

📢 President's Message 📢

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I cannot believe that Christmas is right around the corner. It just does not seem possible that 2005 is almost over. As usual our chapter has exhibited a great deal of Christmas spirit by donating toys for Samaritan's Purse in November and giving Angel Tree gifts this month. It truly is wonderful that we can share our blessings this time of year with others in our community and world.

The November seminar was a success with a variety of interesting topics and speakers. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped organize it! For our December meeting we are trying to coordinate with the Angel Tree organization to have someone come speak to us about the things we don't know about Angel Tree. Otherwise, we will be a little more low key with a social holiday gathering to celebrate Christmas. Please join us for a great year end meeting at Calhoun's on the River.

Merry Christmas!

Andrea Williams
President

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December Meeting

Tuesday, December 13th, 2005
11:30 AM

Agenda

- 11:30 Registration/Networking
- 12:00 – 12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 – 1:00 Presentation

Calhoun's on the River

(865) 673-3355
400 Neyland Drive

Menu Choices

Honey Glazed, Smoked Ham & Roasted Turkey Breast
Parslied Red Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Baby Carrots In Brown Sugar & Butter
Assortment of Fresh Baked Rolls
Fresh Brewed Coffee & Tea

Cost

\$5.00 per Member
\$10.00 Non-Members

Please contact Cindy Hartsell at (865) 974-4300 or chartse1@utk.edu with your reservation by December 8th.

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55th Annual Professional Development Conference (PDC)—The Annual PDC will be in San Diego, June 18-21, 2006! You may now register online or print the reservation form and send it by mail or fax. For conference details, see <http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2006/index.htm>.

AGA Research Reports Aim to Advance the Profession

AGA has several research reports on their website that are very informative. Three that are posted at this time are (1) *Trends and Techniques* – an annual report on emerging issues in information technology and financial management, (2) *Financial Management Shared Services: A Guide for Federal Users* – report devoted to joining Private Sector Best Practices and Federal Agency Experiences, and (3) *Audit Federal Financial Controls: Sooner Rather than Later* – report discussing whether Sarbanes-Oxley would benefit from Federal Financial Management. Check these reports out at <http://www.agacgfm.org/homepage.aspx>.

AGA and Government Executive Magazine Invite You to a Leadership Breakfast on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

This is the first in a new series of breakfast meetings - *Meet the Financial Management Policy-Makers*. Relmond Van Daniker, Executive Director of AGA, and Tim Clark, Editor and President of Government Executive, will moderate a discussion with Dr. Linda Combs, Controller, U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This event will be Dr. Combs' first public appearance after the November 15 close of federal fiscal year 2005. We will hear Dr. Combs' initial overview of the process and preliminary results of the financial reports submitted to OMB. There will be time for Q&A after the discussion. Federal Chief Financial Officers, Inspectors General and representatives from OMB and GAO will participate. There will also be participation from the private sector.

December's issue of Government Executive magazine will profile the Chief Financial Officers across major federal departments and agencies, the fourth in its series on the CFOs. The feature story explores how CFOs play an increasingly important role in business planning and approving program purchases and priorities, despite a recent wave of retirements, which threatens future effectiveness. See <http://www.agacgfm.org/breakfastseries.aspx> for more information.

Check out www.agacgfm.org for the latest in National AGA information and news. You can also access the member's only section of the site to update your personal information, renew your membership, report membership news and view how we are doing on points in the chapter recognition program.

2005-2006 National Events Calendar

December 12, 2005	National Executive Committee Meeting	Alexandria, VA
February 1, 2006	National Executive Committee Meeting	Washington, DC
February 2-3, 2006	Fourth Annual National Leadership Conference	Washington, DC
June 16, 2006	National Executive Committee Meeting	San Diego, CA
June 18-21, 2006	55 th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition	San Diego, CA

Chapter News

Member and officer newsletter submissions for the January Newsletter are due December 30th.

\$\$\$ Mike Blair reports that our chapter checking account balance is \$10,686.78 as of October 2005. \$\$\$

Don't forget to visit our chapter website at www.kornnet.org/etaga for all the latest news and information!

2005-2006 Chapter Events Calendar

Meetings

January 10	11:30 am	Calhoun's on the River	Budgets and Strategy
February 14	11:30 am	Calhoun's on the River	TBD
March 14	11:30 am	Calhoun's on the River	TBD
April 15	8:00 am	TBD	Leadership Seminar
May 9	11:30 am	UT University Club	Awards Banquet

Service Projects

January	Baby Bundles
February	American Heart Association
March	Public Television Telethon
April	Haven House
May	Linen Drive

Points Update

Through December 5, 2005

Leadership	3200
Education	750
Certification	1250
Communication	3221
Membership	250
Community Service	450
Awards	200
Total Points YTD	9,321

Chapter Goal = 10,000

Public Service Project for December – Angel Tree

For those of you who took an angel tree name at the November meeting, the gifts are due back December 9th. Members from TVA may turn their gifts in to Andrea Williams by December 8th. Members from the University of Tennessee may turn their gifts in to Amy Paganelli and those from Blount County may turn the gifts in to Dana (Lamson) West.

OPENING ON THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There is an opening for CEC Program Chair. If interested, please contact Andrea Williams at (865) 632-2612 or alwilliams@tva.gov.

LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?



ENTRY LEVEL & EXPERIENCED AUDITORS

The Tennessee Valley Authority Office of the Inspector General is currently hiring entry level and experienced auditors. Entry level applicants should have a BS or MS in accounting, finance or related field with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Experienced applicants should have a business related 4 year degree and 3+ years experience. For more information on these positions, go to <http://oig.tva.gov/vacancy.htm>.



AGA provides job listings for the accounting professional. Visit <http://aga.careerbank.comwww.agacgfm.org/education/onlinecpe.aspx>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

January Meeting

Our January chapter meeting will be held at the Calhoun's on the River on January 10th at 11:30 pm. The speaker will be John Werner with the Knox County Government. Our public service project for the month of January will be Baby Bundles. Details will be published in the January newsletter.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The third meeting of the 2005-06 AGA group was held on November 8, 2005 at the Naval Reserve from 11:15 - 4:15. This was the AGA Fall Seminar, worth 4 CPE credits. Lunch was provided by The Lunch Box.

President Andrea Williams opened the meeting with announcements and pictures of her children (this was her first meeting back after maternity leave). She also referenced the drop off area for Samaritan's Purse items as well as Coats for the Cold and passed out Angel Tree names for the December community service project. She announced that door prizes would be drawn during the seminar breaks.

Speakers and topics covered were: "Project Safe Neighborhoods" by Russ Dedrick with the U.S. Attorney General's office, "Just Between You and Me, Doc: Myths and Realities of Medical Privacy" by Sherry Brewer with the UT Graduate School of Medicine, and "Preparing County Budgets" by Ron Woody (with help from Ben Rogers) with UT's County Technical Assistance Service.

Ms. Williams closed the meeting by thanking everyone for participating and noted the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Gennoe for Julie Talbott, Secretary

2005-2006 Chapter Leadership

President

Andrea Williams
(865) 632-2612
alwilliams@tva.gov

President Elect

Mindy Stooksbury
(865) 982-7121
mbstooks@ci.maryville.tn.us

Treasurer

Mike Blair
(865) 632-6056
tmbair@tva.gov

Secretary

Julie Talbott
(865) 273-5715
jtalbott@blounttn.org

Newsletter Editor

Amy Rush
(865) 632-2281
arrush@tva.gov

Historian

Amy Paganelli, CGFM
(865) 544-9564
APaganel@mc.utmck.edu

Membership

Carol Malkemus
(865) 974-2591
cmalkemu@utk.edu

Education & CGFM

Aldena Phillips, CGFM
(865) 974-2493
Aldena@utk.edu

Awards

Nancy Donahue, CGFM
(865) 694-6541
ndonahue@pstcc.edu

Program

OPEN

Public Service

Tonya Davis
(865) 545-4451 x288
tonya.l.davis@irs.gov

Meetings

Cindy Hartsell
(865) 974-4300
chartse1@utk.edu

Webmaster

Phyllis Palmer
(865) 632-4043
prpalmer@tva.gov

**Immediate Past
President**

Dana West
(865) 273-5717
dwest@blounttn.org

**Immediate Past
Regional Vice President**

Dave Bennett, CGFM
(865) 273-5719
dbennett@blounttn.org

CGFM Information

Information from AGA Website

CGFM Training Courses

AGA's Maine Chapter has learned a few things about bringing the live CGFM training courses to its members.

Gathering tips from other chapters, co-sponsoring the courses with the state controller's office, finding free classroom space and keeping prices low helped. The biggest key to success, however, was the support of State Controller Ed Karass, CGFM, who calls himself the CGFM's "biggest cheerleader in state government."

Karass has gone beyond encouraging his employees to earn the credential - he has added the CGFM to the list of certifications for newly opened high-level management positions in state finance. April Newman, financial management coordinator for the Office of the State Controller, who helped organize the courses, said 13 people had signed up before the CGFM was added to the list of minimum qualifications; within a week or two of this change, the courses were filled. "Suddenly, there was a lot of interest in people taking the courses and getting the certification," Newman said.

Karass and Chapter President Karen Doyle, CGFM, director of the Division of Accounting and Finance Services, followed up by speaking to state government leaders on the benefits of hiring professionals with the CGFM designation. So many people signed up for the courses that the price was dropped from \$600 to \$400. State managers paid the entire course fee for the employees they sent to the courses.

"I give them a lot of credit for doing that," Newman said, noting that managers throughout government want to recruit and retain qualified people because a wave of pending retirements is expected to thin the ranks. "This truly opened the doors," she said, "only 20 people are active CGFMs in Maine now, so this was a great opportunity for people who would not have done it otherwise."

Karass has encouraged all 34 state employees who took Courses 1 and 3 last month to go forward and take the examinations and become CGFMs. Eight people from the controller's office attended the courses. Another chapter member offered to organize a study group to help them prepare. Course 2 will be offered in May.

Jody Breton, CGFM, an AGA Immediate Past Regional Vice President for the New England region, and Dave Lachance, CGFM, outgoing chapter president, were also instrumental in bringing the courses to Augusta, Newman said.

Newman admits that the idea of bringing the courses to Maine, which has a small chapter of about 140 members, was somewhat daunting at first, but getting help from other chapters, not to mention the support and encouragement of the state controller, made all the difference. "If anyone had said to me, this could be done, I wouldn't have believed it," she said.

- by Christina Camara