

## President's Message

### AGA President Message for April 2021

April brings our final regular chapter meeting of the program year. For May, the chapter board is working on planning a virtual awards ceremony which will be a social event. One of the things that I have missed the most with the virtual format this year is getting to catch up with fellow attendees before and after chapter meetings and events. The May event will be a celebration of making it through our virtual program year, and you can expect it to be more interactive and casual than our regular meetings. There are many reasons to be hopeful that we will be able to resume in person meetings in the Fall.

For the April 13<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting, Mayor Indya Kincannon will be providing an update on the financial and economic status of the City of Knoxville. There will be some time for Q&A, so feel free to bring questions that are on your mind. The session will be eligible for one CPE, and I hope that you are able to join.

As a reminder AGA Membership Renewals were due on 3/31/21. If you have not done so already, please take a few moments to renew on the AGA website ([www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)).

Lastly, volunteers are needed to fill chapter leadership positions for the upcoming program year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). Those who volunteer to serve in a chapter leadership position for the upcoming year will be invited to attend LEAD! — AGA's chapter and national leadership training event, which is scheduled for May 7 & 14. I attended LEAD! the past two years, and it truly is an excellent program for helping prepare you for a chapter leadership role. In addition, serving in an AGA chapter leadership role allows you to build your leadership skills in a supportive environment. If you are interested, please reach out to myself or any of the other chapter officers.

Happy Spring!  
Astra Cope  
2020 – 2021 East TN AGA Chapter President

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## April 2021 Meeting

Tuesday,  
Apr. 13, 2021  
11:30 AM



Mayor Indya Kincannon



### Agenda

Financial and Economic Status of City of  
Knoxville

More detail to follow on virtual meeting

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# AGA National News

## AGA Web Conferences: CPE Simplified

Looking for a way to stretch your training budget? AGA Web Conferences make earning CPE hours easy and affordable. Web conferences feature experts on a variety of government financial management and performance topics. Each event includes time for participants to ask questions and receive answers from the presenters. The web conferences are held on **Wednesdays from 2–3:50 p.m. ET, cost \$59.**

### Upcoming Web Conferences

<b>Apr. 7</b>	<b>Ethics</b>	<b>2 CPE</b>
<b>Apr. 21</b>	<b>CARES Act</b>	<b>2 CPE</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Fraud/Data Analytics</b>	<b>2 CPE</b>
<b>Jun. 9</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>2 CPE</b>

## Recruit a Member

Did you know that a large percentage of new members join AGA simply because someone invited them?

As a valued member, you can impact the future of AGA by sharing your experience with your peers, your staff and others in your organization with an interest in government financial management. No one knows better than a current AGA member how beneficial membership is to advancing government accountability.

There are recognition and rewards for recruiting such as sponsor lapel pin for one or more new members, special recognition in AGA publications and at AGA events. You could even become the next recruiter of the year by recruiting the most new members from April 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year.

# 2020-2021 National Events Calendar

PIO/CFO Summit	Apr 8	Virtual	4 CPE
ERM Workshop	Apr 14	Virtual	4 CPE
AI & AA Summit	May 5	Virtual	5 CPE
Professional Development Training (PDT)	July 18-21	Nashville or virtual	24 CPE
Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training	Sept 21-22	Virtual	14 CPE

Check out [www.agacqfm.org](http://www.agacqfm.org) for the latest in National AGA information and news. You can also access the member's only section of the site to update your personal information, renew your membership, report membership news and view how we are doing on points in the chapter

## Chapter News

### March Meeting Minutes

Our March meeting of the East TN AGA Chapter was held virtually on March 9, 2021. President Astra Cope opened the meeting with some announcements. She reminded everyone that AGA renewals are due by March 31. Astra also announced that March is CGFM month and recognized that our chapter has 38 members who hold the CGFM title.

Astra then introduced the speaker, Steve Lowry, CPA retired from KPMG. Steve's presentation was on the Evolution of Auditing (1978 – 2018) which spanned his forty year career.

Steve discussed his early years (late 70s) which consisted of a lot of paper and calculator tape. During this time period smaller audits did no testing of controls and larger audits only tested some controls. As auditing progressed and computers came on the scene, more controls were tested. However, there was still a massive volume of work papers.

Steve then discussed recent years and how audit software has eliminated the huge binders of work papers. Now, documentation must be complete prior to the issuance of the report. And of course, more testing is conducted and the use of data analysis tools have greatly evolved. Steve's presentation was a great history lesson on where the profession has been and where it is currently.

Astra thanked Steve for his presentation and for everyone attending. All chapter members present were then asked to vote on the approval of the updated bylaws as presented. Of the 21 voting members present, 19 were in favor of approval and 2 abstained. The new bylaws pass as greater than 2/3 in favor was received. A brief board meeting was held. The board discussed the best way to meet the requirements of a financial review. Mary McDonald was asked to review the Treasurer's records as an interim action.

Gail Cook  
Secretary

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Treasurer Connie Cook reported the bank balance as of April 1, 2021 as \$ 15,504.51.

## April Meeting Speaker



### **CITY OF KNOXVILLE MAYOR**

On Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019, Indya Kincannon was sworn in as Knoxville's 69th Mayor.

### **BIOGRAPHY OF MAYOR INDYA KINCANNON**

Mayor Kincannon campaigned on a message of creating and spreading opportunity to all parts of Knoxville. She pledged to balance smart growth with a need to protect green spaces, to promote transparent and efficient government services, and to continue Knoxville's collaborative work with partners to increase affordable housing.

At the core of her message was a commitment to strengthening neighborhoods and encouraging vibrancy.

She was elected on Nov. 5, 2019.

Mayor Kincannon lives in North Knoxville from 2016-2018, she worked in Mayor Madeline Rogero's administration as Special Programs Manager.

She administered \$1.6 million in Community Agency Grants to more than 65 local non-profit entities, created and managed an automated database for hundreds of appointments to boards and commissions, and served as the Mayor's Liaison on various special issues such as education, health and Census 2020.

Mayor Kincannon's first leadership role in Knoxville was as an education advocate. Her parents had taught her that if you see problems in your community, you should fix them. Inspired by their example, she wanted to improve educational opportunities for children. So she ran for a seat on the Knox County Board of Education in 2004 and served for 10 years (2004-14), elected as Chairperson three consecutive years (2008-11).

Kincannon oversaw a \$450 million budget for a school system of 60,000 students and more

than 8,000 employees. Throughout her tenure on the school board, she was steadfast in her efforts to make sure all children had access to high-quality education, regardless of their income, race or ZIP code.

These efforts met with great success. Fulton High School's graduation rate rose from 46 percent to over 80 percent, and she helped launch several new schools, including L&N STEM Academy, the Career Magnet Academy, and the Paul Kelley Academy.

Kincannon served as a founding Trustee for Great Schools Partnership (2008-11), as a member of Gov. Bill Haslam's Opportunity Scholarship Taskforce (2012), and as a board member for Project Graduation Really Achieves Dreams (2004-14).

Mayor Kincannon also taught writing, history, Spanish and drama to international students in Ljubljana, Slovenia (2014-15).

She graduated Princeton School of Public and International Affairs with a Master's Degree in Public Affairs and Urban and Regional Planning (1999).

Prior to that, she earned her B.A. in history (1993) from Haverford College, where she captained the varsity tennis team.

She also studied Spanish colonial history (spring 1992) at the University of Barcelona, and she took teacher licensure courses at the University of Tennessee (2014).

Mayor Kincannon is the proud mom of two teenaged daughters, Dahlia and Georgia, and she's been married since 1995 to her husband, Ben Barton, a law professor at the University of Tennessee. They have a mixed-lab rescue dog named Bobo, who keeps her company on walks and runs through Knoxville's Urban Wilderness, where she also enjoys mountain-bike rides.

## **East Tennessee AGA Chapter Officers 2020-2021**

President:	Astra Cope
Past President:	Chris Simons
Webmaster:	Alicia Reed
Treasurer:	Connie Cook
Secretary:	Gail Cook
Historian:	Amy Paganelli
Membership:	Robin Shelton
Education:	Amelia Hart
CGFM:	Karen McKee
Awards:	Ginger Giffin
Accountability:	Mary McDonald
Community Service:	Thaddeus Grace
Early Careers:	Perry Benshoof
Newsletter Editor:	Deb Strahler
Research:	Larry Elmore
Chapter Recognition & Meetings:	Patti Rebholz
President - Elect:	Amelia Hart

### **EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES**

**There is always an opportunity for anyone of you to take a position as a board member.**

## **BECOME A CGFM TODAY!!!**

The Certified Government Financial Manager - The Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government.

Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and ethics requirements have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals. More than 14,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand—the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession. We look forward to adding your name to our distinguished list of Certified Government Financial Managers.

Recent research has shown that employers attribute their recruiting difficulties to a shortage of qualified professionals. Give yourself a competitive advantage by showing your commitment to lifelong learning. You need a credential that shows you are qualified and have the skills to lead. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) does this like no other credential.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management—federal, state and local. It measures a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers

Learn more about how to become a CGFM at <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/whyearn/default.aspx>.

### **CGFM Exam Preparation Courses – TBA**

### **CGFM Self-Study Alternatives**

Study Guides offers by AGA for online and in print options