NASHVILLE NOTES

December 2009
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AGA NASHVILLE CHAPTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

AGA CEC	1/4/10
November Luncheon	1/7/10
CGFM Training Exam 1	1/15/10
Winter Seminar	1/19/10 1/20/10

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President's Message

By Karen B. Hale, MAOM, CGFM

Brrrrrr, it is really cold outside, but AGA is really heating up. We are half way through the program year, and we have already accomplished a great deal. Knowing what we have planned for the coming months, I know that we will accomplish even more.

As I look ahead to the new year, I think about all that our chapter has to offer. We have in the plans to host everything from audio conferences, monthly meetings and numerous community service activities to various types of educational events. Here is a short list of great things to come:

January 15, 2010
CGFM Training on Exam 1, Nashville, TN

January 19-20, 2010
Winter Seminar, Nashville, TN

February 10, 2010
Audio Conference, Nashville, TN

February 18-19, 2010
National Leadership Conference, Washington, D.C.

March 3, 2010
Audio Conference, Nashville, TN

March 24-26, 2010
SE Regional Professional Development Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

April 10, 2010
Audio Conference, Nashville, TN

July 11-14, 2010
National Professional Development Conference, Orlando, FL

Mark your calendars and continue to check our website for more information. Be sure to ask Santa to place a paid registration for at least one of these events in your stocking this year.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all!

Karen

January Luncheon Speakers

Terry Clements

The Chapter's next luncheon is scheduled for January 7, 2010. Our scheduled speaker will be Terry Clements, Vice President of Government and Community Relations for the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau. His focus will be on the arguments in favor of the proposed Music Center (new convention center) for Nashville.

According to the Center's website, the project could open in 2012 or 2013, pending City Council approval of financing. Current proposals call for a LEED ("green") certified building(s) including approximately 1.2 million-square-feet center. It will be located in the six-block area bordered by Fifth and Eighth Avenues South, Demonbreun Street, and the proposed Korean Veteran's Boulevard. Proponents estimate that it will create approximately 2,600 new jobs, $700 million in additional activity and attract thousands of visitors.

The current proposal uses bonds to pay for construction. Proposed, possible funding sources to pay-off the bonds include 2-cents of the existing 5-cents-per-dollar hotel/motel tax, additional 1-cent hotel/motel tax, $2 Convention Center fee per hotel/motel room/per night, 1% rental car tax, $2 airport ground transportation departure tax, Tourism Development Zone incremental tax and sales tax revenues on items associated with the convention center campus.

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 and click on Career Opportunities for detailed information:

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

From the Editor

While we greatly enjoy the various articles submitted from our membership, we are always seeking interesting news. If you have a great idea or burning topic, please submit your article to me at Corey.Tester@tn.gov no later than January 13 for the next edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks and start writing!

Corey

December Chapter Luncheon

The December luncheon was held on December 3rd at the City Club. To read the draft minutes from the Chapter Luncheon please visit the chapter website. Members will have an opportunity to approve the minutes at December Luncheon, December 3, 2009.

Minutes

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

December Chapter Luncheon Pictures

Betty-Ashton Mayo

City Club Christmas Tree

Nichole Curtiss, Betty-Ashton Mayo, and Sandra Tulloss

Betty-Ashton Mayo

TSU Case Challenge Students

TSU Case Challenge Students

TSU Case Challenge Students

Sandra Patterson, Hellens Tamimi, Beth Pendergrass

Chuck Holland, Shirley Henry, and Jennifer Lewis

Rusty Lacy

Julie Rogers

Karen Hale

Committee News

Membership News

The first campaign ended on November 30 with the top recruiter being Shirley Henry with three new members! She was awarded $100 cash just in time for the holidays. The remaining recruiters were entered into a drawing for $50 cash with the winner being Chuck Holland. Overall, we had 12 new members during the first half of the program year. National's goal for our chapter is 38 new members for the 2009-2010 year. We have 26 to go, so GET RECRUITING!!!!!

The second recruitment campaign runs from December 2009-April 2010. The member who has recruited the most new members from December through April will receive $100 cash!!! There will also be a drawing of all members that recruited at least one new member for a $50 cash prize. Also, details are in the works for a grand prize out of all recruiters for the year. The more new members you recruit, the better chance you have to win!

A **new member prize** has been added. All new members will be entered into a drawing for a cash prize. So when recruiting, be sure to tell people they have a chance to win a prize at year end.

These prizes will be given away at the May awards luncheon just in time for summer vacation!!!

The link to the on-line application is: http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/joinnow.aspx.

December 1st began a new recruitment campaign!!!

As a reminder, if you sponsor a new member, make sure he or she lists your membership number on the application. You will NOT receive credit if this information is not provided on the application. If you do not know your membership number, contact Ann Collett or Jennifer Lewis.

Remember if you sponsor 6 or more members before 12/31/09 you will receive free membership dues from National. Also, for every member you sponsor you can earn AGA dollars. Take a look at the Share the Magic Member Get A Member Program at http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/mem_campaign.aspx .

Remember, AGA is about all fields of government accountability! Go beyond the accounting field and include fields, such as computer information systems, budget analyst and auditors when thinking of potential guests. The hardest part is asking…..most people will not turn down a FREE meal to attend a meeting!

Welcome to our newest member, **Ellen Dunkin**, sponsored by Shirley Henry.

Update your Member Profile and Win!

The following is a NEW incentive from National:

AGA is committed to ensuring that our association represents a sturdy, exciting and evolving group of professionals dedicated to advancing government accountability. AGA strives to be a place where people in the government accountability profession have the opportunity to reach their full potential. To that end, we are approaching another renewal season and look forward to you updating your profile to ensure that we have proper contact information for renewal purposes.

We need your help in this effort and ask that you partner with us by updating your profile. By updating your profile you will be entered into a drawing to win one of three Sony Webbie Camcorders. As part of our ongoing effort to ensure that your AGA membership is as valuable as possible, we would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to login and update your contact information. Members who update their profile by December 31, 2009 will be entered into a drawing for one of three camcorders. National's website link is: http://www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx

There is a member login. Your login is your membership number, and your password is your first initial followed by your last name. Contact Jennifer Lewis or Ann Collett if you need your membership number.

Please feel free to contact the membership committee with any questions:

Jennifer Lewis (Jennifer.Lewis@tn.gov)
Ann Collett (Ann.Collett@tn.gov)
Terry Mason (Terry.Mason@tn.gov)
Keevia Battle (Keevia.Battle@tn.gov)

Committee News

Awards News

This year I plan to present two new awards. The first award is the Innovative Idea Award. This award will be used to encourage and reward the member who has offered the most innovative idea to the chapter. Innovative ideas are limited only to the AGA chapter itself. Whether the idea focuses on increasing membership, expanding awareness of the CGFM program, involving more Early Career members or boosting educational opportunities, it is eligible if it serves to enhance the chapter.

The second award is the Rising Star Award. This award will be used to formally recognize an Early Career member or member with less than five years in AGA for his/her outstanding achievement performed for either the chapter or public service.

More information and nomination forms will be provided soon.

Karen

2009/2010 Points - The 2009/2010 Points spreadsheet, through 12/10/2009, has been posted to the website. If you have any questions about your points please email Jeff Hughes (jeff.hughes@tn.gov).

2010 Scholarships - The scholarship application for 2010 has been posted (http://www.nashvilleaga.org/scholarships_info.htm). Remember we give away one $1500 Scholarship to a Member of Member's relative (any major) as well as one $1500 to a Non-Member (business major).

Outstanding Achievements in Government Accountability Award - Each year, the Nashville Chapter presents an award to formally recognize an individual or business that has demonstrated sustained outstanding leadership and notable contributions to financial management and to encourage increased interest, growth, development and distinctive leadership in the field of financial management. To nominate someone please visit (http://www.nashvilleaga.org/outstanding_achiev.htm). Also, please feel free to let anyone that works with government accounting know about this award.

Education News

2010 Winter Seminar will focus on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

ARRA is the 600 lb gorilla in the room right now; so, it will get a lot of attention during the 2010 Winter Seminar, January 19-20, 2010. Our first three speakers will address ARRA at the national, state and local levels. Other subjects include Ethics, GASB update, Fraud, Forensics and a Tennessee Economy update, to name a few.

Some examples of speakers are John Morgan, former Comptroller and currently Deputy to the Governor; Art Hayes, Director, State Audit and Dale Sims, former Treasurer and currently Interim Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance at the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Registration information will be coming out soon for what will be a great learning experience. We looked inside and outside state government for speakers at this year's seminar. We think you will like the mix of experience and perspective.

Other News

TENNESSEE COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY JUSTIN P. WILSON RECENTLY SHARED THE FOLLOWING NEWS WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GASB STATEMENT NO. 34 IN TENNESSEE:

I want to share the good news that, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the General Assembly and local government officials, Tennessee is now one of the very few states where there is 100 percent compliance by local governments with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34. All local governments in Tennessee are now in compliance with this standard. This is a milestone achievement and should be a source of pride for all Tennesseans.

The purpose of GASB Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments, was to make government financial statements more user-friendly for people who access government financial information, to help states and local governments make better operating decisions and to make it easier to compare financial information from different state and local governments.

The Government Accounting Standards Board is responsible for establishing accounting standards for state and local governments in the United States. GASB Statement No. 34 was issued in June 1999 and is considered one of the most far-reaching – if not the most far-reaching – accounting standard ever issued by GASB. This standard is extremely detailed and difficult to implement.

The State of Tennessee implemented Statement No.34 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002, as required by the standard. However, due to the complexity of the standard, many local governments in Tennessee had difficulty complying and weren't able to present financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

In 2003, my predecessor as Comptroller, John Morgan, suggested a process for helping local governments achieve compliance with GASB Statement No. 34 and in May 2004 the General Assembly established a special joint committee that focused on financial accounting and reporting standards. The committee recommended legislation, later approved by the General Assembly, known as the Local Government Modernization Act of 2005. The purpose of the legislation was and is to ensure that local governments in Tennessee maintain adequate accounting records and comply with GAAP. Compliance with GAAP would help ensure local governments maintain their bond ratings.

When I became Comptroller, I made 100 percent compliance a priority of this office. As of June 30, 2009, every county and city in Tennessee has implemented this standard, a remarkable accomplishment for which each and every Tennessean can be proud.

Please join me in extending our congratulations to our local governments and officials.

Justin P. Wilson is Tennessee's Comptroller of the Treasury.

This press release was released by the Comptroller's office on December 1, 2009

News from National

From AGA TOPICS:

Nashville Chapter Secures "Preferred" Status for CGFM Applicants

Job seekers with the CGFM will have an advantage over uncertified competitors if they apply for certain positions in Tennessee's Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

AGA's Nashville Chapter was instrumental in making the CGFM a "preferred" qualification for three positions in the Office of Management Services within the comptroller's office: contract review administrator, business administration manager and legislative sourcing oversight manager.

Nashville Chapter President Karen B. Hale, MAOM, CGFM, said she was asked last spring to review job specifications, titles and duties after the retirements of two longtime leaders in the Office of Management Services—including Past AGA National President Charles Harrison, CPA, CGFM. During the reorganization, she proposed the three job specifications include the statement, "A certification as a government finance manager (CGFM) is preferred." Comptroller of the Treasury Justin P. Wilson approved the change, effective Aug. 1.

The process took a few months, but it was fairly straightforward. Hale's office is full of AGA supporters and CGFMs, many of whom were involved in the CGFM's earliest stages, such as Harrison and Past AGA National President Richard Norment, CGFM, CIA. Her director, for example, is Immediate Past Regional Vice President Melinda Parton, CGFM. "We're fortunate here to have such a rich history," Hale said. "They laid the groundwork."

All three positions are now filled with professionals who have passed the CGFM Examinations. Hale, who is the current business administration manager, said she believes that the CGFM certification strengthens an applicant's knowledge base. "You can't just walk in off the street and start working and be successful right away," she said. "These positions involve a lot of on-the-job training, a lot of mentoring, and the more knowledge you bring to the table on the front end, the better."

Tennessee has had many successes over the years. The state formally recognizes the CGFM designation with a salary increase if that particular department chooses to do so. The comptroller's office also sponsored legislation two years ago that requires all municipalities in the state to employ a certified municipal finance officer (CMFO) to produce its financial statements. CGFMs are exempt from the educational requirements of the CMFO designation.

Katya Silver, AGA's director of Professional Certification Administration, applauds the Nashville Chapter for its work. "It is great to see the Nashville chapter's initiative and hard work pay off. What a wonderful example of AGA leadership and teamwork!"

In fact, Silver encourages other chapters to learn from what's been accomplished in Tennessee and around the country. AGA recently held a teleconference dedicated to CGFM recognition—successful practices, challenges, ideas and tools.

Miscellaneous Items

Want to hear more of Betty-Ashton's Relaxing Music?

Betty-Ashton Andrews Mayo treated the Chapter to a lovely harp performance and information about her work as a music therapist through the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Cultural Enrichment Program at our December luncheon. Her performance was so successful that many of you wanted an opportunity to purchase her CDs. After selling-out of her original lot, she had to run to her car for extras to meet the demand! Since the luncheon, several members have asked whether her music is available online. Yes it is! All of her albums can be ordered through her website: www.bettyashtonandrews.com. Additionally, her self-written album is available on I-Tunes. Thank You Betty-Ashton for a wonderful holiday event!

Nashville Chapter

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