

# East Tennessee Times

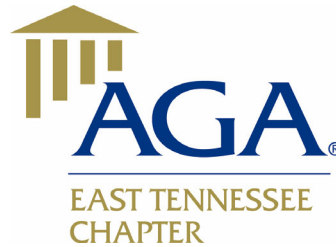
## President's Message—Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to each of you and your families!

With the start of a new year, we each look forward to making resolutions and starting new projects. For our chapter, I would like to challenge each of you to make a resolution—attend more meetings and bring guests! The heart of our chapter and every chapter in AGA is the members. We need your participation, support and your expertise in growing the East TN chapter!

Our January speaker will be Mr. Bob Griffiths, Chief of Staff for Congressman Jimmy Duncan, Jr. I'm sure he will have a great program for us!

I would also like to encourage you to support our service project this month—Smoky Mountain Animal Care Center. Animals are near and dear to my heart, so please bring a bag of dog or cat food. With a one bag donation, you can receive a meal voucher for the February meeting.



Please be on the lookout for information about the Southeastern Regional PDC in Chattanooga in March. It should be a great program!

*Mindy Stooksbury*  
Immediate Past President

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### Tuesday, January 8th

Calhoun's on the River  
400 Neyland Drive  
(865) 673-3399

11:30-12:10 Registration and Lunch

12:10-1:00 Presentation

Menu: BBQ Lunch Buffet

Cost \$ 10 per member

RSVP: Kristi Reynolds

kureynolds@tva.gov by  
01/07/2008

## January Meeting — Bob Griffiths

Our January meeting speaker will be Mr. Bob Griffiths, Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Jimmy Duncan, Jr.

Bob joined the staff in 1988 and is responsible for overall office functions, overseeing staff and budget, establishing office policies and procedures and frequently travels with Rep. Duncan to various functions. Bob has been instru-

mental in working with residents of Loudon, Blount and other Second Congressional District counties as they interface with federal governmental agencies.

Prior to joining Rep. Duncan's staff, Bob was a sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star. He is a member of American Le-

gion Post 2, New Providence Lodge No. 128 F&AM and Elks Lodge 160. He also owned Corporate Realty Company and held a Tennessee real estate broker and appraiser license before taking his current position.

He and his wife, Barbara, have a daughter, Dena, and two grandchildren, Grant and Ella.

## AGA National News...

**National Leadership Conference (NLC) Registration Brochure Is Now Available:** Take a look at this year's impressive line up of speakers and education sessions by downloading your copy of the brochure at [www.agacgfm.org/conferences/downloads/NLCRegBrochure.pdf](http://www.agacgfm.org/conferences/downloads/NLCRegBrochure.pdf). You can also get information about registration, hotel accommodations, travel discounts, and more! Earn 14 CPE hours at outstanding technical sessions, and take advantage of this opportunity to network, exchange ideas and meet new friends. Speakers include David Walker, CPA, Comptroller General of the U.S., and Christopher Cox, Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission.

**Now Accepting 2008 Scholarship Applications** —Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today! Each year, AGA National awards:  
 - Up to four \$3,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,  
 - One \$1,000 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,

-One \$3,000 community service scholarship.



Visit AGA's website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) for more information on news and events. You can also visit the Members Only section and update your personal information and renew your membership.

## 2007-2008 National Events Calendar

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| January:   | Conference in Washington, DC                     |
| 01/08-01/09 Nashville Winter Seminar                                     | March:   |
| 01/25 Early Registration for NLC Ends                                    | 03/05 Environmental Fraud-Audio Conf.            |
| February:  | 03/26 GASB Update-Audio Conference               |
| 02/04-02/05 Conducting Internal Investigations Seminar in Louisville, KY | May:   |
| 02/06 Internal Controls-Audio Conf.                                      | 05/14 The Anatomy of Ethical Slips in Government |
| 02/21-02/22 National Leadership  |  |

**Building on the Dream: Shaping a Culture of Accountability**  
 AGA's 2008 Professional Development Conference—Atlanta—July 27-30, 2008

**03/27-03/28 Southeastern Regional PDC in Chattanooga**

## Certified Government Financial Manager...

**Q: What is the cost of CGFM examinations and how do I purchase them?**

**A:** The cost is \$109 per examination. There are three examinations: Governmental Environment Examination; Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting Examination; and Governmental Financial Management and Control Examination.

You can purchase the examinations on the AGA website. Go to the "How to I Purchase the Exams?" section on the AGA website for more information.

**Q: Do I have to take all three examinations at the same time or in any particular order?**

**A:** No. You may take up to three years to complete all three examinations. Examinations can be taken in any order.

**Q: How long are the exams?**

**A:** Each examination has approximately 100 questions. You are given two-hours and fifteen minutes to compete each exam.

**Q: How often are the examinations offered?**

**A:** They are offered six days a week all year round. Some centers may even offer evening hours for testing. You will schedule your own examination testing appointment after purchasing the CGFM examinations on the website.



Need direct assistance?  
 Contact Katya Silver at [ksilver@agacgfm.org](mailto:ksilver@agacgfm.org).

Visit [www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/)

## Chapter Meeting Calendar

01/08/2008 Bob Griffiths, Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Jimmy Duncan, Jr. at Calhoun's on the River

02/12/2008 Bryan Burklin, Tennessee Comptroller's Office, at Calhoun's on the River

03/11/2008 Relmond Van Daniker, AGA National Executive Director, at Calhoun's on the River

04/08/2008 Spring Seminar with Evie Barry and others at Buddy's Banquet Hall

05/13/2008 Awards Ceremony and Final Meeting at Calhoun's on the River

Remember that all meetings start at 11:30am and end at 1:00pm. All meetings this year, except for the May Awards Ceremony, are offering at least 1 CPE for those needing continuing education. This is a great deal...lunch and 1 CPE for only \$ 10!

### Member News

**New Member:** Please help us welcome new member **Jennifer Torregiano** with TVA. Jennifer became a member in October.

Please congratulate the following members for their 20+ years of service to AGA:

### 20+ Year Members:

Mike Blair, 1984

Sybil Brown, CGFM, 1988

Tom Collins, CGFM, 1986

Jennifer Hackett, 1979

Aldena Phillips, CGFM, 1983

Gary Simcox, CGFM, 1982

Betty Spence, CGFM, 1986

Rick Taylor, 1987

Suzanne Walker, CGFM, 1986

Herbert Wright, CGFM, 1981

## Service Projects Calendar

The East TN Chapter prides itself on our commitment to local charities and we encourage each of you to join in the service projects held throughout the year. More information will be available at the monthly meetings on the specifics of each project.

January: Smoky Mountain Animal Care Center

February: American Heart Association

March: New Hope Children's Advocacy Center (toiletries)

April: East TN Children's Hospital Encology Clinic (hats, kids magazines and board games)

May: American Cancer Society

If you have questions about any of the charities or projects, contact Dana West at [dwest@blounttn.org](mailto:dwest@blounttn.org).

### Smoky Mountain Animal Care Center

The Center has been chosen as our service project for January and will benefit animals in the East TN area. **Bring a bag of dog or cat food to the meeting and receive a voucher for a free meal at the February meeting.** For more information on the Center, visit their website at [www.smokymountainanimalcare.org](http://www.smokymountainanimalcare.org).

## Southeastern Regional PDC in March—Chattanooga Marriott

The Southeastern Regional Professional Development Conference will be held March 27–28 at the Chattanooga Marriott and Conference Center. 16 hours of continuing education will be available at the conference. Please watch your email for details on the conference, as well as registration materials. Contact Mindy Stooksbury if you have questions before then.

Concurrent sessions will be held for a full day each day. On Thursday evening, a social event is being held on the Southern Belle riverboat with a private cruise and dinner. The tentative schedule is as follows.

Thursday, March 27th  
 Concurrent Sessions—All Day  
 (1) *Roberta Reese, GASB Update*  
 (2) *Speaker, OMB Topic*

Friday, March 28th  
 Concurrent Sessions—All Day  
 (1) *Dr. Janet Kelly, Finance Leadership*  
 (2) *Speaker, OMB Topic*

### Financial Information

Treasurer Mike Blair reported the bank balance as of 11/30/2007 as \$17,053.67.

## Advancing Government Accountability

East Tennessee Chapter, AGA  
 Attn: Julie Talbott, President  
 341 Court Street  
 Maryville, TN 37804  
 Phone: 865-273-5715  
 Fax: 865-273-5725  
 Email: jtalbott@blounttn.org

### East Tennessee AGA

**We're on the web!**  
[www.discovernet.org/etaga](http://www.discovernet.org/etaga)

## December Meeting Minutes

President Julie Talbott introduced Susan Slagle from the Angel Tree Foundation. Ms. Slagle briefly explained the purpose of the Angel Tree Foundation and stated the Angel Tree program was started 30 years ago. She explained that each child referred to the Foundation receives four gifts. She also explained that the Angel Tree program is mainly run by volunteers. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Slagle thanked everyone in AGA for participating in the donation of gifts to the Angel Tree.

After lunch, President Julie Talbott introduced Dave Bennett, AGA National Treasurer and Programs Chairman. Mr. Bennett discussed citizen centric government and how to open up government to the public. He informed everyone that Blount County has all of their records online, which allows for holding officials

more accountable since citizens have the capability to go online to review transactions. Mr. Bennett also stated that we, as government accountants, should be more involved in the government. He stated that we should know our local government representatives and hold elected leaders accountable to citizens.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Historian Amy Paganelli introduced a new member and we were informed that next month's speaker will be Jimmy Duncan or one of his representatives. Julie thanked everyone for coming and wished

everyone a Merry Christmas.

### **Chapter Recognition Program Points Update as of 12/31/07**

1150 Leadership  
 200 Education  
 160 Certification  
 675 Communication  
 0 Membership  
 50 Early Careers  
 200 Community Service  
 500 Awards  
 2935 Total YTD (GOAL 10,000)

### Chapter Officers

President	Julie Talbott	jtalbott@blounttn.org
President-Elect	Gail Cook, CGFM	gcook@andersontn.org
Treasurer	Mike Blair	tmbair@tva.gov
Secretary	Amy Rush	arrush@tva.gov
Newsletter	Mindy Stooksbury, RSBA	mbstooks@ci.maryville.tn.us
Historian	Amy Paganelli, CGFM	apaganel@mc.utmck.edu
Membership	Tonya Davis, CPA	tonya.l.davis@irs.gov
Education	Aldena Phillips, CGFM	aldena@tennessee.edu
CGFM	Aldena Phillips, CGFM	aldena@tennessee.edu
Awards	Nancy Donahue, CGFM	ndonahue@pstcc.edu
Programs	David Bennett, CGFM	dbennett@blounttn.org
Public Service	Dana West	dwest@blounttn.org
Meetings	Kristi Reynolds	kureynolds@tva.gov
Webmaster	Kyle Cox	kbcox@tva.gov
	Regional Vice President	Mindy Stooksbury, RSBA
	National Treasurer	David Bennett, CGFM