

CCFO NEWSLETTER

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The Road to Success

Katie Armstrong,
Assistant Director of Administration
Division of Local Government Audit

“The road to success is always under construction.”
- Comedian Lily Tomlin

Since the January snowstorm, I find myself in what seems like a real-life version of Mario Kart as I dodge potholes to and from work. I try to memorize the placement of the most egregious obstacles, but undoubtedly those end up filled and new ones appear. It strikes me that these zigzagging, obstacle-dodging, unpredictable paths can have similarities to many of our professional journeys. Careers that did not take a straight, pothole-free, predictable path, but somehow still had all of us converging through the certified county finance officer program. Since the last newsletter, we have had 170 new CCFOs across Tennessee join us on this path. Congratulations to each of you! Your hard work and dedication have earned you a certification that indicates you are a knowledgeable financial professional who is willing to go the extra mile to make your local government work better. But I will also caution you that your work is not done. You see, as the quote above indicates, success is always under construction. There are ever-changing accounting and auditing standards to implement, the latest local resolutions to put into practice, and new state laws to understand and execute. All of which can affect you and your local government from being successful if you don't



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know about them or understand how to put them into place properly.

On January 9, 2024, the second session of the 113th General Assembly convened. Since then, more than 2,000 bills have been filed with nearly half of those impacting Tennessee local governments in some way. Bills cover everything from property tax caps to more frequent reappraisals; open meeting rules to purchasing laws; changes to investment statutes and insurance requirements; and, yes, there are even bills to make hot slaw and barbeque official foods of the state of Tennessee. As individuals who are directly impacted by these pieces of legislation, the sheer number of bills can be overwhelming to monitor, and the thought of implementation is utterly daunting. With this in mind, I highly recommend that you seek out a legislative update at the conclusion of each legislative session. These are offered from several organizations that represent county officials, such as Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA), County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT), Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association (TGFOA) and County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), among others, as well as from the Comptroller's office at the annual free CCFO training events in the fall. Legislative updates can help you to understand which laws passed, the intent behind these pieces of legislation, and how to successfully implement them with the least amount of disruption to your local government. By making an effort to understand these laws and implement them properly, you are reducing the number of potholes and roadblocks you must dodge along the way.

While the road to success is always under construction, drivers have the ability to navigate the smoothest path possible. Your counties are so fortunate to have YOU in the driver's seat!

SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS

A state & local government partnership program

Save the Date!

MAY 10, 2024

More details coming soon! Stay tuned!

Check out **COT Cyber Aware** for educational video options.



Visit tncot.cc/cyberaware to request a speaker.

CERTIFIED COUNTY FINANCE OFFICER SPOTLIGHT: Douglas Lukonen



What is your current position?

Finance Director for Maury County

What initially interested you in the CCFO program?

I was excited to see the State of Tennessee come out with a learning program that provides content on every different thing our office does. I wanted to set the tone for my staff and encourage them to do it as well. I wanted to brush up on some skills and meet other employees of other counties. Additionally, I was glad to see a county government focused program to match the CMFO program city governments have.

How has becoming a CCFO impacted your position?

The CCFO program has helped my position provide my office with an excellent development tool. The staff that go to the CCFO classes learn about the other duties, responsibilities, and tasks of their coworkers, elected officials, and department heads. I make it a goal to push my employees to get the training and certification. I am a competitive person and I like for my employees and my office to be successful. I think the CCFO designation compliments the efforts they are bringing to the office every day.

What would you say to anyone thinking about participating in the CCFO Program?

Do it! The classes are beneficial. You will learn and meet new people that you have a lot in common with professionally. Have you made the decision to have a career in county government finance in Tennessee? If so, the CCFO program is the certification for you to get a good start!

THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE IS OFFERING FREE CPE

16 hours • 3 Locations Available • CMFO & CCFO Training Only



KNOXVILLE, TN
SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2024

JACKSON, TN
OCTOBER 15-16, 2024



NASHVILLE, TN
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2024
(VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON OPTIONS)



PREVIOUS TOPICS INCLUDED: *GASB UPDATES, CYBERSECURITY, MUNICIPAL CHART OF ACCOUNTS, OPEN MEETINGS, PURCHASING AND SO MUCH MORE!*

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION
COMING SOON!**





West Tennessee
Satellite Chapter

Register
Here!

WORKPLACE BEST PRACTICES

Recruit • Retain • Emotional Intelligence

Tuesday
April 23


Jackson, TN
4 CPE



Christy Behnke

Leadership &
Organizational
Development Manager



Rachelle Cabading

Director
Office of Management
Services

Upcoming Training Opportunities

CPE Provider Training Classes and Conferences

(The following list is not a preapproval or endorsement of the provider organizations. For any questions regarding online CPE courses, please refer to the CMFO Policies and Procedures Manual.)

ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners)
<http://www.acfe.com/>

ACPEN (Accounting CPE Network)
<http://www.acpen.com/>

AGA (Association of Government Accountants)
(CGFM)
<http://www.agacgfm.org/>

AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) CPEExpress
<https://www.aicpa.org/cpeandconferences/cpeself-study.html>

Checkpoint Learning CPEasy
<http://www.cpeasy.com/>

Continuing Academics CPETutor
<http://www.cafacpe.com/default.aspx>

CTAS
<http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/content/training>

GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association)
http://www.gfoa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28&Itemid=49

Local Government Corporation
<https://www.localgovernmentcorporation.com/drupal7/>

NASACT (National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, & Treasurers)
<http://nasact.org/>

TGA (Tennessee Gas Association)
<http://www.tngas.org/>

TCMA (Tennessee City Management Association)
<http://www.tncma.org/>

TGFOA (Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association)
<http://www.tngfoa.org>

TSCPA (Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants)
<http://www.tscpa.com>

TVPPA (Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, Inc.)
<http://www.tvppa.com/>

Tyler Technologies
<http://www.tylertech.com/>

Western CPE
<http://www.westerncpe.com/>



Have a question?
Not sure who to contact?

Certified County Finance Officer (tn.gov)



Visit the 2024
training calendar
to view upcoming CPE
classes

ctas.tennessee.edu

Reminder:

CPE Reporting due
December 31st

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

RIMON ABDOU
KATHERINE AJMERI
ANDREA ALEXANDER
SATRICE ALLEN
SARAH ALLEN
ANGELIA ASKINS
JOSEPH ATCHLEY
SHELBY ATWOOD
SARAH AUVILLE
CAROL BAILEY
BRIAN BALDWIN
KARI BARRETT
LISA BAXLEY
LYDIA BECKWITH
LANITRIA BENTLEY
TARA BERGFELD
CHANTI BERRY
BRYCE BLANCHARD
JAMES BOWERS
VALERIE BRADLEY
KRISTIE BRATCHER
PAMELA BREWER
STACY BRINKLEY
ANGEL BROOKS
KRISTIE BROWDER
LEIGHA BROWN
ZACCH BROWN
UNDREA BRYANT
CYNTHIA BURCH
ETHAN BURNS
LEIGH BURTCHAEEL
LORI BUTLER
ANDREW CALDWELL
KIMBERLY CALDWELL
KAYLAN CALTON
JORDAN CANTRELL
COLBY CAREY
GREGORY CARTER
KAREN CARVER
MIAH CASTILLO
PATRICK CLINTON
GREGORY COBBIGE
SHANELE COLLINS

TRAVIS CRAFTON
WILLIAM DAUGHERTY
STACIE DEFREES
JOSHUA DEHNZ
TONYA DEMERS
BRIAN DICKEY
HOLLIE DODD
TAMI DRAKE
STEPHANIE EASTERLY
MARIEA EWOLDT
PATTIE FARRIS
WANDA FAULKNER
TERESA FLOWERS
HARLEY FORRESTER
JERI FOUTCH
ERNEST FRANKLIN
WILLIAM FRANKS
JAMES GADSDEN
GINA GIBBS
ERICA GILMORE
ANGIE GODDARD
AMY GOSSETT
CHANELL GRAHAM
STEPHANIE GRAVERT-SPITZER
KATHEY GRODI
KACEE HARRIS
DANNY HELTON
LAURA HINTON
TRACY HOLL
CAROLYN HOLT
CASEY HOPKINS
GARY IRWIN
KARL JACKSON
LESSA JACOBY
KELI JAROSZ
SHELLEY JENKINS
GENA JENKINS
RHONDA JERNIGAN
JAYDEN JOHNSON
JULIE JONES
RACHAEL KAPPERMAN
ANGELA KAYLOR
DENEKA KIRBY

LARRY LAW
RHONDA LAWSON
CHARLIE LESTER
AMANDA LLOYD
CONNIE LYNCH-JONES
LINDSAY MADDOX
CHARMAN MARSH
JOHNATHAN MARTIN
LESLIE MAYO
TAYLER McCANN
ANGELA McELRATH-PROSSER
ANNA MCGILL
CANDACE McLYNN
WADE McMANUS
NATALIE MILLER
ASHLEY MOORE
LORI MOORE
HEATHER MORGAN
BETHANY MORRIS
MELANIE MOSLEY
LORRI MOULTRIE
CHRISTY NAILL
CRYSTAL NELSON
GREGG NICHOLSON
ANJANNETTE NOEL
ANGELA NYE
JAMES OBEDMOT
KELLY ODOM
STACEY OLFE
ERIC OWENS
TARA PATTERSON
SKYLAR PETERSON
MONA PETTEWAY
JEANNY PHILLIPS
JENNIFER PHILLIPS
RICHARD PUGH
CHRISTOPHER RENEAU
PAULA RICHARDS
KATELYN RICHIE
CORI ROWLAND
JANET SAMAR
ANGELA SATTERFIELD
ASHLEY SCHMIDT

DANIELLE SCHONBAUM
ED SEBASTIAN
MALITA SHAVER
RACHEL SHELTON
ANNETTE SISK
JONATHAN SLATER
AETNA SMITH
TRACEY SMITH
ALISON SMITH
ANNA GRACE SMITH
TWYLA SMITH
HANNAH STANSEL
ROY STONE
LEANNA SUITER
TIM SUTER
RHONDA TAYLOR
KRISTY TEASE
NICOLE TELLMER
REBECCA THOMAS
NAKELA TISKA
RENELLE TOLAN
STEPHANIE TORRENCE
BRIAN TRISDALE
VALERIE UNDERHILL
SAVANNA USERY
ALLISON VALENTINE
SHARON WAHLSTROM
TAMRA WALKER
KARA WALLING
STACY WARWICK
DARIYELLE WASHINGTON
CAROLYN WATSON
MARTI WATTS
SHERRY WEBB
AMANDA WEEKS
MELISSA WELLS
HEATHER WEST
LYNN WILLIAMS
TAYLOR WILLIS
TAMMY WINSTON
JYOTIRMAI YADDANAPUDI