



November 2005

Volume 28, Number 3

President's Message,
Dianne Mitchell McKay, CGFM, CPA
We've had quite an exciting first week of October! First, the incredible breakfast CPE training, which I must say met all of my expectations—the speaker was interesting and informative, the food and location were very good, and the training didn't take all day. Then, our luncheon meeting the following Thursday continued the success with a good speaker and good fellowship. The breakfast meeting was so successful that Kathy Anderson and her Education Committee are convinced that we should have another breakfast meeting in February.

Speaking of education and training, I think the topics and speakers for the Winter Seminar (January 23-24) and the Regional PDC (March 16-17) are shaping up nicely. I'll namedrop some of the speakers in a future message. Be sure and mark those dates on your calendar so that you can attend those functions.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to pick up the Nashville Chapter's first annual report at our October meeting or to view the report on our chapter website. Sometimes we get so caught up in other aspects of our AGA membership that we forget why AGA was established. Page two of our annual report notes that "AGA serves the professional interests of individuals in local, state, and federal governments by offering programs and services to forward its commitment to education and training, professional development, networking, publications, and certification that recognizes the unique skills of government financial managers."

Approximately 90 chapters established under National AGA have adopted this purpose.

In 2004, our chapter adopted a Strategic Plan Framework and in 2005 we adopted our first Strategic Plan to forward our mission. The annual report is a report card to the members to help them determine whether the chapter has accomplished its mission, vision, and values. Also, the annual report may help members better understand chapter governance and consider a leadership role.

The annual report expands on each committee's strategic plan by discussing in detail what the committee accomplished during the year. It is one thing for a committee to set forth what it hopes to accomplish during the year, but it is quite another to measure the goals against actual performance.

Continued on Page 3

Chapter Recognition Points YTD
(through October 7, 2005)

Leadership	3,300
Education	1,050
Certification	1,125
Communication	2,925
Membership	125
Community Service	600
Awards	600
Total Points YTD	9,725
Chapter Goal	10,000

CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, November 3, 2005

11:30 a.m.

Speaker

Rebecca Paul

COST: \$10.00 per member

Make your luncheon reservation online at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org>.

If necessary you may call
(615) 401-7843
by 6:00 p.m. Monday,
October 31, 2005

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November Speaker Rebecca Paul

Rebecca Paul is a 20-year lottery industry veteran. She began her career working in local television news, advertising and promotions in Indiana and Illinois before being recruited in 1985 by former Illinois Governor James Thompson to lead the Illinois Lottery. Under her management, Illinois Lottery sales climbed to more than \$1.3 billion annually. In 1987, she moved to Florida to launch the Sunshine State's lottery where she set industry records for first-year sales. After that, she worked as a consultant, developing strategic plans and advising lotteries across the U.S. and abroad.

In 1993 Paul was chosen by the Georgia Lottery Corporation to start up the Georgia Lottery. During the first year of operation, she once again set new industry sales records. During her 10 years in the Peach State, the Georgia Lottery generated more than \$6 billion for education and funded scholarships for more than 700,000 students attending state colleges and universities and more than 500,000 four-year-olds who attended Lottery funded pre-Kindergarten programs.

The Board of Directors of the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation selected Paul as the Tennessee Lottery's first president and CEO in September 2003, following a nationwide executive search. In making the announcement, the Board noted Paul's "unparalleled experience" will be critical as the Lottery works to generate millions of dollars to fund the first round of scholarships for an estimated 65,000 students attending Tennessee colleges and universities in fall of 2004. Paul and her team didn't let the Board down. After starting ticket sales three weeks ahead of schedule on January 20, the Tennessee Lottery closed out its first fiscal year of five months and 12 days by transferring more than \$123 million to the state's education fund—roughly 40 percent more than the initial goal of \$88 million. Another \$2 million was also transferred to fund after-school programs.

The Tennessee Lottery's first year of operation was a win for education – more than \$246 million was raised for education including more than \$2 million for after school programs. By March 2005, gross ticket sales had surpassed \$1 billion after one year and seven weeks of ticket sales. Marking the end of the Lottery's first full fiscal year, the Lottery, from January 20, 2004 to June 30, 2005 has raised nearly \$360 million; including, more than \$6.87 million to fund after school programs. Paul and her team continue to stay on track to provide scholarships for all eligible students, as well as create additional dollars for education.

Paul's resume includes a long list of lottery industry, business and civic accomplishments. In 1990, she served as President of the International Lottery Association. From 1997 to 1998, she served as president of the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries. She was the recipient of the 1998 Peter O'Connell Lifetime Achievement Award by the Public Gaming Research Institute. In 1999, she served as vice chairman of the Public Sector Gaming Study Commission appointed by the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States. In July 2005, she was named one of the first inductees to the Public Gaming Research Institute's Lottery Industry Hall of Fame – established to recognize individuals who have made important contributions to the long-term growth and success of the lottery industry.

In April 2004, Business Tennessee magazine named Paul to the "Power 100," a list of Tennessee's most powerful people. In 1998, she won the Robert Todd Duncan Alumni Achievement Award from Butler University. In 1994, she was named "Entrepreneur of the Year" by the Stanford Graduate School of Business Alumni Association and won the Corporate Leadership Award from the Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs. Paul is an Indianapolis native. She holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education from Butler University, Indianapolis.

President's Message Continued

In addition, the annual report acknowledges members who have received national and chapter awards. Photographs of various events are included as a reminder of events during the program year.

The chapter financial statements (unaudited) are included to provide interested members make this kind of reporting a tradition. We have already published the strategic plan for the 2005/2006 program year.

I look forward to seeing you at our November 3rd meeting when our speaker will be Tennessee Lottery CEO, Rebecca Paul.

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards"
Soren Kierkegaard



CGFM Application Discount

Thinking about applying for the CGFM or know someone who is?

AGA national wants to help. From September 1 until November 30, 2005 AGA will give a discount of \$20 to CGFM applications received with the assistance of AGA chapters.

In order to receive a \$20 discount,

1. The AGA Office of Professional Certification must receive the complete CGFM application (application form, \$85 application fee and proof of a bachelor's degree) during the period of September 1 through November 30, 2005.
2. The CGFM application form must have the promotional phrase: "CGFM chapter promotion – Nashville Chapter" written at the bottom of the form (under the source code). If the application is submitted online, you must put this phrase in the last question: "How did you learn about the CGFM Program?:".

Important notes:

- You do not have to be a Nashville Chapter or AGA member in order to receive the discount.
- You must pay the full application fee of \$85 at the time of application. You will receive the \$20 discount check by mail in January.
- You must put the words "CGFM chapter promotion" AND the name of the Nashville Chapter on the application form in order to receive the discount.

That is not all...

By applying during the promotional period and receiving your \$20 discount, you can help the Nashville Chapter. If the Nashville Chapter encourages the most applications submitted in the three-month period of September-November 2005, the Nashville Chapter will receive \$20 X the number of applications that quoted the Chapter! PLUS on every application, listing the Nashville Chapter (in the promotional phrase as described above) the Chapter will receive 50 BONUS CREDITS (Chapter Recognition Program) per application!

You can get the CGFM application at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/downloads/CGFMApplicationform.pdf>. Please contact Ron Queen, CGFM Committee Chair (ron.queen@state.tn.us) if you have any questions.

News from National

AGA's Mid-Missouri Chapter proves that persistence pays off

The chapter's CGFM Committee recently celebrated another success in gaining recognition for the CGFM - this time in a new accounting specialist series in the state's Uniform Classification System. This success follows the chapter's work in 2003 to obtain CGFM recognition in the auditor series.

"When the auditor series was completed, we knew it would pave the way for CGFM recognition in other classifications," said Vandee DeVore, CGFM, a past president of the chapter who was active in both efforts. The changes in the accounting specialist series became effective Oct. 1, 2005.

As is the case for the auditors, the CGFM is recognized as equal to a bachelor's degree and two years of professional experience in the new accounting specialist series.

DeVore said the effort took two full years of research and discussion. A group of government financial managers requested that the new accounting specialist series qualifications include requirements for accounting degrees and credit for various certifications, including the CGFM.

DeVore, who is central payroll manager for the Division of Accounting within the Missouri Office of Administration, said the new requirements support the state's shift in emphasis away from accountants as those who merely keep records and process transactions to those with a diverse range of responsibilities and technical skills. The shift to a more educated and experienced work force is one that's taking place throughout corporate and governmental accounting. The Sarbanes-Oxley corporate reform legislation, for example, outlined more stringent requirements for accounting professionals.

"These qualifications will allow government financial managers to be better prepared to serve the administration and promote an accountable government to the taxpayers of the state," DeVore said. "This change will move the State of Missouri forward by meeting these high standards of the profession."

For more information about Missouri's success, please contact DeVore at Vandee.Devore@oa.mo.gov or 573.522.5863.

3 Ways to Make a Luncheon Reservation

1. **Standing Reservation** (automatic reservation each month, will still need to cancel if unable to attend) To update or make a standing reservation or to see if you have a standing reservation, go to <http://www.nashvilleaga.org/reserv.html>
2. For **Reservation On-line** go to the Nashville Area Chapter website at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org/reserv.html>.

PLEASE NOTE: Any on-line reservation made after the deadline, 6 pm the Monday before the meeting, will NOT be accepted.

3. For **Reservations** or **Cancellations** by Phone or E-mail contact Kevin Huffman at (615) 401-7843 or Kevin.Huffman@state.tn.us.

Cancellations – Made NO LATER than 6 pm on the Monday before the luncheon. A member may send someone in their place to the luncheon. If none of the above occurs, then the member must pay \$10.

October CEC Meeting

Submitted by Nathan Abbott, Chapter Secretary



The Nashville Chapter's Executive Committee met on Monday, October 3, 2005, in the 14th floor conference room of the Snodgrass Building. President Dianne McKay called the meeting to order. Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) members present were Nathan Abbott, Melinda Parton, Gerry Boaz, Chuck Holland, Brian Derrick, Penny Austin, Kathy Anderson, Kevin Huffman, Georganne Martin, and Donna Duarte. Committee chairs or their representatives present were Glen McKay, Ray Register, Ron Queen, and Beth Pendergrass.

Welcome

Dianne McKay welcomed everyone to the meeting.

August CEC Minutes

A motion was made by Melinda Parton to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Brian Derrick and passed.

Committee Reports

Treasurer

Chuck Holland reported that a \$10,000 CD at Regions Bank had matured and was renewed for 90 days. Chuck handed out the June 30, 2005, audit report. A copy of the audit will be placed on the Internet. Chuck also handed out the September financial statements.

Program

Glen McKay reported that Dr. Garcia will be the speaker at the October 4 luncheon. Glen also stated that the Nashville Kats tickets have not gone on sale.

Dianne McKay announced that a joint meeting with the Nashville Chapter of the Certified Fraud Examiners will take place in November when Rebecca Paul, CEO of the Tennessee Lottery, will speak.

Finance

Georganne Martin reported that the IRS return should be completed by the end of October and mailed to the IRS by certified mail.

Education

Kathy Anderson reported 61 people had signed up for the Breakfast CPE on October 4, 2005. She reminded everyone of the audio conference scheduled for December 7, 2005. In addition, the dates for the Winter Seminar have been set for January 23-24, 2006.

Early Careers

Beth Pendergrass reported that we do not have any mentee volunteers for the mentoring program. The early careers committee has considered assigning a mentor to new Early Career AGA members.

CGFM

The CGFM Committee is on schedule with its series of newsletter articles supporting CGFM participation in the chapter and with the directed study program for exam 3.

Awards

Donna Duarte reported she has sent Dan Willis a copy of the updated points to be posted to the Internet site. Donna also handed out the criteria for nominating people for the National Awards. Deadline to submit nominees will be October 6, 2005.

Discussion was held on nominating the City Finance Director for Germantown, TN, for the Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award. Ron Queen will investigate more on the nominee. Also up for discussion was Rebecca Paul's nomination for the Private Sector Financial Excellence Award or the William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award. Gerry Boaz will research each award and determine the appropriate award to nominate Ms. Paul. Mayor Bill Purcell was discussed to be nominated for the Excellence in Government Leadership Award. Donna Duarte will investigate more on the nominee.

Membership

Brian Derrick handed out the suspended member list and new member list. A clarification was made on new members joining in mid-year. A new member will pay for a full year when joining and will have prorated fees for the next year.

Newsletter

Dianne McKay reported for Nicole Curtiss that submissions for the November newsletter are due no later than October 7, 2005. Kathy Anderson will be the CEC member spotlight for the November newsletter.

Community Service

Ray Register reported that the Homeland Security Exercise has been postponed until April 2006. In addition, Ray stated that the Nashville Chapter collected \$450.00 that was donated to the Red Cross. Ray also reported that the Pencil Drive is winding up and the next community service project will be the Second Harvest Food Bank Drive.

Meetings and Attendance

Kevin Huffman reported that 70 people have signed up for the luncheon on October 6, 2005. Kevin also reported that a \$25 drawing will be held at the luncheon as well as a drawing for a carrying bag from the National PDC that was held in Orlando.

Internet

No report

Chapter Recognition

Gerry Boaz stated that strategic plans should be printed and on the table for the luncheon on October 6, 2005.

Regional PDC

Dianne McKay reported the date for the Regional PDC will be March 16-17, 2006, at the Doubletree Hotel. Possible cost for the Regional PDC would be \$325 for early registration and \$350 for late registration.

A discussion was held to increase the donation to GASB from \$500 to \$1000 and this contribution check will be presented to Bob Atmore at the Regional PDC. This discussion was tabled until the next CEC meeting. Georganne Martin stated that if everyone would e-mail her their opinions on the increase by October 20, 2005, she would compile the responses and present them at the next CEC meeting.

Dianne McKay stated that based on the vote from the CEC members, the next meeting will be changed from October 31 to October 27. Dianne McKay adjourned the meeting.



Promoting Awareness of CGFM CPE Requirements

Chapter members who hold professional certification must comply with CPE requirements. Your chapter can serve these members by providing quality education. Typically a CPE hour may be granted for each 50 minutes of participation in programs and activities that qualify. At conferences and conventions where individual presentations are less than and/or more than 50 minutes, the sum of the presentations should be considered as one total program.

The chapter's CPE records should include the following information for each CPE program or activity.

1. Sponsoring organization (your AGA chapter)
2. Name(s) of the instructor(s)
3. List of attendees
4. The location at which the program was given
5. The title of the program and a brief description of its contents (i.e., subject/topics covered)
6. The dates and length of the program
7. The number of CPE hours granted
8. Retain all CPE records for a minimum of three years
9. Evaluations of the program from instructor(s) and participants
10. The program's learning objectives and any prerequisites

Typically these requirements can be met with a signed CPE form that delineates the topics and times, and a sign-in list for attendees. Additional information regarding CPE requirements for the CGFM is available on the website at www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/.

October Chapter Meeting

Submitted by Nathan Abbott, Chapter Secretary



The Nashville Area Chapter held its monthly meeting at the Nashville City Club on Thursday, October 6, 2005, with 87 people present. President Dianne McKay called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Hellens Kruszynski offered the invocation. The minutes of the September Chapter meeting were approved as published in the October newsletter. Dianne McKay introduced and welcomed 16 guests as well as 10 new members.

Kathy Anderson introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Pedro Garcia, Director of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Dr. Garcia spoke on the improvement of Metro Schools over the last five years and the lessons he has learned through his life experiences. As a gift of appreciation, Dr. Garcia was given a certificate announcing a \$35 contribution to the charity of his choice.

Kathy Anderson announced several opportunities for CPE starting with the business tax seminars being held in Memphis on November 17, 2005, and in Nashville on November 29, 2005, the winter seminar for January 23-24, 2006, and the Audio Conference on December 7, 2005.

Ray Register announced that the Pencil Drive is winding up and the next community service project will be the Second Harvest Food Bank Drive. If you would like to host a collection point for the food drive at your place of work, please contact Ray at Ray.T.Register@state.tn.us. Ray also announced that City Pass books are still available for sale.

Ron Queen announced that anyone interested in taking the CGFM should contact either him or another CGFM committee member by October 31, 2005, to be included in a drawing for a subsidy to help offset the cost of the exam. A total of three subsidies will be awarded.

Dianne McKay announced that copies of the strategic plan were distributed to each table. A copy of the report is also available for viewing on the chapter's website. She also announced that the photographs taken at the September meeting were available for people to take home. The October luncheon photos will be available at the next meeting for those who wish to take them home. All photos will be on the website for viewing.

Dianne also announced that a joint meeting with the Nashville Chapter of the Certified Fraud Examiners will take place in November when Rebecca Paul, CEO of the Tennessee Lottery, will be the guest speaker.

One door prize of \$25 was awarded to Sharon Wahlstrom, and Mary Anne Queen won the door prize for the AGA carrying case. Ron Anderson provided the answer to the monthly puzzle.

The meeting was adjourned.



Interested in the CGFM certification?

Sign up for AGA's special Intensive Review Course and take the CGFM Examinations this February in Washington, D.C. Don't miss this opportunity to earn your CGFM!

The Intensive Review Course will take place from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on February 1-2, 2006. The CGFM Examinations will be offered by appointment only on February 3-4, 2006.

The cost of the course is only \$195 for qualified participants, and it offers 16 CPE hours. Special Bonus: the CGFM Examinations taken during this event are free of charge!

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. Only the individuals who register and attend the Intensive Review Course will have the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations on February 3-4, 2006.

The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the three instructor-led training courses. On the contrary, it is designed as a supplement to previous preparation for the CGFM Examinations. Attending previous courses or studying using CGFM Study Guides before participating in this event is strongly encouraged.

For registration, eligibility and examination information please visit http://www.agacgfm.org/nlc_2006/cgfm_exam.htm.

NOTICE

State of Tennessee CGFM Optional Salary Incentive

The Department of Personnel includes the CGFM certification in the list of certifications eligible for a one-step salary increase. A salary increase **may** be granted to employees of the State of Tennessee if the certification is obtained by passing the exams. To be certain that you qualify for the salary increase, obtain approval from your supervisor and the Department of Personnel **before** sitting for the exams. For specific details see the Department of Personnel Policy #90-031 (10/10/90) amended March 23, 1999.



WINTER



January 23 and 24

SEMINAR

The education committee of the Nashville Chapter of AGA invites you to attend another outstanding educational event. Attend the winter seminar for 16 hours of continuing professional education on important issues and challenges in government.

This seminar will include a large array of topics that affect the government manager and the government auditor. **Stephen J. Gauthier**, Director, Technical Services Center, Government Finance Officers Association will start with "What's Up with GASB and GFOA?" This session will examine recent guidance from both the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). GASB topics will include termination benefits; pollution remediation obligations; and sales and pledges of receivables and future revenues. GFOA topics will include recommended practices on accounting, auditing, and financial reporting, as well as the avoidance of common reporting deficiencies identified in the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program.

Anne D. Smith, Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee will discuss management issues in her session entitled "Decision-Making Under Stress: Learning from some Classic Dilemmas."

Stephanie Richardson, Tennessee's ERP project manager, will round out the afternoon with a discussion about Project Edison, the project to bring an ERP system to the State of Tennessee, entitled "The State of Tennessee's Enterprise Resource Planning Journey." The session will discuss the status of the program and the plans for moving forward with implementation.

On day 2, the morning will include information on frauds, forensic accounting, and risk assessments. The first speaker will be **Jim C. Wilson, Jr., CPA**, who will discuss interesting fraud schemes. Following, **Stan Wilson** and **Jeff Tuley** with NetEvidence, Inc., will join together to present information on forensic audits. Their must-see presentation is called "What You Need to Know about Electronic Investigations and Why."

Then, **Art Hayes**, Director of Tennessee's Division of State Audit, will discuss risk assessments. Although the concepts of risk assessment and internal controls have been around for many years, there is a new urgency to addressing these issues. The AICPA is poised to roll out a new set of "expectation gap" Standards which focus on risk assessments by auditors and by management. And, although Sarbanes-Oxley does not apply to governments and not-for-profits, the State of Tennessee has enacted a law requiring audit committees for certain entities. These actions, coupled with the latest auditing standard on fraud, SAS No. 99, make it essential that the accountability professional understand and effectively execute these key activities. This session will present a practical approach to performing and documenting risk assessment and to designing and implementing mitigating internal controls.

In the afternoon, **R. Kinney Poynter**, the Executive Director of NASACT will join with **Jan Sylvis**, the Chief of Accounts for the State of Tennessee, to discuss benchmarking in the public sector. NASACT has launched a benchmarking program to allow efficiency comparisons with each state and between the states, and the State of Tennessee is participating in this exciting program. Kinney Poynter will discuss the project itself and Jan Sylvis will discuss Tennessee's role in this session called "Benchmarking in the Public Sector: In Tennessee and Across the U.S."

And more is yet to be announced! A federal government upper-level executive is in the process of committing to speaking in the final session of day two. Make plans to attend this exciting event!

Register soon! As a Nashville chapter member, we are concentrating our notifications to you first. But registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis, and we will be marketing to individuals outside the chapter soon. There is limited seating to this valuable seminar!

For more information, please contact Kathy Anderson at (615) 747-5241 or kathy.anderson@state.tn.us, or any of the other education committee members that were involved with the planning of this event including Ike Boone, Ann Collett, Bertha DeWeese, Teresa Kennedy, and Patricia Wakefield.

Certified Government Financial Manager: Experience, Education, and Ethics

— by Gerry Boaz, CPA, CGFM

The Enron, WorldCom, Global Crossing and other accounting scandals a few years ago left investors and the American citizenry with a perception that all private sector businesses were corrupt, even though that was not the case. Governments have not been exempt from their own problems either. So the question now is, what can we as individual government employees, employers, and taxpayers do to change the perception about public and private entities? Well, the simple answer is to focus on government accountability, whether that takes the form of better performance in achieving program and activity goals and objectives, effectiveness in attaining the program's purpose, and/or efficiency in using the taxpayers' money. How can government employees and employers attain these attributes? That is where the AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program comes into play.

The CGFM program responds to the call for government financial management professionals who can lead the way to a more accountable and effective government. For this reason, the CGFM Program does not deal solely with assessing a person's knowledge in a specific area. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a government financial professional needs to succeed in today's challenging financial, operational, and ethical environment. The CGFM denotes individuals who have knowledge in many functional areas and who know how to apply that knowledge in all areas of government financial management.

Do not consider the CGFM certification as pure "credentialism" or just appreciation of parchment. It must reflect not only our demand for excellence in ourselves but also the taxpayers' demand for excellence. Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has quickly become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience, and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most experienced financial professionals. Developed by government financial management experts, the CGFM is built on a foundation of expert knowledge. The CGFM designation is more than a piece of parchment. The CGFM is a way for you to experience the benefits of certification first hand, to acknowledge formally your competencies, and to demonstrate your broad knowledge of financial management and government accountability. The following saying that we government employees often hear from others should be an insult to each and every one of us and should motivate us to attain excellence, not the minimum expected: "That is good enough for government work."

Webster's dictionary defines "certify" as, "declare formally to be competent, valid, true, etc." Certification benefits you and your employer and creates a win-win situation. If you want to become more competent, more competitive, and be eligible for pay incentives, earning the CGFM is something you should seriously consider. The continuing professional education (CPE) requirement is the backbone of the program, encouraging you to keep up with the changes in the profession and remain a pioneer in the field. An employer also benefits when an employee earns a CGFM. An employee with a CGFM designation enhances the employer's credibility and accountability, shows that the employer is a place where people with an interest in government financial accountability work, and builds public confidence that the government takes accountability seriously. No other professional certification provides you with knowledge about the governmental environment; governmental accounting, financial reporting and budgeting; and governmental financial management and control.

For many employers, the CGFM is already recognized as a professional standard because citizens expect that level of professionalism and expertise from its government financial managers and management. The individuals who would most benefit from holding a CGFM are those who are in the field of public financial management, whether they work in the public, private, or nonprofit sector. Financial managers, program managers, government contractors, public accountants (including auditors), and academics would all benefit from holding the CGFM.

Back in March 2005, Governor Bredesen and the House of Representatives through the efforts of Representative Charles Curtiss recognized the importance and value of the CGFM professional desig-

nation for Tennessee's government employers and employees by declaring March 2005 as CGFM month. However, only a small number of the state's employees, including department and agency heads, know what the CGFM is. All over the United States, many government employers at all levels of government (e.g., federal, state, and local) recognize the certification as a preferred hiring requirement in the financial management field. A growing trend is that private sector employers contracting to do business with or for governments are beginning to recognize the CGFM certification's growing importance in demonstrating competencies. With this recognition, the CGFM carries similar importance as the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and is the mark of excellence in the government accountability profession.

A global economy requires global skills for a global workforce. Employers are no longer fighting to get just competent, skilled American workers. Instead, the workforce pool has gone global. You must ask yourself what distinguishes you from an individual half way around the globe, much less the United States, competing for the same job. If you believe this cannot happen in the government arena, think again! Some U.S. governments have already tried outsourcing some tasks to other countries. Internet technologies make this potential a reality. Your objective should be continuous improvement through increased skill sets.

Clearly, the CGFM Program covers a broad knowledge and skill base all employees and employers need. The challenge facing today's government financial managers is adapting with the rapidly changing times. New innovations, developments, and methods of implementation are creating a new environment in which government financial managers must function and adapt. Increasing knowledge and skills are the key to staying abreast of the latest developments. Having a broad knowledge and a recognized professional designation will differentiate you from the crowd. Join the thousands of other leaders in government financial management who already have discovered the unique value and benefit of the CGFM designation. Act now by applying for eligibility to become certified. Becoming a CGFM could be the most important decision for your career, and therefore your solution to success and mobility!



Congratulations

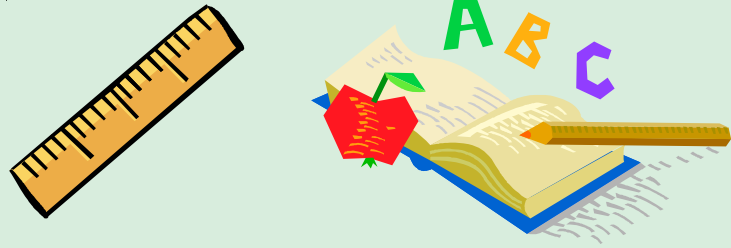
**AGA Nashville Chapter Member
Ted Fellman
Named THDA Director**



Ted Fellman has been chosen as the Tennessee Housing and Development Agency's new Executive Director as of November 1, 2005. Mr. Fellman has been the deputy Executive Director for single-family programs and Chief Financial Officer at THDA.

Mr. Fellman has been working for the state for more than 20 years, working with both the Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Correction, and THDA since March 1995. He is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Governmental Financial Manager. He is an alumni of Tennessee Technological University where he earned bachelor's degree in business administration and Tennessee State University where he earned his master's degree in public administration. He is also a member of the Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants and the American Society for Public Administration.

Project Pencil Results



The Community Service Committee would like to thank the members who supported this year's Alex Green School Supply drive. We were able to donate 237 items and \$90.00 in cash donations to go toward needed items for the students.

Don't forget that we will be selling Citipass books through the month of December. The cost of the Citipass book is \$20.00 with \$7.00 of every book sold going to Alex Green. This year our goal is to sell all 30 books. The books will be on sale at November and December meetings. For those of you who would like to purchase the books before the next meeting please contact Tammy Fruscione, phone: 615-747-5221 or email: Tammy.Fruscione@state.tn.us.

Thanks again for all your support.



Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee

*Fighting Hunger
Feeding Hope
Feeding the hungry in
Middle Tennessee
since 1978*

Please help AGA and Second Harvest Food Bank fight hunger in Middle Tennessee. Second Harvest Food Bank manages an Emergency Food Box program to feed hungry individuals and families on an urgent-need basis. In conjunction with partner agencies throughout Nashville, Second Harvest distributes emergency food items at 14 locations throughout Davidson County. An emergency food box provides two to three-days' worth of staple food items for each member of the household. AGA is sponsoring a food drive through October.

"Most Needed" Items include:

Canned Fruits
Dried Beans
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Meat
Rice
Peanut Butter

Collection boxes are currently at the following locations:

16th Floor, James K. Polk Building, contact: Tammy Fruscione
14th Floor, James K. Polk Building, contact: Karen Hale or Mary Anne Queen
20th Floor, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, contact: Chuck Holland
19th Floor, L & C Tower contact: Ray Register
14th Floor, William Snodgrass Tower, contact: Margaret Walker
222 Third Avenue, contact: Phil Carr

Please contact Ray Register at 532-0216 or Ray.T.Register@state.tn.us to host a collection box at your work location.

CGFM Committee News

Committee Report

CGFM Committee Members: Rebecca Barr (Co Chair), Gerry Boaz, CGFM, Tammy Fruscione, CGFM, Georganne Martin, CGFM, Mary Ann Queen, CGFM, Ron Queen, CGFM (Chair)

Training Opportunities Relevant to the CGFM

CGFM Exam 1 Study Course – online

<http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/prepare/onlinecourses.aspx>
anytime

The Department of Personnel includes the CGFM certification in the list of certifications eligible for a one-step salary increase. A salary increase **may** be granted to employees of the State of Tennessee if the certification is obtained by passing the exams. To be certain that you qualify for the salary increase, obtain approval from your supervisor and the Department of Personnel **before** sitting for the exams. For specific details see the Department of Personnel Policy #90-031 (10/10/90) amended March 23, 1999.



Free Lunch for Those Passing the CGFM

The CGFM Committee is continuing its program to congratulate those individuals passing the CGFM exams by offering lunch certificates that are good for a free lunch at any AGA luncheon meeting. If you passed the CGFM exams during September 2004 and August 2005 and have not received a lunch certificate, please contact

Ron Queen at Ron.Queen@state.tn.us

or

Rebecca Barr (Rebecca.Barr@state.tn.us)

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Meet Your Chapter Leadership

Kathy Anderson

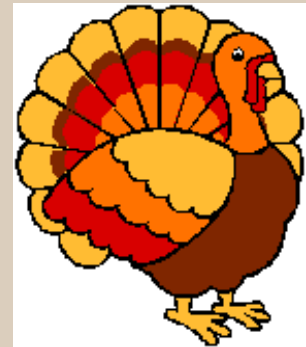
Education Chair

Kathy Anderson is an audit manager with the financial and compliance section of the Division of State Audit. She manages the audits of the Department of Finance and Administration, the Department of Revenue, and the State of Tennessee's *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*. She is a CPA and a CGFM.

Kathy is a two-year director of the chapter executive committee. She current serves as the Education Chair. She has enjoyed being a member of AGA for almost 10 years and has previously served as the secretary.

After a childhood in New York State, North Dakota, and Kentucky, Kathy now calls Smyrna home. She resides with her husband Scott, daughter Natalie Rose, son Jacob, a cat, and 3 dogs. Kathy enjoys Titans football, UK basketball, and Lady Beetle soccer (Natalie.) She is a proud alumnus of Murray State University.

Thanksgiving Quiz

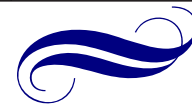


1. When is Thanksgiving?
 - a. 1st Thursday
 - b. 4th Thursday
 - c. 3rd Thursday
2. The Thanksgiving holiday began almost
 - a. 400 years ago
 - b. 500 years ago
 - c. 600 years ago
3. What is maize?
 - a. cranberry
 - b. corn
 - c. pumpkin
4. What does 'Indian Corn' as a decoration represent?
 - a. the invention of popcorn
 - b. corny jokes
 - c. the harvest and fall season
5. What does 'ibimi' mean?
 - a. Itty Bitty Berry
 - b. Better Berry
 - c. Bitter Berry





Mark Your Calendars



Meeting Dates

AGA Nashville Chapter

(All Chapter meetings will be held the First Thursday of the Month, except as noted below)

November 3, 2005

December 1, 2005

January 5, 2006

February 2, 2006

March 2, 2006

April 6, 2006

May 4, 2006



Chapter Executive Committee

All CEC meetings will be held on the Monday before the chapter meeting, except as noted below)

November 28, 2005

January 2, 2006

January 30, 2006

February 27, 2006

April 3, 2006

May 1, 2006

Nashville Chapter Training

Please see page 15 for all AGA sponsored training opportunities.

Other Professional Organization Training

Institute of Internal Auditors

Information and Technology Seminar

November 15, 2005 from 8:00 am to 4:15 pm

8 Hours of CPE

\$100 per person

Lifeway Christian Resources

Topics

How to Steal from the Boss

Layered Informatin Security Programs

Peripheral Device Security - Big Threats from Little Devices

The History Report is available on our Chapter

Website at

www.nashvilleaga.org

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PLAN

November 2005 through May 2006
Nashville Area Chapter
Association of Governmental Accountants

2005

November 17, 2005

Business Tax Seminar (8 CPEs, 6.75 CLEs)
Current topics – taxes/state revenue
Department of Revenue speakers and others
Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference
Center 3663 Appling Road
Bartlett (Memphis), Tennessee

November 29, 2005

Business Tax Seminar (8CPEs, 6.75 CLEs)
Current topics – taxes/state revenue
Department of Revenue speakers and others
Willis Conference Center
26 Century Boulevard
Nashville, Tennessee

December 7, 2005

Audio Conference (2 CPEs)
Identity Theft
Suite 1500 James K. Polk Building
Nashville, Tennessee

2006

January 23-24, 2006

AGA Winter Seminar (16 CPEs)
(dates are tentative)
Various speakers
Human capital and management topics
Lipscomb University
Nashville, Tennessee

February 2006

Breakfast CPE at the Hard Rock (2 CPEs)
Speaker to be announced
100 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee

March 1, 2006

Audio Conference (2 CPEs)
Implications of Sarbanes-Oxley
Suite 1500 James K. Polk Building
Nashville, Tennessee

March 2006

Southeastern Professional Development
Conference (16 CPEs)
Speakers and topics coordinated by Jim
Arnette, Regional Vice President
Nashville, Tennessee

Numerous dates

Lunch meeting speakers (1 CPE)
Various
Nashville City Club
201 4th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee

Print and post this listing by your calendar so you don't miss any of these worthwhile training opportunities!

2005-2006 Nashville Chapter Leadership

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Visit the Nashville Area Chapter's web site at <http://www.nashvilleaga.org>.

Also, visit these other AGA sites:

AGA National Site	www.agacgfm.org
Southeastern Region Site	agaservp.tripod.com
Atlanta Chapter	www.mindspring.com/~agaatl/agaga.htm
Central Kentucky Chapter	www.ckyaga.com
Chattanooga Chapter	www.aga.taxpro.net
Columbia Chapter	www.columbiaaga.com
East Tennessee Chapter	www.kornet.org/etaga/