

CERTIFIED FINANCE OFFICER NEWSLETTER

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Building and Maintaining a Professional Network

Katie Armstrong, Assistant Director
Division of Local Government Audit

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

The government finance environment is fast-paced and ever-changing, so staying ahead of the curve is not just beneficial, it's essential. From new GASB pronouncements to shifting state and federal regulations, the need for timely, accurate information is critical. And one of the most effective tools at your disposal isn't found in a textbook or a training manual—it's your professional network.

The complexity of government finance continues to grow. Laws change rapidly, accounting standards are updated frequently, and new technologies reshape how we manage and report financial information. Staying informed can feel overwhelming when you're doing it alone. While every city or county has its own unique circumstances, we all benefit from shared knowledge, experience, and support.

So, how does one go about building and maintaining a professional network?

- **Get Involved** - Attending conferences are great for obtaining continuing professional education credit, but they also provide opportunities to meet peers, exchange ideas, and build relationships. Make time to attend conferences and introduce yourself to other attendees who are in similar

roles to your own.

- **Become a Member** – Membership in professional organizations opens doors to training, mentorship, and leadership opportunities. Members often collaborate on common issues and share solutions that have worked for them.
- **Mentor and Be Mentored** - Mentorship is a powerful two-way street. Whether you're early in your career or a seasoned professional, building mentoring relationships helps foster growth for both parties. Reach out to those with experience and offer support to those who may benefit from yours.

Ultimately, you must invest in relationships to build a powerful professional network that will reap rewards. Your network is more than a list of contacts; it's a group of people that can lean on one another amid changes and offer a helping hand during challenging times. Most importantly, they remind us that we are not alone. Government financial management isn't getting any easier, so let's support each other by staying informed, prepared, and connected. The strength of our profession lies in the strength of our connections.

Missed a previous newsletter?

Have a question about CPE guidelines?

Need to log into an existing account?



Visit www.comptroller.tn.gov for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

MARY ADAMS
JENNY AVEDISIAN
LISA BAKER
CIERRA BECKMAN
LIENE BIDDIX
JESSICA BISHOP
JESSICA BITER
TAYLOR BRANDON
MARKSON BRENY
DONNESHA BRITTMON
SHERLITA BUFFORD
WILLIAM BURKE
JENNIFER CARLEW
MARIA CAULDER
ASHLEY COLLINS
CAROL CONDR
SHIPRAH COX
BRITTANY CRAFT
MARK CROCKER
KELSI DARNELL
AMANDA DAUGHERTY
MARCIE DIXON
OLIVIA DOWNEY
TASHA DYKES
PHYLLIS ELION
JONATHAN ELLIS
HARVEY ELLIS
JULIE FITCH
ADRIENNE FRAME
MEGAN GENTRY
AUDRA GERTY

WILLIAM GLOVER
JACKSON GOINS
LATONYA GRAY
ARNOLD GROOMS
ZACHARY GUFFEY
KEVIN HARLAN
RANDY HARLEY
ROBIN HEPLER
ALEX HICKS



EMILY HOWELL
NATASHA IRBY
MISTY JETT
HOLLY JONES
CAROLE KIRKSEY
TRACI KOLHEIM
FALON KOZLOWSKI
JOSEPH LASCALA
ADA LAWRENCE
NORMA LOCKNEY
ROBERTA LONG
KEVIN MCCARTHY

MICHAEL MCGUIRE
MAGGIE MEDITZ
AMBER OSIADACZ
DANIEL OWENS
ALLAN OWENS
CHARITY PARIMORE
RICKENA PATTERSON
EMILY PEAKE
TRACEY PERRY
ERICA PERRY
MICHAEL PHAGAN
ROY PHIPPS
JACQUELYN PRESNELL
SHANA PYLE
SABRIYA RASHEED
CHRISTINA RIVAS
RESSIE ROBERTSON
SIERRA ROUYEA
DAVID SHINN, JR.
MICHAEL STACK
CYNTHIA STEWART
ASHLEY STRICKLAND
JASON STUART
JESSE TURNER
JENIFER VANDYKE
ANNA WALKER
NAYTARSHA WHITE
JESSICA WILLIAMS
TONIA WILSON
JEFFERY YOUNG



HURRICANE HELENE DISASTER RELIEF

The Tennessee General Assembly and the State of Tennessee are providing financial assistance to owners of taxable property whose property was destroyed or damaged by the 2024 Hurricane Helene disaster.

**ELIGIBLE PROPERTY OWNERS
MUST COMPLETE AN APPLICATION
PROCESS BY JUNE 30, 2025**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

*comptroller.tn.gov/relief.html
or email relief@cot.tn.gov*





SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS

A state & local government partnership program

OPEN TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
COUNTIES, CITIES, UTILITY DISTRICTS & AUTHORITIES

1.5 HOURS CPE
CREDIT AVAILABLE

(CMFO, CCFO)
BY REQUEST WHEN
REGISTERING

Session Focus:
From Response to
Prevention: The
Evolving Role of Law
Enforcement in
School Security

9 MAY 2025
11:30AM CT

193 POLK AVE, SUITE D
NASHVILLE, TN 37219



ZOOM ALSO AVAILABLE

Moderated by Jim Hart, Manager of Field
Services & Jail Management Consultant,
CTAS

Panel Members:

- **Sheriff Robert C. Bryan**, Wilson County
- **Sergeant Scott Culp**, Rutherford County
- **Chief Dale Lane**, Town of Collierville
- **Officer Christina Rollyson**, City of Oak Ridge



REGISTER NOW

Know someone who would be a great CCFO?

ENROLLMENT FOR NEXT COHORT CLOSES MAY 15TH

Encourage them to apply today.
Classes begin in July 2025.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

CCFO (tn.gov)

Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO) | CTAS (tennessee.edu)



THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE IS OFFERING FREE CPE

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



KNOXVILLE, TN
SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2025

JACKSON, TN
SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2025



NASHVILLE, TN
NOVEMBER 5-6, 2025
(VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON OPTIONS)



PREVIOUS TOPICS INCLUDED: *GASB UPDATE, CYBERSECURITY, TAX RELIEF, FRAUD, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, AND MORE!*

REGISTRATION
OPENING SOON!



Have a question?
Not sure who to contact?

Certified County Finance Officer (tn.gov)
Certified Municipal Finance Officer (tn.gov)



Reminder:
CPE hours must be
earned by December 31st

Connect with your
area consultant

ctas.tennessee.edu
mtas.tennessee.edu



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)
<https://www.acpen.com/>

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

AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants)
<https://www.aicpa-cima.com/cpe-learning>

Checkpoint Learning CPEasy
<https://checkpointlearning.com/CPEsolutions/CPE-for-CPAs>

CTAS
<https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/training>

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

MTAS
<https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/training>

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)
<https://tgfoa.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/>

