

## 💡 President's Message 💡

Happy New Year to you and your families! I hope that everyone had a wonderful and restful holiday. If you are like me, you're still trying to get back into the swing of a normal schedule!

I hope that everyone enjoyed the December meeting with Betsy Cunningham. I know she did a tremendous job with her presentation. For our January meeting, Mark Paganelli will be speaking to us at Copper Cellar. Please join us for a great meeting!

Throughout the year, it is imperative for us to try to grow our membership base. I encourage each of you to bring someone from your office to one of our meetings. We would love to have them join us and hopefully provide them plenty of reasons to join our chapter. Thank you for participating in the East Tennessee Chapter of AGA! I look forward to seeing each of you at next week.

*Mindy Stooksbury*  
*President*

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## January Meeting

**Tuesday, January 9, 2007**  
**11:30 AM**



**Mark Paganelli**



### **Agenda**

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

### **Copper Cellar**

1807 Cumberland Avenue  
(865) 673-3411

### **Menu Choices**

We will be able to order items off the menu for the January meeting

### **Cost**

**\$10.00 per person**

Please contact Cindy Hartsell at (865) 974-4300 or [chartse1@tennessee.edu](mailto:chartse1@tennessee.edu) with your reservation by January 4<sup>th</sup>.

## AGA National News

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### National Leadership Conference Brochure Now Available

The Registration Brochure for AGA's 2007 National Leadership Conference is now available online. The brochure includes a list of the featured speakers, education sessions and events. You can also get information about registration, hotel accommodations, travel discounts and more! See [http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc\\_2007/downloads/NLC07RegistrationBrochure.pdf](http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2007/downloads/NLC07RegistrationBrochure.pdf) for the brochure.

### AGA Nominating Committee Chooses New Officers

AGA's National Nominating Committee has chosen its slate of National Officers to take office July 1, 2007 and is pleased to announce its candidates. **Samuel T. Mok, CGFM, CIA**, a member of AGA's Washington, D.C. Chapter and chief financial officer, U.S. Department of Labor, leads the slate as National President-Elect Designate. **Thad Juszczak**, also a member of the Washington, D.C. Chapter and a senior manager at Grant Thornton LLP, was chosen as National Treasurer-Elect Designate. To view the entire list of national officer candidates, visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/governance/>.

### Become a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)

Sign up for AGA's special *Intensive Review Course* and take the CGFM Examinations before the National Leadership Conference this February in Washington, D.C. The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, and Friday, February 9, 2007. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on February 10 and 11, 2007.

The cost of the course is only \$249 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. **Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees.**

Visit [http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc\\_2007/cgfm\\_exam.htm](http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2007/cgfm_exam.htm) for more information.

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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.

## 2006-2007 National Events Calendar

January 31, 2007  
February 12, 2007  
June 24, 2007

Managing Internal Control with Compliance Technologies  
National Leadership Conference  
Professional Development Conference

Audio Conference  
Washington, DC  
Nashville, TN

## Chapter News

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

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

💻 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! 💻

## 2006-2007 Chapter Events Calendar

### Meetings

|             |          |               |  |
|-------------|----------|---------------|--|
| January 9   | 11:30 am | Copper Cellar | Privacy Issues                         |
| February 13 | 11:30 am | Copper Cellar | Costs of Healthcare                    |
| March 13    | 11:30 am | Calhoun's     | Knox County/Blount County              |
| April 12    | 8:30 am  | TBD           | Leadership, Generational Differences** |
| May 8       | 11:30 am | TBD           | Wellness & Awards Celebration          |

### Service Projects

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| January  | Make-a-Wish Foundation      |
| February | Haven House                 |
| March    | Public Television Telethon  |
| April    | Pet Food Drive**            |
| May      | Toiletries - Various Groups |

\*\* Spring Seminar

## Points Update

**Through October 31, 2006**

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Leadership        | 3,350 |
| Education         | 550   |
| Certification     | 530   |
| Communication     | 2,860 |
| Membership        | 225   |
| Community Service | 200   |
| Awards            | 0     |

**Total Points YTD 7,715**

**Chapter Goal = 10,000**

## Public Service Project for January – Make-A-Wish Foundation

For over 25 years now, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted the heartfelt wishes of courageous children with life-threatening medical conditions. In the process, they've helped restore optimism, laughter, and happiness to their lives and families.

Your \$10 for this month's lunch meeting will be donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Please make every effort to come and support this worthy charity.

## NOVEMBER FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Treasurer Mike Blair reported the bank balance as of November 30<sup>th</sup> as \$11,897.71.

# Speaker Bio

**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, and a Certified Internal Auditor. He has worked for the University of Tennessee's Department of Audit and Consulting Services for the last fourteen 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.

## DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

President-elect Julie Talbott opened the December 12, 2006 meeting at Naples Restaurant. Julie informed us that Amy Paganelli's husband Mark has agreed to be the speaker at our January meeting which will be held at the Copper Cellar Restaurant. She reminded everyone of the service project for January – Make a Wish Foundation. It was decided that half of the meal proceeds from the January meeting would be donated to the foundation. Dana West thanked everyone for participating in the December service project – Angel Tree. All the names were given out at the Fall Seminar in November. She also informed us that she had delivered the toiletry items collected to the Children's Advocacy Center in Blount County.

Julie introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Betsy Cunningham; Director of Human Resources for Blount County Government. Ms. Cunningham gave a very informative presentation on motivation. The group participated in several discussions on what motivates employees and people in general. It was quickly discovered that money is not at the top of most lists. Ms. Cunningham noted the difference in motivators. The group also participated in an exercise of ranking what motivates the individuals we supervise.

The Executive Board did not meet.

*Gail D. Cook, Secretary*

# CGFM Information

## **CGFM Profile: Second Career Prompts Dave Swindell to Find 'Right' Certification**

Like many career military officers, Dave Swindell needed to make a big transition after his retirement. Unlike many of his peers, he did not shift to consulting work, contracting for the Department of Defense or maintaining close ties to his Army past.

He made a big break, moving to an area with no military presence and taking on something completely new: a job in local government.

"When you change careers, everything's open. I considered the private sector, but in the end I was fairly pleased with the ethics and purpose of government. I don't know if I could work that hard to make someone else money."

Swindell ended his 22-year military career, and moved from Oklahoma to Pocatello, Idaho, where he has served as the city's chief financial officer for the past five years. One of his first priorities was to become certified, and the CGFM turned out to be the broad-based governmental accounting certification that he was looking for.

"I was influenced by others who were active in AGA," Swindell said. "Pocatello is home to Idaho State University and Kitty Pumphrey. Kitty is the Professor of Governmental Accounting and an active AGA pusher - and on my selection committee, I later found out. She got me thinking about the CGFM."

Swindell said that as a federal employee, he became well schooled in financial and policy analysis. He also earned a master's degree in public administration along the way. In the Army, his focus was on setting budget priorities, not the specifics of governmental accounting.

By contrast, one of Swindell's first hires - CPA Joyce Stroschein - was stronger in accounting techniques and not as experienced in financial analysis. He purchased the self-study guides and got to work. After he passed the first exam, Stroschein also started studying, and ended up earning her certification before her boss did.

"We really studied on our own, but we encouraged each other. I couldn't help but finish," he said. "There was a little honor involved." In addition to her CGFM, Stroschein received a promotion from senior accountant to controller. "She also found the program to be a good refresher of just how everything is connected between accounting, management, leadership and accountability to the public," Swindell said.

Earning the CGFM from Pocatello was somewhat complicated. To take the exams, Swindell traveled to Ogden (130 miles), Salt Lake City (177 miles) and Boise (240 miles), with his wife in the passenger seat quizzing him on the way to the testing centers. Being an AGA member isn't simple either, as the Idaho Centennial Chapter meets in Boise, on the other end of the state. Swindell and Stroschein attend AGA's regional conferences and as many chapter functions as time and distance allow.

Taking a job in local government has been a great experience and a huge growth opportunity, Swindell said. Since entering West Point at age 18, his life had been wrapped up in the Army, a life he understood and knew well. He was comfortable walking the halls of Congress or the Pentagon, but nowhere is the role of government in people's lives more obvious than in City Hall. Approving a setback for a garage may sound mundane, but it's pretty important to the resident involved. At the federal level, the direct impact of what you do can be somewhat lost, he said. "Everything a city does is generally important," he said. "I found the right niche for me."

The values he learned through his military education-becoming a well-rounded person with awareness of many disciplines-applied to the CGFM. As a big believer in what he calls a "core education," the CGFM fit into his desire to understand the big picture. Studying for the CGFM Exams gave Swindell a stronger knowledge of the theoretical underpinnings of governmental accounting, describing the origin of certain rules and how they evolved to the point where they are today.

"I think the CGFM distinguishes you amongst your peers," he said. "I can testify to the value of it."

-by Christina Camara

## JOB ADVERTISEMENT

**IPS Specialist III/Research Specialist** - The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service has an opening for a Research Specialist in our Knoxville office. This position is responsible for the collection and analysis of financial and other related data utilizing city audits, budgets, financial statements and state legislation relating to local government issues. This position correlates financial and other related data into standard annual or bi-annual reports. This position develops and maintains a utility rate database and a statewide financial database relating to local governments and development.

This position provides consultation to the Tennessee Municipal League legislative issues and actions especially in the areas of local funding/revenue generating and state-shared revenue. This position presents analyses to appropriate legislative committees and legislative study committees and state agencies regarding financial and economic trends affecting cities with possible recommendations for action.

This position requires a Master's Degree in Economics or Public Administration or related field. This position requires 5 years experience in government fiscal policy research position(s) at either the state or local governmental level.

Please send letter and resume to: Research Specialist Search; University of Tennessee, MTAS; 600 Henley Street, Suite 120; Knoxville, TN 37996-4105 or email to: [teresa.davis@tennessee.edu](mailto:teresa.davis@tennessee.edu). The position will be open until filled; however, for full consideration, applicants are encouraged to apply by January 15, 2007.

**The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.**

### East Tennessee AGA Chapter Officers 2006-2007

|   |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| President: Mindy Stooksbury               | <a href="mailto:mbstooks@ci.maryville.tn.us">mbstooks@ci.maryville.tn.us</a> | 982-7121 |
| President – Elect: Julie Talbott          | <a href="mailto:jtalbott@blounttn.org">jtalbott@blounttn.org</a>             | 273-5715 |
| Treasurer: Mike Blair                     | <a href="mailto:tmblair@tva.gov">tmblair@tva.gov</a>                         | 632-6056 |
| Secretary: Gail Cook                      | <a href="mailto:gcook@andersontn.org">gcook@andersontn.org</a>               | 457-6203 |
| Newsletter Editor: Amy Rush               | <a href="mailto:arrush@tva.gov">arrush@tva.gov</a>                           | 632-2281 |
| Historian: Amy Paganelli                  | <a href="mailto:Apaganel@mc.utmck.edu">Apaganel@mc.utmck.edu</a>             | 544-9564 |
| Membership: Tonya Davis                   | <a href="mailto:tonya.l.davis@irs.gov">tonya.l.davis@irs.gov</a>             | 545-4451 |
| Education & CGFM: Aldena Phillips         | <a href="mailto:Aldena@utk.edu">Aldena@utk.edu</a>                           | 974-2493 |
| Awards: Nancy Donahue                     | <a href="mailto:ndonahue@pstcc.edu">ndonahue@pstcc.edu</a>                   | 694-6541 |
| Programs: Kristi Reynolds                 | <a href="mailto:kureynolds@tva.gov">kureynolds@tva.gov</a>                   | 632-4021 |
| Public Service: Dana West                 | <a href="mailto:dwest@blounttn.org">dwest@blounttn.org</a>                   | 273-5717 |
| Meetings: Cindy Hartsell                  | <a href="mailto:chartse1@tennessee.edu">chartse1@tennessee.edu</a>           | 974-4300 |
| Webmaster: Kyle Cox                       | <a href="mailto:kbc Cox@tva.gov">kbc Cox@tva.gov</a>                         | 632-4043 |
| Immediate Past President: Andrea Williams | <a href="mailto:alwilliams@tva.gov">alwilliams@tva.gov</a>                   | 632-2612 |
| National Treasurer-Elect: Dave Bennett    | <a href="mailto:dbennett@blounttn.org">dbennett@blounttn.org</a>             | 273-5719 |