

East Tennessee Times

President's Message—Gail Cook, CGFM, CPA

Summer is almost over and it's time to begin another great year of AGA. The board and I have been busy putting together an interesting agenda for this year and we hope everyone will enjoy it. AGA offers us a great avenue to hear interesting and informative speakers, network with our peers, and also help our communities.

I want to thank all the board members for their commitment to serve this year. I would also like to encourage each member to become actively involved with AGA and work to recruit new members for the chapter. There

will be three committees available for members to serve on this year – Membership Committee, Service Project Committee, and Programs Committee. I hope everyone will sign up to serve on a committee.

Our service project this month is the American Heart Association. For every \$1 you donate at the September meeting, you will receive a \$1 incentive voucher. The vouchers can be used within the local chapter for dues, meals, or seminars. It's a great way to benefit a worthy cause and also save you money.



Our first meeting will be September 9th at 11:30 at Calhoun's on the River and our speaker will be Warren Nevad from UT-MTAS. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Gail

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Tuesday, September 9

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

11:30–12:10 Registration and Lunch

12:10–1:00 Presentation

Menu: Fried Chicken & Meatloaf

Spinach Maria, Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Cost \$10 per member

RSVP: Kristi Reynolds

kureynolds@tnva.gov by 09/03/2008

September Meeting—Warren Nevad

September's meeting will be an interesting presentation from Warren Nevad, Management Consultant for the University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). His presentation will be on alternative fuels.

Warren has been a management consultant for MTAS since 1999 and provides services to over 40 cities in the upper Cumberland and Sequatchie Valley areas of East Tennessee. Prior to joining MTAS, he worked in city management in Florida and was city manager in

Sugar Hill, Georgia.

Warren has a Bachelors degree in industrial relations from the University of Georgia and a Masters in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic.

AGA National News...

AGA Publishes Its 2008 Member Centric Report

AGA is proud to distribute its 2008 Citizen-Centric Report to our Members. We hope you find this succinct, four-page report on the progress of our Association over the past year to be informative. It remains a work-in-progress, and we invite your feedback so our future reports will be even more useful to our members and other stakeholders. AGA is promoting the use of similar four-page Citizen-Centric Reports by entities at all levels of government. Read the AGA Member Centric Report at <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/downloads/AGAMemberCentricReport08.pdf>.

Registration Now Open for the Second Annual AGA Government Finance Case Challenge for College Students

Student teams will collaboratively analyze and offer a written response to a case centered on how a U.S. city government implements a performance management system. The registration deadline is Oct. 3, 2008. This is a free online competition open to all college undergraduate students.

2008 CEAR Guidelines Now Available—The Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) guidelines for 2008 (including the Pilot Program) are now available on AGA's website.



Visit AGA's website at 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.

2008-2009 National Events Calendar

09/10 Fraud Prevention and Detection—Audio Conference

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

10/15 Results of AGA's Research on Performance Based Management Reporting—Audio Conference

10/27-10/28 AGA's Performance Management Conference—Seattle

11/12 Internal Controls—Audio Conference

11/17-11/18 Central KY A & A Update with Frank Crawford—Frankfort, KY

12/10 21st Century Financial Managers: New Mix of Skills & Education Levels—Audio Conference

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

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

04/02-04/03 Southeastern Regional PDC—Nashville Doubletree Hotel

Certified Government Financial Manager

Article By Ron Queen, CGFM, CPA - Southeastern Regional CGFM Coordinator

The week of July 27, 2008 was the week of AGA's 57th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia. It was also the week I attended the Government Finance Officers Association

Advanced Government Finance Institute. Both of these events highlighted the changes taking place in the profession of government financial management.

As I took part in the classes and case studies with 43 other government financial professionals from across the United States, its territories, and

two participants from local governments in the provinces of Canada, I realized that many of the challenges I had seen in Tennessee State and local governments were being faced by others.

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

Chapter Meeting Calendar...

09/09/2008 Warren Nevad, UT MTAS, at Calhoun's on the River

10/14/2008 Bob Green, Law Enforcement Center, at Calhoun's on the River

11/13/2008 Fall Seminar with Matt Murray and Bob Lash at Rothchild's

12/09/2008 John Sutton, GASB Update, at Calhoun's on the River

01/13/2009 Melinda Parton, AGA South-eastern Regional VP, at Calhoun's on the River

02/10/2009 TVA, Teleworking, at Calhoun's on the River

03/10/2009 Shannon McCloud, Safe Haven Law, at Calhoun's on the River

04/21/2009 Spring Seminar with Robert Smith 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!

Membership Drive

Bring a perspective member or a friend to a meeting. We think there are a lot of folks out there that would benefit from our meetings and membership in AGA. We encourage you to spread the word about our chapter and help us grow our membership!

Service Projects Calendar...Dana West, Chairperson

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 September, our charity is the American Heart Association

Sept: American Heart Association

Oct: Samaritan's Purse

Nov: Coats for the Cold

Dec: Angel Tree

Jan: Ronald McDonald House

Feb: Smoky Mountain Animal Care Center

Mar: A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of East Tennessee

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 July 31st as \$18,183.38.

Member News

Meet our Programs Director:

Joseph Taylor currently works for the City of Norris as the City Recorder. His previous employment was with the Anderson County Government as the Deputy Budget Director for the past 3 years. In his position he held a Certified Public Administrator from CTAS. He is also a mem-

ber of GFOA and TGFOA.

He is active with Black Oak Baptist Church, as Children's Pastor and Co-Chairman of the Deacons and active with KARM, IMB, and NAMB. He is devoted to his wife of 12 years and 9-year-old daughter. Contact Information: jwtaylor1@comcast.net

Welcome to New Members:

Connie Aytes with Anderson County
Thaddeus Grace with IPS
Ronald Kesterson with TVA
Christopher Phillips with Anderson County
Marty Spears with UT CTAS
Jennifer Torregiano with TVA

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.discovernet.org/etaga

Chapter Officers

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

Summer Board Meeting Minutes

July Planning Meeting Minutes

The Board of the East Tennessee Chapter of AGA met on July 9th and July 16th to discuss the plan for 2008-2009. Topics of the discussions included membership dues and lunch prices, speakers and speaker topics for the upcoming year, community service projects, and ways to increase membership as well as membership participation and attendance.

During the planning meetings, it was decided that lunch prices will remain at \$10 for the upcoming year. In addition, there will be an incentive program for which members will be able to receive incentive vouchers to be used toward AGA dues, meals, or seminars. Incentive vouchers may be earned by becoming a new member, sponsoring a new member, becoming an active committee

member, attending meetings, or participating in service projects throughout the year.

The Board also discussed having three different committees for members to participate on. The membership committee is responsible for performing tasks such as helping welcome new members, recruiting new members, following-up with visitors and new members.

The service project committee will be responsible for performing tasks such as assisting in the delivery of service projects. The programs committee is responsible for performing tasks such as selecting speaker gifts and contributing to speaker ideas. Members are encouraged to participate on one of the commit-

tees.

There are a variety of topics that will be addressed during the upcoming year. The Board has planned on having speakers to discuss topics such as alternative fuels, leadership development, 403(b) plans, and teleworking. The Board has also planned on having service projects throughout the year including American Heart Association, Samaritan's Purse, Angel Tree, Coats for the Cold, Smoky Mountain Animal Care, and A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of Tennessee.



Ron Queen's Article continued from Page 3...

The level of sophistication needed to deal with the economic challenges, accounting changes, and political environment has never been higher than today. Change can only be faced by those who have the tools to adapt to the new environment and its challenges. The people facing these challenges need to possess the tools of a professional government financial manager.

A professional is someone who has mastered a body of knowledge, demonstrated that mastery through the passage of a professional examination, possesses experience in the field, subscribes to a code of ethics, and serves the public. Certified Government Financial Managers exemplify these traits. In the coming years, CGFM holders will become more valuable to their employers and to the public because they have the tools to adapt to change and successfully meet the challenges in government financial management. CGFM holders demonstrate the ability to learn and to successfully use new tools to accomplish their jobs.

I hope those of you who have not yet achieved the CGFM will work to achieve the designation during this AGA program year. By achieving the CGFM, you will show the world that you are truly a professional who strives to meet the highest standards of public service. Please contact your Chapter's CGFM committee to aid you in your journey to become the best of our profession, a CGFM. Let this be the year you become a CGFM.

Questions, comments or concerns for Ron: Contact Ron at ron.queen@state.tn.us or 615-401-7862.

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