

President's Message

By Dana Lamson

I hope this finds everyone having had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year with family and friends. It's a very busy time of year but a most rewarding time of year also.

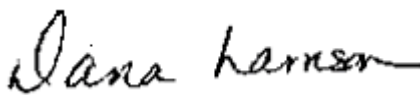
Decembers meeting was held at the Downtown Grill with Betsy Foxx, Human Resource Director for Blount County Government, speaking about "12 Ways to Stress Free Holidays". She led us in Christmas trivia games and then some stress test for ourselves. It was a very good holiday lunch meeting.

This month's meeting will be held at Riverside Tavern with our own Tonya Davis speaking. I'm sure this will be a very informative presentation about the IRS.

Our fund raising/service project event for January is the Love Kitchen. You will receive more information on this later. We will also hold a food drive this month. You can pay less for your lunch this month by bringing 2 cans of food.

Don't forget to register for our Professional Development Conference in March at Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg. You will be receiving the conference brochure by email within the next few weeks.

Please let me know of any ideas or comments you may have.



Dana Lamson
President

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January Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2005
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Tonya Davis

Presentation Topic: Forensic
Accounting

Agenda

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

Riverside Tavern

950 Volunteer Landing
(865) 637-0303

Menu Choices

- ½ Club Sandwich w/cup of corn chowder
- Downtown Salad w/grilled chicken
- Pork Tenderloin Sandwich w/new potatoes

Each menu choice includes foccacia bread,
beverage and chocolate marble cheesecake for
dessert.

**Cost \$7.00 per member or \$5.00 plus 2
cans of food**

Please contact Barry Justice at bljustice@tva.gov
by 4:00PM by January 6th with your reservation
and menu choice.

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AGA National News

At the annual meeting of the NBD in June 2004 there was a discussion about the association changing its name. As a result of this discussion the NBD passed a motion that asked the National President to appoint a Focus Group that would be charged with research and evaluation of a name change and bring a recommendation to the NEC. To see the full report, visit http://www.agacgfm.org/about/name_memo.aspx.

Did you know that you could earn CPE credits by taking *Journal CPE* Quizzes online? At AGA's *Journal CPE Online*, they offer an interactive CPE program for government financial management professionals on the move. By reading an issue of *The Journal of Government Financial Management*, and taking the relevant quiz, you can earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits.

AGA's National Nominating Committee Selects New Slate of National Officers To Take Effect on 07/01/05 - see related story at <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/governance/default.aspx>.

Issues of the TOPICS and CGFM TOPICS are now available - You can access the TOPICS Newsletter at www.agacgfm.org/publications/topics/topics_index.aspx and the CGFM TOPICS Newsletter at www.agacgfm.org/publications/cgfm/cgfm_issues.aspx.

Not sure about your Membership Perks? Visit www.agacgfm.org/store/affiliates.aspx to find out how you can receive discounts on insurance and other benefits.

CGFM Exam 3 Study Guide Now Available! Be sure to order the new Study Guide for CGFM Exam 3 - "Governmental Financial Management and Control" to help in your preparation for the examination



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.

A Primer on Internal Controls and Auditing: Crucial to Government and the Economy **By: Wanda A. Wallace, Ph.D., CPA, CMA, CIA**

Internal control has never been optional, and now an easy-to-read resource directed to a wide audience is available to understand both what is meant by "internal control" and how an "audit" is conducted. Order onsite at AGA's website.

2004-2005 National Events Calendar

January 12-14, 2005	Cost Management in Government	Dallas, TX
January 12, 2005	GASB Statement No. 40	Audio
February 7-8, 2005	National Leadership Conference	Washington, DC
	Theme: Improving Government Performance: Financial Managers Take Center Stage	
March 3, 2005	Key Reasons Why the Breakdown of Internal Controls Contributes to Fraud	Audio
July 10-13, 2005	National PDC and Exposition	Orlando, FL

For more information on these national events, go to the AGA calendar at www.agacgfm.org/events.

Chapter News

Remember to bring 2 cans of food and get your lunch at the January meeting for only \$5! The canned goods will benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Are you interested in assisting the East Tennessee Chapter? Would you like to be an officer? If so, please let any member of the Board of Directors know of your interest. To have a successful chapter, participation and commitment are imperative. The more help we have, the more successful we can be!

Mike Blair reports that our chapter checking account balance is \$5,154.88 as of November 30, 2004.

Member and officer newsletter submissions for the February newsletter are due January 24th.

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

2004-2005 Chapter Events Calendar

(Tentative)

Meetings

January 11	11:30 am	Riverside Tavern	Tonya Davis
February 8	11:30 am	Patrick Sullivan's	TEMA
March 2-4	8-5 pm	Park Vista - Gatlinburg	PDC*
April 5	11:30 am	Tennessee Grill	Matt Murray
May 10	11:30 am	UT Faculty Club	Awards Ceremony

*Southeastern Region PDC – To be discussed throughout year

Service Projects**

January	Love Kitchen
February	Bowl for Kids Sake
March	Public TV Telethon
April	Beta Alpha Psi

**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!

Congratulations to our chapter! We have met and exceeded our Chapter Goal for Points!

Looking for a new job? AGA provides job listings for the accounting professional. Visit <http://aga.careerbank.com>

Do you need more CPE hours? There is a variety of downloadable CPE courses offered on the AGA website at www.agacgfm.org/education/onlinecpe.aspx

Points Update

Through 12/31/04

Leadership	3075
Education	1675
Certification	1075
Communication	3255
Membership	675
Community Service	1425
Awards	200
Total Points YTD	11,380

Chapter Goal = 10,000

January Speaker Biography

Tonya Davis, IRS

Tonya Davis currently works for the Internal Revenue Service. She is the Immediate Past President for our AGA Chapter and is active with the Boy Scouts of America. She will be speaking to us about Forensic Accounting and brings many years of experience with her.

Southeast Region Professional Development Conference

Date: March 2 – 4, 2005
Location: Park Vista, Gatlinburg
Theme: Promoting Peak Performance

You should receive registration materials in the next week. Early registration ends on January 31st. The cost is \$295 before 01/31/05 and \$325 after.

Speakers include Bobby Derrick from the AGA National Office, Sandra Sanders with the U.S. Department of Labor, Ron Woody with CTAS, and Will Bartholomew, a previous UT football player who has founded his own companies.

Wednesday March 2, 2005

10:00am - 1:00pm	Registration
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Opening Ceremony
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Bobby Derrick
3:20pm - 5:00pm	Frank Crawford
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Hospitality Suite
6:00pm - 10:00pm	Dinner at the Aquarium

Thursday March 3, 2005

7:00am - 7:50am	Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 9:30am	Bobby Derrick
9:50am - 11:30am	Bob Lash
11:30am - 12:30pm	Lunch: Storytelling
12:45pm - 2:30pm	Frank Crawford
2:50pm - 5:00pm	Ron Woody
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Hospitality Suite Dinner on your own

Friday March 4, 2005

7:00am - 7:50am	Continental Breakfast
8:00am - 9:30am	Sandra Sanders
9:50am - 11:45am	Will Bartholomew
11:45am - 12:00pm	Friends of the Smokies Raffle Drawing & Closing

December Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Susan Gennoe

The fourth meeting of the 2004-05 AGA group was held on December 14, 2004 at Downtown Grill.

President Dana Lamson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She recognized four members as having 20 or greater years of service with our chapter: Mike Blair, Sylvia Whitehouse, Rudy McBee and Jennifer Hackett. She also noted that preparation for the March PDC meeting is well underway. Julie Talbott handed out tentative agendas/conference registration materials for the PDC. Ms. Lamson updated the group on the status of the Angel Tree items which had been delivered the previous week. All names had been bought for. She also noted that we had a good turnout for the fall seminar with 34 attendees.

Ms. Lamson then announced Betsy Foxx, Director of Human Resources for Blount County Government as the speaker. Ms. Foxx spoke on "12 Ways to Stress Free Holidays." She tested everyone on three stress gauges: Life Change Index, Lifestyle Survey, and Tolerance Survey, which was very helpful in identifying areas that can cause stress. She ended with 12 tips for stress-free holidays.

Meeting adjourned 1:00 pm.

Following the regular meeting, Dana opened the December Board Meeting and discussed the following:

- AGA Website: If we had a volunteer to help with the website, there would be no charge for maintaining; otherwise, we would need to pay (approx. \$100.) Board voted to pay.
- PDC: Work on this meeting is going well and registration materials are to be sent out at the end of this month. Next meeting of the PDC board is to the January 24th at RJ's on Alcoa Highway.
- January's community service project will be the Love Kitchen. We will take up canned goods, and Sherry Sheffey will be getting out the information on that.
- Tonya Davis (chapter member) will be our speaker next month.
- Sherry Sheffey will contact Matt Murray regarding speaking at the April meeting.
- Awards ceremony: Dana Lamson noted that massage therapists from Therapeutic Balance Bodywork Associates can do 5 minute massages while speaking at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned 1:10 pm.

What Do The CGFM Exams Cover?

Information from AGA Website

The three comprehensive examinations that make up the core requirement of the CGFM program are:

- [Examination 1: Governmental Environment](#)
- [Examination 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting](#)
- [Examination 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control](#)

Each of the three separate examinations is structured to require a candidate to demonstrate primarily a general familiarity, understanding and appreciation of the subject area. However, portions of each examination, particularly Examination 2, requires a more detailed knowledge of specific techniques, standards, procedures and practices unique to either the federal government or state and local governments.

The three CGFM Examinations are administered year-round in a multiple-choice, computerized format on behalf of AGA by NetCertification, Inc. via the Prometric Technology Centers. This computer-based administration allows the CGFM Examinations to be offered securely in more than 300 locations in the United States, reducing travel costs and allowing candidates to schedule exams at their convenience. Visit the AGA website for more information on the Examination Procedures, How to Prepare for the Exam and How to Purchase the Exams.

Exam 1 – Summary of Topics

- A) Organization and Structure of Government (10%)
- B) Legal and Other Environmental Aspects of Government (15%)
- C) Interrelationships Among Planning, Programming, Budgeting, Operations, Accounting, Reporting and Auditing (10%)
- D) Governmental Financing Process (25%)
- E) Public Accountability (10%)
- F) Ethics in Government (20%)
- G) Financial Management Responsibilities and Skills (10%)

For more information on Exam 1, go to http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/exams/cgfm_exam1.aspx. You can prepare for the Exam by taking an online course offered by AGA - The Governmental Environment Online Course (8 CPEs, \$195) or by purchasing the study guide or taking an instructor-led course.

2004-2005 Chapter Leadership

President

Dana Lamson
(865) 273-5717
dlamson@blounttn.org

President Elect

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Susan Gennoe, CPA
(865) 273-5718
sgennoe@blounttn.org

Newsletter Editor

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

Historian

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

Membership

Carol Malkemus
(865) 974-2493
cmalkemu@utk.edu

Diane Matthews, CGFM

(865) 450-5238
Diane.Matthews@state.tn.us

Education & CGFM

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

Awards

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

Program

Karen Phillips
(865) 974-6065
Karen.Phillips@state.tn.us

Public Service

Sherry Sheffey
(865) 273-5723
ssheffey@blounttn.org

Tom Collins, CGFM

tommy2collins@aol.com

Meetings

Barry Justice
(865)
bljustice@tva.gov

Webmaster

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

Immediate Past President

Tonya Davis, CPA
(865) 539-2874 X234
Tonya.davis@ci.irs.gov

Regional Vice President

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