Financial Management TOPICS,
November 17, 2008

People often ask me why certification is important. I tell them it's all about accountability.

Employers prefer staff members who are certified because they have undergone a rigorous testing procedure, proving they have specialized skills and knowledge. Certification also shows that the employees are committed to continuing their professional education and upholding high ethical standards—requirements for maintaining their credential.

The pluses extend beyond the workplace, though. Citizens benefit from knowing the public's work is being done by professionals who have demonstrated their expertise. Certification boosts public confidence in government.

That's why I'm a big supporter of AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification. If there was a good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for government finance professionals, this would be it. The CGFM is the mark of excellence it is fast becoming the certification of choice for financial and fiscal employees at all levels of government.

Earning the CGFM requires a bachelor's degree, a minimum of two years of professional level government financial management experience, and passing three tough examinations that cover all three levels of government. Passing the exams is just the beginning. CGFM's must follow AGA's strict Code of Ethics and complete at least 80 hours of Continuing Professional Education(CPE) every two years.

Anyone who works in government finance will tell you that their work differs significantly from what their counterparts are doing in the public sector. People who have passed the exams tell me that the process has helped them see more clearly how all the pieces of government financial processes fit together.

Consider what one new CGFM, an auditor for the Commonwealth of Virginia, said: "It has given me a better appreciation for the big picture. When you're new to working in governmental environment it's such a strange animal compared to public sector accounting."

William D. Brown, who earned his CGFM credential after more than 20 years in New Jersey's most challenging fiscal offices, says: "If you are planning a career in government fiscal management, you need to earn this certification. It is the only program broad enough to measure the knowledge needed by today's professionals at the federal, state and local levels."

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Why Certification Matters. Why CGFM.

By: John Radford, CGFM, CIA, CFE, Oregon State
Published in Government Financial Management TOPICS,
November 03, 2008

The demands on government financial managers are only going to increase. No longer relegated to back rooms, finance professionals are key members of decision-making teams for government programs. Government financial managers are constantly updating their skills to make financial information reliable, instantly accessible, and easy for program managers to understand to make everyday decisions and plan for the long term.

The field of government financial management will be far different tomorrow from what it is today. Having broad knowledge, a recognized professional designation and a requirement to stay abreast of the latest developments will be the way to distinguish you from the crowd.

Governments across the country are likely now entering a period of potentially great change. Our national regulatory environment may change, well known human capital challenges are already being felt, and state agencies may face renewed calls for efficiency and effectiveness. Now may be the time for state agencies and employees to consider making a commitment to the AGA's CGFM program.

For additional information, **[please visit the AGA CGFM Certification web site.](#)**

National Leadership Conference February 19-20

Published in Government Financial Management TOPICS, November 17, 2008

Make plans now to attend AGA's Seventh Annual National Leadership Conference to be held February 19-20, 2009 in Washington D.C.

Government financial managers are deeply committed to producing timely, reliable and useful financial information, with the goal of running government programs more efficiently. At AGA's National Leadership Conference(NLC), those sentiments are more than just words.

The NLC brings together the top minds in the industry to share best practices, leadership secrets, the newest management techniques, and the most recent information on always-changing standards and regulations. Sessions will cover important topics and issues facing government financial managers, such as leadership, transparency, accountability, and the effects of political transactions and what the future holds.

The NLC also features an exposition filled with the latest resources, products and services available for your partners in the private sector. Visit the Exhibit Hall to find pace-setting tools and technology that will help you do your job faster, more efficiently and more effectively. The Exhibit Hall is a hub of activity and offers an environment dedicated to networking and the sharing of ideas. This is the perfect place to mix and mingle and connect with industry professionals from around the country. Some companies will conduct raffles-stop by and you may become a winner!

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National Leadership Conference February 19-20

As you can see, AGA's National Leadership Conference offers outstanding technical training, dynamic speakers and plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues and friends.

Information about the conference agenda, speakers and sessions are coming soon. Stay tuned to the website, www.agacgfm.org/nlc, for more information. But don't wait. Show your commitment to excellence-register today!

- Register Online and Save!
- Download Registration Form

Why wait? Reserve your room today! We have reserved a block of rooms at the JW Marriott Hotel for NLC attendees. The JW offers a celebrated address near the city's best monuments, museums, restaurants and cultural venues. The hotel is adjacent to the National Theater and just one short block away from the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

The AGA room rate is \$209 (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. Rates are guaranteed until January 31, 2009, or until the block is sold out. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

- **To make a reservation, please call the hotel at 800.393.2503 and mention you are attending the "AGA NLC" to receive the discounted rate.**
- Or, for your convenience, you may also reserve a room online.

Attention! Attention!

The Nashville Chapter History Report for 2007-2008 and the chapter financial statements and evaluation report are available for review on the chapter's website.

Click "What's New" to see the links



CEC Member Profile

Rusty Lacy, Education Committee Chair



When asked to write a biography of my life for the newsletter I did not know where to begin. So I thought why not at the beginning. I was born and then I grew up (although some may dispute that). A lot happened in the interim, but, eventually, I went to college at the University of Alabama (Roll Tide!) and majored in Political Science.

After college I spent time in the Air Force, U.S. Treasury Department Bureau of Public Debt, and a few other non-government jobs. I always wanted to get back into government work, but at the state or local level.

I began my career with the State of Tennessee in March 1998, in the Department of Finance and Administration. You may know by now I'm not an accountant or auditor. In fact I have a hard time balancing my checkbook. Since being with the State I have always been in Information Technology. I began working in desktop support for the Office of Information Resources, Systems Development and Support, and later moved into F&A's Information Systems Management Division as the desktop support supervisor. I came to the Comptroller's Office in March 2004, became the manager over the infrastructure and desktop support and assumed my current duties as Assistant Director of Information Technology in May 2008

I joined AGA shortly after coming to work for the Comptroller, and had the privilege to attend the Tennessee Government Management Institute (TGMI) in 2005. I was elected president of my class. I also belong to the American Society of Public Administration chapter in Nashville where I currently serve as Secretary.

I was asked by Kathy Anderson to be the Education Committee chair for the next two years. Talk about an eye opening experience! With my lack of experience in what AGA does, it has been great to have such a dedicated group of committee members to work with. I have passed two of the three CGFM tests, but have dreaded test 2 left (I failed it once, but don't tell anyone).

On the personal note, I am an amateur woodworker, model railroader, gardener, and dabble in astronomy. I enjoy building things, so much so, that I have built my own garage and an addition onto my house.





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2008-2009 Leadership

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