

CMFO NEWSLETTER

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A Momentous Occasion: One Thousand CMFOs

Mark Fawver, Contract Audit Review Specialist
Division of Local Government Audit

Greetings CMFOs! We are very excited that we will soon be celebrating the thousandth completion of the Certified Municipal Finance Officer program. In fact, certificate number one thousand will be issued during our next printing date in the spring. This is a welcome milestone for all the individuals who labored to get the program up and running. The benefits that the program has provided are too numerous to list, but one is that it simply makes government work better. A key indicator that the CMFO program works is that the number and severity of audit findings, since the CMFO Act was passed in 2007, has been greatly reduced. It has provided our CMFOs with the necessary skills, knowledge, and education needed for financial transparency and accuracy.

Tennessee has always led the nation in fiscal responsibility and the CMFO and CCFO programs are one of the many ways we continue to lead. I ask that your leadership look for folks in your organization who would benefit from going through the CMFO program and encourage them to apply. The incentives that our legislators have passed have allowed city employees to obtain this prestigious certification at no cost to the city. By adding new candidates, we will continue to ensure our cities and towns are set up for success. I am biased, but I believe our free annual CPE event is the best educational opportunity offered. It is tailored to you from top to bottom and provides a healthy dose of the most current information that will add value to you and your local government, so plan to be a part of it this fall.



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Another valuable resource is our [Audit Manual](#), which is updated annually. Located on the Comptroller's website under Local Government Audit/Manuals, I believe all officials should read through the updates each year when it is released on June 30th. Our markup copy is easy to navigate and can be read through in very little time. One of the sections I want to draw your attention to is Appendix B, Current Developments and Other Matters. In the last manual update, we shared resources for the crosswalk and the cyber security plan. You will also find part of this section devoted to new legislation affecting local governments. A wealth of information can also be found on the [Tennessee General Assembly's website](#). Here you can find your legislator, track bills of interest through the legislative process, and watch live video of the session floor.

Wrapping up these opening remarks, we hope that this program has provided the tools and resources to improve not only your own knowledge but allows you to be an important asset to your organization. Continue to be proud that you embarked on the journey to become a CMFO and know that you are one of one thousand CMFOs who are making government work better.



REMINDER:
**CPE Reporting is
due March 1st!**

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 browse the digital catalog.

CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICER SPOTLIGHT: Andrew Patton



What is your current position?

Director of Human Resources for the City of La Vergne

What initially interested you in the CMFO program?

My interest in the CMFO Program stemmed from a deep desire to deepen my understanding of local government operations and to pave a path for career advancement. As a Director of Human Resources, it was crucial to comprehend the financial underpinnings that influence organizational strategies and policies. This program represented an ideal blend of practical knowledge and professional development opportunities.

How has becoming a CMFO impacted your position?

Achieving the CMFO designation has profoundly transformed my role, allowing me to integrate a broader understanding of local government operations with HR strategies. This knowledge has enabled me to align HR initiatives more closely with our municipality's overarching objectives, leading to a more strategic and comprehensive approach to management. It has enhanced my decision-making abilities and provided a wider lens through which to view and contribute to the operational efficiency and effectiveness of our local government.

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

For those contemplating the journey toward becoming a CMFO, I wholeheartedly endorse it, especially if your ambitions lie in broadening your impact within local government. The program is more than educational; it's a strategic career move, offering a comprehensive understanding of municipal operations beyond financial scope. It equips you with a skill set that is critical for navigating and contributing to the multifaceted environment of local governance, providing a strong foundation for leadership and operational excellence. Another benefit is the amazing connections and business relationships you can build with communities across the state of Tennessee.

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!**



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.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/>



Have a question?
Not sure who to contact?

Certified Municipal Finance Officer (tn.gov)



Visit the 2024
training calendar
to view upcoming CPE
classes

mtas.tennessee.edu

Reminder:

CPE Reporting due
March 1st



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Andrew Patton
Angela Sparkman
April Sanford
Bethel Cole
Beverly Smith
Brooke Pippenger
Camille LeDoux
Cherri Stephens
Christopher LaForce
Chynelle Coleman
Crystal Steakley-Crain
Cynthia Glidwell
Dana Simmons
Danny Bingham
Eddie Ford Blackwell
Edmund Ford Jr
Elaine Brunelle
Emily Griffey
Jannet Beasley
Jason Powell
Jeffrey Sullivan
Jennifer Broomfield
Jennifer Burford
Jessica Dillard
Jessica Smith

Jonathan Haley
Jessica Dillard
Jessica Smith
Jonathan Haley
Joshua Shoemaker
Judith McNeil
Julia Lester
Julie Davenport



Kanosha Cowans
Karen Davis
Katherine McKenna
Kathryn Carver
Katie Curtis
Keith Morrison
Kimberly Dobbs

Kimberly Leady
Kirsten Ert Acuff
Laureen Adelowo
Lauren Stribling
Leslie Johnson
Lester Phinney
Mark Hill
Melissa Williams
Michael Callis
Michael Weaver
Monica Thomas
Natalie Reyes
Rachel Covarrubias
Rachel Davidson
Robby Richards
Ruth Magallanes
Sabrina Balogh
Sandy Johnson
Shannon Arthur
Tamara Ingersoll
Tamathea Phillips
Tawanika McKinney
Waleed Albakry
Wendy Wallace
Xiangyu Fang