

East Tennessee Times

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President's Message—Gail Cook, CGFM, CPA

I wish I could say Spring is in the air, but BRRRRRRR – I don't think it is! We have another interesting program scheduled for our March meeting. Kevin Sparks from South College will be speaking to us concerning the state budget cuts and the effect on higher education.

Our community service project for March is A Secret Safe Place for New-

borns of Tennessee, Inc. We will be accepting donations for them. Their mission is to educate and inform women of safe options under the Safe Haven Law. Shannon McCloud will also be at our meeting to tell us more about what they do and how we can help.

It's going to be an interesting meeting, so be sure and mark your calendars.



Also, don't forget our spring seminar is April 23rd at Rothchild's and we expect to have a full house – so register now!

Gail

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March Meeting—Kevin Sparks—State Budget Cuts & Higher Ed

Kevin Sparks is currently Vice President for Business Affairs at South College in Knoxville. During his tenure at South College he has managed the fiscal operations of the institution.

Prior to joining South College, Kevin was an audit senior with an accounting firm contracted to audit per-

sonal property taxes on behalf of county property assessors in the state of Tennessee. His diverse business background also includes establishing a transportation and logistics company, operating a commercial finance company, and providing accounting and tax services to small and medium-sized businesses.

Kevin currently serves as the commissioner of Powell Youth Basketball and also coaches a team of 11 year olds who participate in local basketball tournaments.

Kevin has been married to his wife, Marsha for 19 years. They have two sons, Wesley and Jacob, and live in the Powell community.

Tuesday, March 10

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 Chicken and Sirloin of Beef

Cost \$10 per member

RSVP: Kristi Reynolds

kureynolds@tvaog.gov by 03/05/09

AGA National News

PDC Hotel 'New Orleans Marriott' is Sold Out — As of 02.24.09, the New Orleans Marriott is sold out. If you were unable to obtain a room at the Marriott, please contact the **Sheraton New Orleans Hotel** for reservations. The room rate is \$120 per night (plus tax). *Rates are guaranteed until May 29, or until the block is sold out.* After that date (or after the room block is sold out) the hotel may charge significantly higher rates. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, for the best price and availability.

AGA's Mar. 10 Radio Show Discusses CFO Selection and the Obama Administration — As the American Recovery and Re-

Investment Act rolls out, the Obama administration will seek, select and nominate individuals to serve as chief financial officers. To make things run smoothly, each agency needs qualified CFOs to run the shop. We will discuss the important role of the CFO with Edwin L. Harper, Senior Vice President, Federal Government Relations for Assurant, Inc., and Lynn Jennings, Strategic Advisor for the Partnership for Public Service. Listen to the shows online and check out the upcoming show and speaker schedule. Stay tuned!

Financial Management in Transition Conference Set for March 12—The Federal Financial Management Conference, which will feature the latest issues and trends in

financial management, accountability, performance and auditing, is set for March 12. **Gene L. Dodaro, CGFM**, Acting Comptroller General of the United States, will present the keynote address. The conference theme is "Financial Management in Transition." The conference, worth 7 CPE hours, is sponsored by the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) principals, Financial Systems Integration Office (FSIO), General Services Administration (GSA) and the Graduate School, USDA.



Visit AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org for more information.

2008-2009 National Events Calendar

03/09-03/12 Strategic Human Capital Management—Washington, DC

03/10 AGA's Radio Show—CFO Selection and the Obama Administration

03/11 Using Internal Controls to Better Manage & Monitor Programs—Audio Conference

03/23-03/26 Social Media for Government—Washington, DC

03/25 SEA: Taking Accountability and Transparency to A New Level—Audio Conf.

03/18-03/19 AGA/ASMC 2009 PDC—Chesapeake, VA

04/08 The Future of Government Auditing—Audio Conference

04/23 East Tennessee's Spring Seminar—Knoxville, TN

**AGA's 2009
Professional Development Conference
New Orleans June 21-24, 2009**

**Southeastern Regional PDC
Nashville Doubletree Hotel
April 2-3, 2009**

Certified Government Financial Manager—CGFM Month

March is CGFM Month! To recognize the CGFM Program and its accomplishments, AGA has declared the month of March as "CGFM Month" - read the official AGA Proclamation at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMProclamation2006.pdf>. This initiative has been a great example of AGA leadership and teamwork and continues to help spread the word the CGFM.

State Declarations

States that have declared March as CGFM Month include Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin and Tennessee. View Tennessee's Proclamation at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/proclamations/NashvilleDavidson08.pdf>.

Already have your CGFM designation? Subscribe to AGA's Certified Government Financial Management Topics newsletter at http://www.agacgfm.org/publications/cgfm/cgfm_subscribe.aspx.



Need direct assistance?
Contact Katya Silver at ksilver@agacgfm.org.

Chapter Meeting Calendar

03/10/2009 Kevin Sparks, South College, and Shannon McCloud, Safe Haven Law, at Calhoun's on the River

04/23/2009 Spring Seminar at Rothchild's

05/12/2009 Awards Ceremony and Final Meeting at Calhoun's on the River

Remember that all regular monthly meetings start at 11:30am and end at 1:00pm. Most meetings are offering at least 1 CPE for those needing continuing education. This is a great deal...lunch and 1 CPE for only \$10!

Spring Seminar Update

ETAGA's Spring Seminar will be held on Thursday, April 23rd, at Rothchild's. For the morning sessions, speakers will include Dr. Janet Kelly on Best Practices and Betsy Cunningham on Time Management. Our afternoon speaker will be Dr. Robert Smith, better known as Smitty, with a session on GASB updates. See attached brochure for details and registration information.

Southeastern Regional PDC

The Southeastern Regional PDC will be held on April 2—3 at the Doubletree Hotel in Nashville. Speakers will include Sam Mok (AGA National President), Gene Dodaro (Acting Comptroller General of the U.S.), Bob Atmore, Mark Paganelli, Dennis Dycus, John Morgan and many others. 16 CPE hours will be available. Registration and full details can be found at <http://agaservp.tripod.com> or www.nashvilleaga.org/pdc_2009/2009pdc.htm.

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. **For March, our charity is A Secret Safe Place for Newborns. We will accept cash donations and office supplies.**

Apr: East TN Children's Hospital Encology Clinic

May: American Cancer Society

If you have questions about any of the charities or projects, contact Dana West at dwest@blounttn.org.

Financial Information

Treasurer Mike Blair reported the bank balance as of **01/31/09** as **\$18,039.93.**

Chapter Recognition Program Points Update

Leadership: 1725

Education: 2075

Certification: 1025

Communication: 3050

Membership: 125

Early Careers: 0

Community Service: 750

Awards: 0

Total YTD: 8750

The Chapter Recognition Program provides incentives and awards to participating chapters. It provides a framework for chapters that allows for a well-rounded chapter pro-

gram each year. The non-competitive program consists of the eight areas listed above and chapters receive credit for meeting goals and activities as designated by AGA. Want to know more? Just ask one of your board members for more details.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



East Tennessee AGA wants YOU to be an active member of our chapter.

To encourage membership and participation we are going to offer the following rewards:

Sponsorship of new member	\$20 Incentive voucher
New members	\$20 Incentive voucher
For every 3 meetings attended	\$10 Incentive voucher
Active committee member	\$15 Incentive voucher
Service project participation	Incentive vouchers (amount varies by project)

These vouchers can be used within the chapter to pay for AGA dues, meals, or seminars!!

Advancing Government Accountability

East Tennessee Chapter, AGA
Attn: Gail Cook, President
Finance & Accounting Consultant
UT—MTAS
120 Conference Center Building
Knoxville TN 37996

Phone: 865-974-9825
Fax: 865-974-0423
Email: gail.cook@tennessee.edu

East Tennessee AGA

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

February Meeting Minutes

President Gail Cook began the meeting by announcing the service project for next month and discussing ways to earn vouchers. Programs Chair, Joe Taylor, introduced TVA Senior Auditor Greg Stinson who discussed the Office of the Inspector General's telework program.

Mr. Stinson stated that a telework pilot program was introduced approximately 2 years ago. He was part of the team that aided in the implementation of the pilot program.

Mr. Stinson discussed the various considerations related to implementing the program - eligibility, necessary IT equipment, schedules and locations, work-space, and training. In addition, he ad-

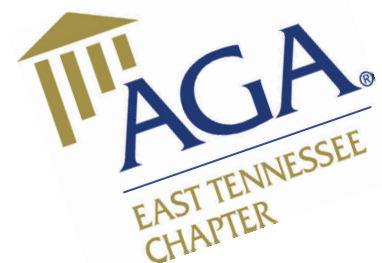
ressed the following topics:

- definitions of telework,
- statistics on the use of telework,
- employee/company benefits,
- program development,
- surveys including barriers to success,
- telework research, and
- policy development.

Mr. Stinson ended the presentation by mentioning the challenges to a successful telework program. These included development of new employees, teamwork, communications, effective management, and protection of company

reputation.

After the meeting adjourned, there was a brief officer's meeting in which open items for the spring seminar were discussed.



Chapter Officers

President	Gail Cook, CGFM	gail.cook@tennessee.edu
President-Elect	Nancy Donahue, CGFM	ndonahue@pstcc.edu
Treasurer	Mike Blair, CGFM	tmblair@tvaog.gov
Secretary	Amy Rush, CIA	arrush@tvaog.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	Julie Talbott	jtalbott@blountn.org
Programs	Joe Taylor	jwtaylor1@comcast.net
Public Service	Dana West	dwest@blountn.org
Meetings	Kristi Reynolds	kureynolds@tvaog.gov
Webmaster	Allen Rippetoe, CGFM	arippetoe@blountn.org

SPRING SEMINAR—APRIL 23, 2009

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Janet Kelly—The Seven Deadly Sins of Performance Budgeting

Dr. Janet Kelly, CGFM, CIA, CPFO, has taught financial management in the MPA program at UT and accounting in the MBA program. A Certified Internal Auditor specializing in performance auditing, she is an AGA member and a private consultant to state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. Janet holds a Bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston, an MPA from the University of South Carolina, and a Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She's authored over forty articles in scholarly and professional journals.

Betsy Cunningham—Time Management

Betsy Cunningham is currently the director of Human Resources for Blount County Government. Betsy graduated from UT with a degree in communications. She conducted training throughout the US on topics such as Supervisory Skills, Customer Service, and Sexual Harassment. She is a Dale Carnegie Course instructor where she teaches the class on Effective Speaking and Human Relations Skills.

G. Robert Smith—GASB and Accounting Update

Dr. G. Robert Smith, Jr., PhD, CPA, and assistant professor with MTSU, received his Bachelor's degree from UT Martin, his Master of Accountancy from UT Knoxville, and his Ph.D. from Texas Tech. Prior to 1988, Dr. Smith (Smitty) served in the United States Army. Smitty was stationed in both the USA and Europe. He has written for many professional accounting publications and for AICPA's Implementation Guide for GASB Statement 34.

Program Agenda

8:15-8:25am	Registration
8:25-8:30am	Welcome
8:30-10:10am	Janet Kelly
10:10-10:20am	Coffee Break
10:20-12:00pm	Betsy Cunningham
12:00-12:45pm	Lunch
12:45-2:45pm	Robert Smith
2:45-3:00pm	Snack Break
3:00-4:30pm	Robert Smith
4:30-4:45pm	Closing Remarks

Directions

Rothchild's Catering & Conference Ctr.
8807 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37923
865-690-0103

From I-40 W to exit 379

- *Take exit 379 toward Walker Springs Rd/
Bridgewater Rd (.2 m)
- *Merge onto Walbrook Dr (.2 m)
- *Turn left at Walker Springs Rd (.2 m)
- *Turn right at Kingston Pike (.6 m)
- *Turn right into Ten Mile Center
Rothchild's is on the right

Registration Information

Registration Fee: \$125

The \$125 registration fee covers lunch, registration, breaks and all seminar materials. Dress is business casual.

Registration Form

The 2009 Spring Seminar sponsored by the East Tennessee Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants is Thursday, April 23, 2009.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return complete registration form by April 16, 2009. Limited registration may be available on site at 8:15am. The seminar begins promptly at 8:25am.

Make Check Payable to:

East TN Chapter of AGA

Mail Completed Form & Payment to:

Mike Blair
TN Valley Authority
400 W. Summitt Hill Dr.
ET 3C-K
Knoxville, TN 37902