

President's Message

By Tonya Davis

It's a New Year. Time to start with a clean slate. Think of this as a new beginning.



What will you do?

I want to thank everyone for participating in the Angel Tree community service project. We had someone donate a wish for each child. You have helped make the world a better place for that particular child. Thanks again.

We have several things coming in the next few months that will require membership participation. We will be helping Public Television with their fundraising phone-a-thon in the next few months. And as always, I will be keeping you informed of any public service activities where we can assist the Boy Scouts of America.

You can make a difference in the Association. If you have a suggestion, please bring it to the attention of the board. Be willing to assist the Association in anyway possible. Have you thought about being on the board for next year or maybe serving on a committee?

I can't wait to see what this year brings.

Until next time....

Tonya

February Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, February 10, 2004
11:30 AM**

Mark Paganelli
My Summer Vacation

Copper Cellar
1807 Cumberland Avenue
(865) 673-3411

Menu
Choice of:

Salad and Baked Potato

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Grilled Chopped Sirloin

**Cost \$7.00 per member or \$5.00 plus
4 cans of food**

Please contact Sherry Sheffey at (865) 273-5723 or ssheffey@blounttn.org with your reservation and menu choice by February 6, 2004.

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AGA National News

Announcing AGA's 2003-2004 Membership Campaign: Back to Basics, Back to Benefits

The AGA leader from the above list who recruits the most new members during the membership year (May 1, 2003 - April 30, 2004) receives airfare and hotel accommodations to the PDC 04 in Washington, D.C.

AGA Announces National Leadership Awards

These awards will be presented at the annual National Leadership Conference on February 19-20, 2004, in Washington, D.C. These awards recognize outstanding financial leaders in the federal government. See <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/downloads/awardcitations2003.pdf> for more information on this offer.

Annual Report Now Available

The 2002-2003 Annual Report is now available online. Please go to www.agacgfm.org and follow the links to view the report online.

National Leadership Conference Update

Early registration rates have been extended through February 9th. By register early you can save \$100. Save an additional \$25 by registering online using a credit card. The hosting hotel, Marriott Metro Center Hotel, is sold out. Overflow reservations are being accepted at the Courtyard Washington Convention Center. Go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc/> for more information in the NLC in Washington, D.C.

February Issues of the TOPICS and CGFM TOPICS are now available

You can access the TOPICS Newsletter at www.agacgfm.org/publications/topics/tpoics_index.aspx and the CGFM TOPICS Newsletter at www.agacgfm.org/publications/cgfm/cgfm_issues.aspx.

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 point-wise in chapter recognition program.

2003-2004 National Events Calendar

February 19 – 20, 2004	National Leadership Conference	Washington, D.C.
February 19 – 20, 2004	Awareness of Fraud, Waste and Abuse	San Francisco, CA
March 9, 2004	JFMIP 33 rd Annual Conference	Washington, D.C.
March 9 – 11, 2004	Workshop in Cost Accounting for IT Projects	Ottawa, Canada
March 18, 2004	OMB Circular A 87	Rancho Cordova, CA
March 18 – 20, 2004	NASC Annual Conference	Indianapolis, IN
March 23 – 24, 2004	Mid Missouri Regional PDC	Missouri

For more information on these national events, go to [AGA National Events Calendar](#).

Chapter News

The PBS Telethon is coming in March. Stay tuned for more information and how to get involved.

Mike Blair reports that our chapter checking account balance is \$4,815.97 as of December 31, 2003.

Member and officer newsletter submissions for the March newsletter are due **February 25th**.

Congratulations! We have already met our chapter recognition points goal of 10,000 points!

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

Remember to bring in 4 cans of food and get your lunch at the February meeting for \$5!

2003-2004 Chapter Events Calendar

(tentative)

Meetings

February 10th	11:30 am	Copper Cellar	Mark Paganelli
March 9 th	11:30 am	Naples	Missy Cain
April 13th	8-5 pm	Rothchild's	TBA
May 11 th	11:30 am	UT Facility Club	Awards Ceremony

Service Projects*

February	Food Drive
March	Public TV Telethon
April	VITA
May	

* We will be doing service projects with the Ronald McDonald house at various times throughout the year.

If you have a service project that you would like our chapter to participate in, let us know. We would love to try new ways to get involved in the community!

"The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon! "

William Wordsworth, The World is Too Much With Us

Are you considered the go-to-guy or gal on a particular topic or area? If so, then why not submit an article to the newsletter and share your knowledge with the chapter? It is a great way to contribute to the chapter and we earn points toward our 10,000 point chapter goal. Please send submissions to alwilliams@tva.gov.

Points Update

Through 11/4/2003

Leadership	3375
Education	1550
Certification	2000
Communication	2925
Membership	200
Community Service	350
Awards	<u>700</u>
Total Points YTD	11,100

Chapter Goal = 10,000

January Speaker Bio

Jane Lethco

Jane Lethco is a Sevier County native and graduate of East Tennessee State University. She began her career with the IRS in 1988. She has worked in both Exam & Collection as a Tax Auditor, Revenue Officer, Special Procedures Advisor/Reviewer, and is currently an Offer in Compromise Specialist. She began her career in Chattanooga and has also worked for the IRS offices in Nashville and Memphis. She has been assigned to the Knoxville office for approximately three years. Jane has worked on a couple of National Office projects, the most recent of which was the Centralized Offer in Compromise startup in Memphis where she was responsible for training employees for almost a year. She is a member of the local media and speaker's cadres.

December Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Audrey Atkins

The fourth chapter meeting of the year was held on December 9, 2003 at Riverside Tavern. The Angel Tree gifts were turned in at the meeting. All fifty tags were taken care of this year! Tonya opened with a couple of announcements regarding newsletter submissions and guests. Guests at the meeting were then introduced. Instead of a speaker, Christmas music was lunchtime entertainment. Aldena's husband, Terry Phillips, played the guitar along with Evan Carawan, who played a hammer dulcimer.

An executive board meeting followed the luncheon. Amy is going to work on getting more information on the speaker's topic in March. CPE broadcasts were discussed at \$250 a phone line but the board voted against doing it. The location of the February meeting is going to be changed but nothing is confirmed yet. The spring seminar was briefly discussed and planning will start in January. The last item talked about was the rest of the public service events for the year. The Chocolate Fest is in January and the Public TV Telethon is in March. We have not set a February project yet but ideas were tossed around. The January meeting will be at Calhoun's.

January Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Audrey Atkins

The chapter held its fifth meeting of the year January 13, 2004 at Calhoun's on the River. Tonya opened with brief comments. The locations of the February and March meetings have changed. The changes can be found in the newsletter. Speaking of newsletters, Andrea is going to send out a combined January/February newsletter. Our next public service event is the PBS public telethon in March. Tonya also encouraged everyone to participate in the Boy Scout food drive at the end of January. The scouts leave bags on doorsteps for people to fill. Our group is not participating in the Chocolate Fest in January.

The speaker for the meeting was Jane Lethco of the Internal Revenue Service. She works in the collections department in the Knoxville office. Her primary duties are working with people who owe an extremely large amount of money and see what they can settle for. Ms. Lethco spoke about the upcoming tax changes for 2003. She first mentioned their new website, 1040 Central, and that most everything can be found there. She also encouraged free filing and told the group how it works. Other significant changes she spoke about were the removal of the "marriage penalty", child tax credit increase, and the change in tax rates.

An executive board meeting was held after the luncheon. The board discussed speakers for the April seminar and then planned the service projects for the rest of the year. February will be a food drive. If a member brings at least 4 canned goods to the meeting, they will get lunch for \$5 that day. March is the PBS Telethon. Sherry is working on details for that. A group will get together in April and go help clean the Ronald McDonald House for a day possibly with the help of Boy Scouts.

Punxsutawney Phil, the legendary ground hog, has seen his shadow, so be on the lookout for six more weeks of winter weather! The groundhog has reportedly seen his shadow 104 times since the tradition began. Groundhog Day is based on a German superstition.

Member News

Congratulations to Pamela Gail Cook who has received her CGFM designation!

Community Service Updates

Angel Tree: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree project. Our chapter provided gifts for all 50 children that we had tags for!

Food Drive: Bring 4 cans of food to the February meeting and receive a \$2 discount on lunch. The canned goods will benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank.

PBS Telethon: The telethon is scheduled for March. Our chapter will be manning the phones to take pledges from callers. We will get the date out to you and the programming schedule as soon as possible.

Ronald McDonald House: Get ready for a little spring cleaning! Our chapter will be helping the Ronald McDonald house clean up the yard and do some light maintenance. More information will be coming soon!

AGA Audio Conference

AGA, in conjunction with NASACT and NALGA, will hold the second audio conference of the year on GASB Service Efforts and Accomplishment Overview on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2004, from 2 - 3:50pm EST. After years of research, the GASB has issued a special report identifying 16 suggested criteria and 11 best practices to help governmental organizations effectively communicate performance information. This audio conference will present these criteria with a discussion of how they might be applied and examples of how they are being used in performance reporting. Visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/education/educationdefault.aspx>.

February Speaker Bio

Mark Paganelli

Mark Paganelli has a BA in Accounting from the University of North Alabama and an MBA in Finance from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, and a Certified Government Financial Manager (inactive). He has worked for the University of Tennessee's Department of Audit and Consulting Services for the last twelve years and is currently the Executive Director. Prior to that, he supervised the investigative section for the Division of State Audit. He was also a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He lives in Maryville with his wife and two children.

Mark's topic will be his summer vacation this past year (a.k.a. handling the Schumaker case at UT). Here is what he had to say about his topic:

Last summer was the most fun that I have had since I spent the summer at Paris Island in Marine Corps boot camp. My vacation started in June last year in Memphis and lasted several months. It was quite an adventure and I am still not sure if it is over. I can't wait to share this with my friends at AGA. In fact, I have created a slide for almost everyday. How exciting is that!!! If you think you can stand it, see you at Copper Cellar in a few days.

Election Contribution Information

Submitted by Andrea Williams

With the 2004 election year already in full campaign mode, here is some information about the federal contribution limits:

- \$2000 per person per election to a federal candidate (\$4000 per couple)
- \$5000 per calendar year to a PAC
- \$10000 per calendar year to a state or local party committee
- \$25000 per calendar year to a national party committee
- \$95000 total biennial limit (most in can contribute to all of the above in two years)

A Chapter Sponsored CGFM Study Group

Submitted by Mindy Stooksbury

Preparing to take the CGFM examinations can be a little intimidating. Have I studied the right material? Have I studied enough? Sometimes it can be helpful to share this experience with others. Chapters can sponsor study groups to lessen the apprehension of the future CGFMs.

All it takes is a person willing to be a facilitator. It is necessary for someone to be the point person and take the lead in scheduling a meeting place and time. The study group can be created in several ways:

*A group can meet regularly for several weeks and have outside leaders or different individuals within the group assigned to lead the discussion over the main points in the technical requirements (found on the CGFM section of AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/) for one or more of the examinations.

*Individuals can purchase the self-study guide for examination 2 (www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/studyguide.aspx) and then meet together to go over the sections of the book. A self-study guide will soon be published for examination 3. Self-study guides are \$85 each; there are discounts for multiple book purchases - please contact the AGA national office for more information.

*Individuals can purchase Course 1 presented on the internet (please go to www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/onlinecourses.aspx). Participants could review the material presented in the online course for each of the main points in the technical requirements for examination 1 and then convene to discuss any issues. The cost of the online course is \$195 per individual.

The chosen method must fit the needs of the individuals and the resources of the chapter. While this discussion has been about preparing for the examinations, the study groups for the books, internet course, and classroom courses also provide valuable CPE for the participants. Putting together study groups does take some time and

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effort by the chapter, but the chapter provides an extraordinary service to members and the government financial management community.

If you are interested in starting a study group, please contact Mindy Stooksbury and she will help arrange.

Call for National Awards Nominations

AGA's National Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for our 10 National Awards that recognize the leaders advancing our profession and setting the standards of excellence:

- Robert W. King Memorial Award
- Einhorn-Gary Award
- Frank Greathouse Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Educator Award
- Cornelius E. Tierney/Ernst & Young Research Award
- Special Achievement Award
- Chapter Service Award
- Chapter Education Award
- Community Service Award

These awards will be presented during AGA's Professional Development Conference and Exposition in Washington, DC June 27 – June 30, 2004.

In many cases, individuals do not have to be members of AGA to be eligible. All nominations are due Friday, March 5, 2004.

Visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/membership/awards/> for all nomination forms and more information or contact Sebrina Bridgers at sbridgers@agacgfm.org or 800.242.7211 x 131 for a Microsoft Word version of the forms.

“To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world.”

Unknown

A Little Humor

Quotations from Saturday Night Live's *Deep Thoughts* by Jack Handy

"I hope if dogs ever take over the world and they choose a king, they don't just go by size, because I bet there are some Chihuahuas with some good ideas."

"It's easy to sit there and say you'd like to have more money. And I guess that's what I like about it. It's easy. Just sitting there, rocking back and forth, wanting that money."

"Most of the time it was probably real bad being stuck down in a dungeon. But some days, when there was a bad storm outside, you'd look out your little window and think, 'Boy, I'm glad I'm not out in that.'"

"When you go in for a job interview, I think a good thing to ask is if they ever press charges."

"I wish outer space guys would conquer the Earth and make people their pets, because I'd like to have one of those little beds with my name on it."

"I hope that after I die, people will say of me: 'That guy sure owed me a lot of money.'"

"If you're a cowboy and you're dragging a guy behind your horse, I bet it would really make you mad if you looked back and the guy was reading a magazine."

"I can picture in my mind a world without war, a world without hate. And I can picture us attacking that world, because they'd never expect it."

"Consider the daffodil. And while you're doing that, I'll be over here, looking through your stuff."

"Anytime I see something screech across a room and latch onto someone's neck, and the guy screams and tries to get it off, I have to laugh, because what is that thing."

"When you die, if you get a choice between going to regular heaven or pie heaven, choose pie heaven. It might be a trick, but if it's not, mmmmmmm, boy."

2003-2004 Chapter Leadership

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