

## President's Message

I truly hope everyone had a wonderful, joyous holiday season. It is hard to believe that Christmas is already over and 2006 has begun. If you missed our December meeting, you missed two very interesting speakers and a delicious holiday buffet. A representative from the Angel Tree organization shared the behind the scenes information of the organization from how children are selected for the program to delivering presents. Jim Arnette, our Regional Vice President, also spoke briefly on the direction of AGA at a National level and specific goals for our chapter.

January's meeting should be equally as interesting with John Werner speaking on budgets and strategy. This month we are also participating in a special service project, the Baby Bundles project through the Ladies of Charity. This service provides much needed clothing and care items to new mothers that cannot provide those items for their baby.

Have a wonderful day!

*Andrea Williams*  
**President**

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## January Meeting

**Tuesday, January 10, 2006**  
**11:30 AM**

**John Werner**  
Budget & Strategy

### 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

**Country Cousin's Buffet**  
Fried Chicken, Homemade Meatloaf  
Spinach Maria, Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Sautéed Mixed Vegetables  
Fresh Baked Bread  
Tea & Coffee

**Cost**  
**\$5.00 per Member**  
**\$10.00 Non-Members**

Please contact Cindy Hartsell at  
(865) 974-4300 or [chartse1@utk.edu](mailto:chartse1@utk.edu) with  
your reservation by January 6<sup>th</sup>.

- 4 December Meeting Minutes
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## AGA National News

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### Interested in the CGFM Certification?

Sign up for AGA's special Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM Examinations this February in Washington, D.C. Don't miss this opportunity to earn your CGFM! See [http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc\\_2006/cgfm\\_exam.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2006/cgfm_exam.htm) for more information.

**55<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference (PDC)** Join AGA members in sunny San Diego, California for AGA's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition– *the* government financial management education event of the year!

Keeping pace with change in government financial management has never been more challenging. Effective training is essential for accountability professionals facing an array of new regulations, accelerated deadlines and heightened expectations at every level of government. Register on-line now by visiting AGA's website <http://www.agacgfm.org>.

### AGA Chapter Educational Event Opportunity Has Been Extended Through 2006

A not-to-be-missed opportunity for the nation's top state and local government financial accounting and reporting experts to provide CPE at your AGA chapter at NO SPEAKER COST (only travel costs are to be paid by the chapter)! The AGA National Office is pleased to extend a special opportunity to AGA chapters. Through December 31, 2006, Jay Fountain, CGFM, former Assistant Director of Research, now retired and Wilson Campbell, CGFM, Project Director, SEA Program, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), are available as educational event and conference speakers. See the link below for more information. <http://www.agacgfm.org/education/chpedu.aspx>

Check out [www.agacgfm.org](http://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.

### AGA's FY04 Performance & Accountability Report

AGA's mission is to Advance Government Accountability and as such has taken on "walking the walk" by reporting it's own performance. AGA has learned a lot about its operations and how programs satisfy goals and overall mission by this process. As AGA continues to grow and institutionalize this information, managing for results, budgeting and personnel evaluations will be tied to performance measure information available throughout the year. See <http://www.agacgfm.org/downloads/PAR.pdf> and download a copy of the report.

## 2005-2006 National Events Calendar

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 <sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition	San Diego, CA

# Chapter News

📧 if anyone is interested in assisting Phyllis Palmer as Webmaster, contact Andrea Williams. 📧

📧 Member and officer newsletter submissions for the February Newsletter are due January 26<sup>th</sup>. 📧

\$\$\$ Mike Blair reports that our chapter checking account balance is \$11,664.89 as of November 30, 2005. \$\$\$

📧 Don't forget to visit our chapter website at [www.kornnet.org/etaga](http://www.kornnet.org/etaga) for all the latest news and information! 📧



## Points Update

Through December 5,  
2005

Leadership	3,200
Education	750
Certification	1,250
Communication	3,221
Membership	250
Community Service	450
Awards	200
Total Points YTD	9,321

**Chapter Goal = 10,000**

## 2005-2006 Chapter Events Calendar

### Meetings

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

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

### Public Service Project for January – Baby Bundles

The Baby Bundles project is done through the Ladies of Charity. This service provides much needed items to care for a newborn to mothers who cannot provide the items themselves. Needed items include diapers, bibs, bottles, pacifiers, layette, blankets, toys, etc. Please bring an item for a newborn baby to the January meeting.

### 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 [awilliams@tva.gov](mailto:awilliams@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>

## 💰 CONGRATULATIONS 💰

Congratulations to Dave Bennett, CGFM, and Immediate Past RVP for the Southeast region!! He will be serving as the National Treasurer for 2007-2008.

## February Meeting

Our February chapter meeting will be held at Calhoun's on the River on February 14th at 11:30 pm. The speaker has not yet been determined. Our public service project for the month of February will be the American Heart Association. Details will be published in the February newsletter.

# DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The East Tennessee Chapter held their regular monthly meeting on December 13, 2005 at Calhoun's on the River in Knoxville.

After a wonderful holiday lunch, chapter President Andrea Williams called the meeting to order and announced our first speaker. Ms. Carolyn White with Angel Tree explained the process of how Angel Tree works. After Ms. White spoke, Andrea introduced our next speaker. Mr. Jim Arnette, active member of the Nashville chapter of AGA, Assistant Director of County Audit and currently serving as Regional Vice President of the Southeast Region for AGA. Jim spoke to us regarding recruiting/membership, certification and leadership through AGA.

Jim announced the dates for the upcoming Regional PDC (March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>) in Nashville and the National PDC will be held in May 2006 in San Diego.

Andrea then announced congratulation were in order to Dave Bennett he has been named National Treasurer for AGA. Congratulations Dave!

Andrea adjourned the regular meeting and called a short board meeting to order. We briefly discussed obtaining Cynthia Cooper for our Spring Seminar coming up in April. Andrea said she is still working on obtaining more information as to the cost. Meeting adjourned.

*Julie Talbott*  
Secretary

## January Speaker - John Werner

### 2005-2006 Chapter Leadership

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OPEN

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### CGFM: Multiple Benefits for Multiple Clients

Why become a Certified Government Financial Manager if you don't work for government? The benefits of earning the CGFM for government finance professionals are well known, but two members of AGA's Corporate Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) recently talked about how the CGFM helps their private sector organizations and the clients they serve.

AGA's CPAG Program, which boasts more than 50 corporate partners, brings together executives from industry and government to exchange problems and solutions, build trust and work together to make government more accountable. One message government executives are hearing is that AGA's CGFM credential is not only a valuable addition to the resumes of government employees, but it also helps professionals at private firms demonstrate their expertise to work on government finance projects. Consider these comments.

Michael T. Smokovich, CGFM, Senior Vice President, Delta Solutions - Having once served as the chief financial officer of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and as a deputy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Smokovich knows what it takes to successfully bring a new financial management solution to a federal agency.

One of the reasons failures occur, Smokovich said, is because the people who are working on the systems "don't understand the playing field they're working in." "What happens with the CGFM is there's a whole lexicon of terminology and understanding that goes with the federal environment in particular, but also with state and local governments." He recalled talking with vendors working on an IRS systems project who had no understanding of budgetary accounting. "How are they ever going to succeed if they fail to understand what it takes to solve the problem?"

"If you go through the process of understanding all the principles, standards, rules and conventions that are made known to people in the certification process, you have a better way of understanding what your clients are saying about their particular financial management problem," he said.

Having CGFMs on the project team is a good marketing tool for the firm and it gives the government clients the confidence that the contractors are speaking the same language. Smokovich said federal agencies or private firms that contract with government should "buy into" the CGFM. "If you have young people coming into the federal environment or the corporate environment to work with government, it's a good investment."

Ron Smith, CGFM, Vice President of Enterprise Financial Services, Systalex - Smith said government agencies are starting to request CGFMs on project teams contracted to install new financial systems. It is becoming more and more important for the contractors to receive the same training as the financial managers themselves, he said.

"We're moving into an era of what I'll call a 'blended work force,' with the financial functions that were formerly performed by government employees now being done by contractors," said Smith, who has also worked for the federal government before moving to the private sector.

Smith, who has been in the federal financial management consulting business for 30 years, said he is constantly on the lookout for talented systems accountants who are knowledgeable about the federal environment, but it's difficult to find people with a good grasp of federal rules and regulations. The CGFM, he said, is "an indication of a skill set that a person has. It's another measure of their potential value to a project."

To become a CGFM, candidates must have the appropriate education and professional experience and pass three rigorous examinations that cover a broad range of issues in federal, state and local government financial management. For more information about AGA's CGFM Program, go to <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/cgfmdefault.aspx>. Detailed information about AGA's Corporate Partner Program can be found at <http://rmtrgweb.caci.com/aga/docs/index.cfm>.

Christina M. Camara