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Volume 8 Issue 1

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# East Tennessee Times

## President's Message — Julie Talbott

Hi everyone! Can you believe how fast this year is flying by?!?!?

We just finished up our Spring Seminar and we had a wonderful turnout. Thank you to all who joined us!

I would also like to thank all of the members of the board for their time and effort in putting the Spring Seminar together. It would not have been a success without everyone working together!

The Southeastern Regional PDC was in March and it was a great success as well. Thank you to RVP Mindy Stooksbury for heading up the regional events. We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to AGA!

I hope to see everyone at the Awards Ceremony in May! Take Care!

*Julie*



On behalf of the East TN Board, I would like to thank Julie for doing a wonderful job as President and appreciate everything she has done this year.

As well, best wishes and good luck as Gail Cook takes the reigns as President for next year!  
*Mindy Stooksbury*

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### Tuesday, May 13th

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 05/07/08

## Chapter Recognition Program

The East Tennessee Chapter has exceeded its goal of 10,000 points for the AGA Chapter Recognition Program! Thank you to each member for playing their part in this success!

The Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) is a

noncompetitive program recognizing a chapter's performance in relation to a standard or benchmark linked to AGA's mission. The objective of the CRP is to support, encourage and promote the accomplishment of AGA's mission, and to provide

flexible noncompetitive guidelines for a well-rounded chapter.

A final points breakdown and our award level will be announced at the National PDC in July in Atlanta.

## AGA National News...Atlanta PDC in July

Offering 24 CPE hours, timely topics and an impressive lineup of speakers, PDC 2008 promises to be one of the Association's best. With the theme, *Building on the Dream: Creating a Culture of Accountability*, this event will convene government financial managers and accountability professionals from around the country for three and a half days of knowledge building and networking.

The General Sessions are packed with internationally acclaimed speakers, including Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Labor; Rev. Dr. Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr.; David Broder,

Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist; Kurt Eichenwald, author of *Conspiracy of Fools*; and Andrew Young, Pastor and Former U.N. Ambassador.

As well, there will be 90 educational sessions and many chapter-focused learning sessions.

Visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/pdc2008/index.htm> for more information and to register.



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.

## National Events Calendar—<http://www.agacgfm.org/events/calendarlisting.aspx>

April 2008:

04/23 Improving Government Transparency through Citizen Centric Reporting—Audio Conference

May 2008:

05/07-05/08 D.C. Annual Conference

05/14 The Anatomy of Ethical Slips in Government—Audio Conference

05/20-05/22 17th Biennial Forum of Government Accountants—Philadelphia

September 2008:

09/22-09/23 National Internal Control & Fraud Conference—Phoenix

October 2008:

10/27-10/28 Performance Management Conference—Seattle

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

February 2009:

02/19-02/20 National Leadership Conference—Washington, DC

## CGFM Intensive Review Course and Exams at PDC in Atlanta

Interested in the CGFM certification? Sign up for AGA's special Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM Examinations before the PDC. Don't miss this opportunity to earn your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, and Friday, July 25, 2008. The CGFM Examinations will

be offered by appointment only on July 26-27, 2008. 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.

This is a special limited enrollment offer for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM

Examinations and need extra reinforcement of the material. The Intensive Review Course is **not a substitute** for the three instructor-led



Continued on Page 6...

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

## Chapter Meetings and Service Projects Calendar

### Chapter Meetings

**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!

### Service Projects

**May: East TN Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House**

Donations will be accepted for the ET Children's Hospital Oncology Clinic waiting room. Their wishes include children's hats and board games. Also throughout the year, donations of toiletries are accepted for the Ronald McDonald House.

### Interested in being on the Chapter Board of Directors?

If you would like to serve as an officer, contact one of the officers listed on Page 4. Your leadership, skills and knowledge are needed! This is a great way to get more involved with the chapter and learn more about AGA National!

## Member News

**Please join me in congratulating Allen Rippetoe in receiving his CGFM designation through AGA!** Allen is the Accounting Manager for Blount County Government. He is responsible for the supervision and review of the accounting team in the Budgeting and Accounting Department.

Allen is also a member of GFOA and is a Certified Public Administrator. As well, he is studying to take the CPA exam. Prior to working for Blount

County, he was employed with Berg Profiles in Morristown as a cost analyst. He is a graduate of ETSU, where he received his bachelor's degree.

### New Members for 2007-2008

Welcome to our new members that have joined during the 2007-2008 Chapter Year: Jennifer Torregiano (TVA), Ronald Kesterson (PSTCC) and Marty Spears (CTAS).

**Congratulations to our chapter mem-**

**bers from Blount County Government!** They are one of the few local governments in the nation to publish a Citizen Centric Report. The report can be found on their website at [www.blounttn.org](http://www.blounttn.org).

## Southeastern Regional PDC Success!

The Southeastern Regional PDC held in Chattanooga in March was a great success! Over 70 participants spent 2 days in intensive professional development sessions. Speakers included David Bean (GASB Update), Sefton Boyars (Single Audits), Dr. Janet Kelly (Leadership) and David Hancox (Internal Controls/A-123).

As well, lunch sessions offered information on communication from Bev-

erly Inman-Ebel and 403(b) annuity plans from Ian Leavy. On Thursday evening, the group had a great time on the riverboat, with music provided by AGA members.

A special thanks goes to the Chattanooga Chapter for hosting the PDC and to the Planning Committee for a great success! *Also, a special thanks to Amy Paganelli, Aldena Phillips and Nancy Donahue for their attendance*

### Financial Information

**Treasurer Mike Blair reported the bank balance as of 03/31/08 as \$16,747.93.**

*at the event!*

Please start planning on attending next year's Regional PDC to be held in Nashville in the spring. Details will be sent out as they become available.

## 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)

## April Meeting Minutes

In April, the East TN Chapter of AGA held a spring seminar at the Bearden Banquet Hall. There were five speakers that spoke on various topics for the day. I have provided a brief synopsis of the topics covered by each speaker, below.

**Jim Williams:** Jim's topic included Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) updates. He informed us of some of the challenges and changes regarding GASB, such as pending federal legislation and globalization. Mr. Williams also discussed recent GASB statements including statements regarding other post employment benefits (OPEBs), ac-

counting and financial reporting for pollution remediation obligations, pension disclosures, intangible assets, and land and other real estate held as investments by endowments. He also discussed some recent GASB exposure drafts, other current GASB projects and the GASB research agenda.

**Jay Fountain:** Jay's topic was 'Preparing an SEA (service efforts and accomplishments) Report

and using Performance Information.' Mr. Fountain discussed why results based management and reporting is important for governmental entities. He informed us of the GASB suggested criteria for SEA reporting and provided various examples of good SEA reporting.

**Eveanna Barry** discussed AGA's mission and commitment. She also provided information on various programs, such as the Annual

### Chapter Officers

President	Julie Talbott	jtalbott@blounttn.org
President-Elect	Gail Cook, CGFM	gail.cook@tennessee.edu
Treasurer	Mike Blair	tmblair@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
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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

Government & Accountability survey, SEA report review and citizen centric reporting. Ms. Barry showed several examples of the citizen centric reports and commented that Blount County was the first community in Tennessee to create a citizen centric report.

During lunch, we were privileged to hear stories from **Jerry Cunningham**, Blount County Mayor. He spoke of his ancestors and other pioneer families of Cades Cove and their many accomplishments while living in the Cove.

After lunch, **Bob Lash, Jr.** (Strategic Resources) discussed the basic concepts and components of emotional intelligence. He also provided the Emotional Intelligence Assessment to seminar participants and discussed what the results of the assessment indicated. In addition, Mr. Lash encouraged the group to identify characteristics of emotional intelligence that each individual would like to develop and to design an action plan for developing that characteristic.

*Amy Rush, Secretary*

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### Get Involved in AGA's New Blog

AGA is welcoming a wide variety of government financial management experts to share their wisdom and insight with readers through a weekly blog. We are looking for guest bloggers and participants. Each of our "celebrity" bloggers will check back during their day with us to answer questions and comments posted by readers. It's a fun way to interact with some of the top names in the profession. Bookmark <http://aga.typepad.com/aga>—the place for government finance professionals to share ideas and dialogue with some of the top names in the business. Contact AGA Communications Director **Marie Force** to get on the guest list. Guests have included Jeff Hart, Immediate Past President, Sam Mok, President– Elect, and David Bennett, National Treasurer.

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### Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership with AGA!!

The role of the government financial manager is expanding. You've heard the words..."Downsizing," "Outsourcing," "Job Competition," "Work Harder," "Do More with Less." Local, state and federal governments are being urged to provide more services and programs, while at the same time taxpayers are demanding more value. These are but a few of the challenges that will complicate your job in the 21st Century. Many of these are starting to happen now.

Financial management positions are being filled with employees who have extensive knowledge in many functional areas. And, the need for highly trained, effective managers of public resources is growing every day.

### Never before have credentials been as important. You must be prepared.

Fortunately, there is an organization that has the vision to look into the next century and determine what top quality education and training, professional development, and certification programs will be needed by its members. It knows how important it is for you to network with your peers and facilitates opportunities for this to happen. Plus, it is working to support standards and research to advance government accountability.

### The organization is AGA...the Association of Government Accountants.

We are eager to help you discover all that AGA can do for you and with you. Visit AGA's website at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) to renew your membership!

*Page 6: CGFM Intensive Review Course continued..*

training courses. On the contrary, it is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM.

**CGFM Examinations:** Attending previous courses or studying using CGFM Study Guides before participating in this event is strongly encouraged. The cost of this course is not included in the PDC registration fee (and participants of this event are not required to attend the PDC). This Intensive Review Course will cover the updates to the CGFM Examinations, and this event will be the first opportunity to take the updated examinations. While the core of the examination content remained the same, the three examination content outlines were updated, refreshed and streamlined. See updated examinations outlines and the CGFM Examinations update for more information.

**Location:** The Intensive Review Course and the CGFM Examinations will be held at the Georgia State Auditor's Office, 270 Washington St., Atlanta, GA 30334.

**Eligibility:** To attend the Intensive Review Course and/or take the CGFM Examinations, participants must first apply and be accepted into the CGFM Program. Candidates need to submit the CGFM Program application form with \$85 application fee and a copy of a transcript from an accredited college or university. The transcript must show that a degree (bachelor's or higher) was awarded and list at least 24 credit hours of courses in financial management or related topics. Applicant's name and the name of the college or university must appear on all transcripts. Please see [www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/start/) for more information.

In addition, those individuals who want to complete their CGFM at this event need to submit a Work Verification Form listing at least two years of professional-level government financial management experience. *Prior attendance of CGFM training course(s) or purchase of the CGFM Study Guides is not required but is strongly encouraged.*

If you have already taken a CGFM Examination and did not pass, you must satisfy the waiting period before taking the CGFM Examinations at this event.

**Materials:** No materials will be provided at the Intensive Review Course. However, participants are encouraged to order the updated CGFM Study Guides at least eight weeks before the course date. For more information on study guides visit [www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/studyguide.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/studyguide.aspx). *The cost of the study guides is not included in the price of the Intensive Review Course.*

**Examination Information:** Three time slots are available for CGFM Examinations to be held July 26-27, 2008:

(1) 8 - 11 a.m.    (2) 11:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.    (3) 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to send in the registration form indicating their preference for an examination date and time as soon as possible. Some of the time slots may fill up and no longer be available. We will confirm your registration and indicate whether we are able to accommodate your request for the particular examination time slot(s).

Individuals who want to take the CGFM Examinations at this event without attending the review course can do so by following the same registration procedures. The fee for taking the three CGFM Examinations is the same as the Intensive Review Course fee—see Intensive Review Course Registration Form for more details. The CGFM Examinations are:

- Examination 1— Governmental Environment
- Examination 2— Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting
- Examination 3— Governmental Financial Management and Control

This event will be the first opportunity to take the updated CGFM Examinations. While the core of the examination content remained the same, the three examination content outlines were updated, refreshed and streamlined. See updated examinations outlines and the CGFM Examinations update for more information.

**\*\*\*The examination results will be provided to the test takers on Tuesday, July 29, 2008.**