



# NASHVILLE NOTES

November 2012  
Volume 36, Number 1

## *President's Message*



*Ray Register*

2012 - 2013 AGA Nashville  
Chapter President

### UPCOMING EVENTS

CEC Meeting	11/29/12
Chapter Meeting	12/3/12
Winter Seminar	1/10/13 1/11/13
Southeast Region PDC	4/4/13 4/5/13

Each year at this time, we pause for a national day of Thanksgiving. As a national holiday, it was first proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, but the tradition goes back to our country's earliest settlers. Though the most commonly remembered was at the Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in the New World with a Feast of Thanksgiving in 1621, Thanksgiving was celebrated in the Virginia Colony as early as 1607. There are accounts of Spanish and English Thanksgiving celebrations in North America going back to the 16th century.

Nowadays, I've noticed a number of people turning the whole month of November into "Thirty Days of Thanks" and writing a daily post on Facebook about what they're thankful for. That got me thinking. I give thanks every day, but it's usually for the same list of things: good health, family and loved ones, opportunity, my daily bread, and so on. Could I come up with a separate thing every day for thirty days that I'm thankful for and articulate each one in a few words or a couple of sentences? There's so much to be thankful for. Seems like a worthwhile activity for daily meditation or reflection.

So what am I thankful for as an AGA member? I'm thankful for monthly meetings at our new venue, the DoubleTree Hotel. Already this year we have enjoyed three informative and entertaining speakers. The September meeting featured a GASB update from our own Robert G. (Smitty) Smith. In October, Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor John Morgan

shared some insight into the reasons behind the fast-rising cost of college tuition. And this month, Karen Hale, AGA Southeast Regional Vice President, brought us news from the region and delivered an informative talk on Business Process Reviews. Coming up in December, Mark Crocker, Executive Director of the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy, will bring us State Specific Ethics, worth 1 hour of CPE credit. I'm excited about what this chapter has to offer its members for the remainder of this program year.

I'm thankful for the educational opportunities offered by AGA to its members. The Education Committee is busy planning the Winter Seminar coming up January 10 - 11, 2013. We're once again offering the AGA audio conferences free to chapter members. These 2-hour events run now through June 5 at various locations and are a great way to earn CPE credits. The Program Committee is working hard to make sure we have a good number of luncheons with CPE credit. In addition, our chapter will host the AGA Southeast Region Professional Development Conference April 4 - 5, 2013. With all of these events combined, there are a minimum of 57 CPE credits available this program year.

I'm thankful that AGA gives me an outlet for giving back to the community. Opportunities abound for community service in the AGA Nashville Chapter. Already we have sent volunteers to help out at the Women's Half Marathon, benefiting the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Chapter members participated in Making Strides Against

Breast Cancer last month. Our drive in support of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee to help address hunger has just ended. We are also collecting hats, coats, gloves, and socks for those in need, and the Little Soldiers program will make Christmas more joyful for children of those stationed at Fort Campbell. We continue our ongoing partnership with Alex Green Elementary School offering a variety of opportunities to get involved with the education of future leaders.

I'm thankful for all of the ways AGA provides opportunities for both professional and personal growth. The monthly luncheons are a rewarding time of networking and fellowship. If you haven't been to a chapter meeting in a while, I want to extend a personal invitation for you to come and join us on December 3. To those who do regularly attend, I encourage you to reach out to a friend or co-worker who hasn't been in a while and bring them along with you.

And I wish a heartfelt Happy Thanksgiving to each of you, your families, and loved ones.

**Ray**

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## *December Luncheon Speaker*



**Mark H. Crocker, CPA, CGMA**

**Executive Director**

**Tennessee State Board of Accountancy**

Mark is a native of Nashville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History with minors in French and Economics and a Master of Arts degree in American History with an emphasis in Historic Preservation; he added Accounting as a second undergraduate major eight years after receiving his Master's degree.

The field of accounting has provided many opportunities for Mark. He began his career in accounting in 1987 and has held many positions in the public, private, and government sectors. He accepted the position of Investigator for the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy in August of 2004 and has been the Executive Director since October of 2007.

In addition to his regular, full-time positions, Mark has also taken the opportunity to teach as an adjunct professor in the Department of Accounting at Middle Tennessee State University since 1993. He has also taught at Tennessee State University and at Nashville State Technical Institute. He has been a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Tennessee since 1992, and holds professional memberships in the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He recently earned the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation.

# October and November Luncheons



*John Morgan with Deborah and Ray*



*Karen Hale, RVP, speaks to the chapter*



*Chapter President Ray Register*



*Melvin Jones makes an announcement*

## 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

We truly enjoy reading articles submitted by our members. Please share your thoughts and ideas or interesting news with us by submitting your article to me at [Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Penny.Austin@cot.tn.gov) no later than December 7 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks and start writing!

## Luncheon/CEC Minutes

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

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

# ***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 2012 and will go through May 2013, 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 First Quarter (June – September 2012)**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Chapter Leadership, Planning and Participation	2,050
Education and Professional Development	150
Certification	0
Communications	675
Membership	200
Accountability	1,350
Community Service	0
Awards	100
Total accumulated credits	4,525

# *Community Service Opportunities*



## **Coats, Hats, Socks, and Gloves Drive**

It's that time of year again! For the months of November, December, and January we will be collecting new and slightly used coats, hats, socks, and gloves for those individuals in the Nashville area who are in need. Help keep everyone warm this winter season. To donate please contact Scarlet Sneed, [Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov](mailto:Scarlet.Sneed@cot.tn.gov).

## **A Kid's Place Child Advocacy Center**



We are now accepting donations for A Kid's Place Child Advocacy Center through the end of November. A Kid's Place serves sexually and mentally abused children in Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, and Maury Counties. Our chapter will match donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$500. Donations may be made online at:

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=PZ7PYYZ2N86ZQ](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=PZ7PYYZ2N86ZQ)

or by giving your donation to Rhonda Williams! Please send Jeff Hughes your PayPal receipt for any online donations. Last year our chapter was able to donate a little over \$1,200 to such a great organization! Let's see if we can top that this year and make it \$1,500!!

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## *Save the Dates*

### **2013 Nashville Chapter Winter Seminar**

**January 10-11, 2013**  
**3rd Floor, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

### **2013 Southeast Region Professional Development Conference**

**April 4-5, 2013**  
**Doubletree Hotel**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

The 2013 Southeast Region Professional Development Conference offers up to 16 hours of continuing professional education, and various speakers will discuss accountability issues that face government accountants, auditors, and financial managers.

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# What Does AGA Mean to You?

By: Rusty Lacy

I think of leadership when I think of AGA. But what does that mean to us on a daily basis as we perform in our jobs?

I have heard Relmond Van Daniker, AGA Executive Director, say on several occasions that AGA is the 'thought leader' in accountability. It is even written in AGA's strategic goals. My interpretation of this term is that AGA is engaged in every aspect of ensuring accountability of government to the citizens for how their taxes are spent. We must be about the business of suggesting change where appropriate, and we are responsible for the public trust. AGA exerts influence and 'cultivates knowledge' through our educational programs not the least of which is CGFM but also audio conferences and other training events.

What can we do here in Nashville to exhibit leadership as members of AGA? Everyone has an opportunity to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee as an officer or director or to serve as a member of a committee. But even when not in a specific position in the local chapter, we all can exert influence in our departments or agencies.

AGA members come from a variety of positions – accountants, auditors, information technology specialists, contract reviewers, human resource professionals, assessors, fiscal services professionals, and others. We touch all areas of an organization and thus have a wide berth of influence.

The best way to exert appropriate influence is to have knowledge of the issues. That comes through education and study. As an AGA member, we receive several publications each year from National on a variety of topics. As you might imagine, the ones on technology always pique my interest. Many organizations send out emails that cover topics of interest. Two of my favorites are CPA Success (<http://www.macpa.org>) and Great Leadership (<http://www.greatleadershipbydan.com/>). And I think we do a great job putting together the Winter Seminar each January. The opportunities are there just waiting to be grabbed and used.

I challenge each member of the Nashville Chapter of AGA to renew a commitment to making a difference in your organization at work, church, home, social club, or whatever you are involved in.



# 2012 - 2013 AGA Nashville Chapter Leadership Directory

## Officers

### President

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