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President's Message

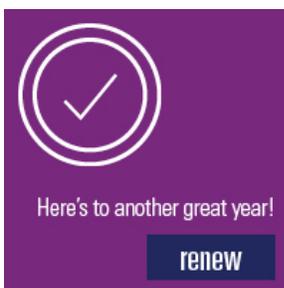
Jessica Lippincott

Hello Members & Friends,

Hope everyone is having a great start to Spring and is enjoying the warmer weather! Speaking of Spring, registration is now open for our 2021 Spring Professional Development Training. Once again, the Spring PDT will be held virtually. The date for the event is Wednesday, May 12th. We have a great lineup of speakers planned including sessions on RPA/Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Stress Management in the Workplace and much much more. Registration is open on our website and will close on Monday, May 10th, so please register as soon as possible.

In addition, our next webinar will be on April 21, 2021 and the topic will be on the CARES Act. The Webinar is FREE to members. Registration is open on our website so be sure to register as spots may fill up quickly. In the event that you register, but are unable to attend, please send an email to agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com.

Know someone interested in joining AGA? Applications are now being accepted for our Membership Scholarship program! The recipient receives the membership dues and AGA Trenton hosted activities FREE for a year. The application is available within the newsletter and must be submitted by Friday, April 30th.



...continued on page 2



President's Message (continued)

We continue to support our Paul Vidunas Charity - HomeFront. Donations can be made through, <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/AGATrenton>. Every little bit helps, thank you in advance for your contributions.

Make sure to periodically check our website for any additional events or information. If you're not receiving our email blasts but would like to, email agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com and you will be added to our distribution list!

Have a safe and healthy April!

Jessica Lippincott
Trenton Chapter President

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

Chapter President
Jessica Lippincott
NJ Department of
Transportation
jessica.lippincott@dot.nj.gov

Immediate Past President
Nikki Farrell,
CICA
NJ Office of the State Auditor
nfarrell@njleg.org

Chapter Treasurer
David Illuminate
NJ Office of the State Auditor
dilluminate@njleg.org

National Council of Chapters
Representative,
Accountability, and
Membership
Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo,
CFE, CICA
NJ Office of the State Auditor
kkokotajlo@njleg.org

Administration
Stephanie Rybak
NJ Office of the State Auditor
srybak@njleg.org

Community Service
Christopher J. Fuccello
NJ Office of the State
Comptroller
Chris.Fuccello@osc.nj.gov

Spring Training Event
Michael J. Salberta
NJ Office of the State Auditor

Chapter
President-Elect
Meghan K. Ellis
NJ Office of the State Auditor
mellis@njleg.org

Secretary
Michelle C. Blatt
NJ Office of the
State Comptroller
michelle.blatt@outlook.com

Education
Meghan K. Ellis
NJ Office of the State Auditor
mellis@njleg.org

Webmaster
Jennifer Dougherty
JDougherty@njleg.org

CGFM/Professional
Certification
Margarita Stanislavskaya,
CGFM, CPA
Mercer County Improvement
Authority
mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT - MARCH IS CGFM MONTH!

UPCOMING EVENTS

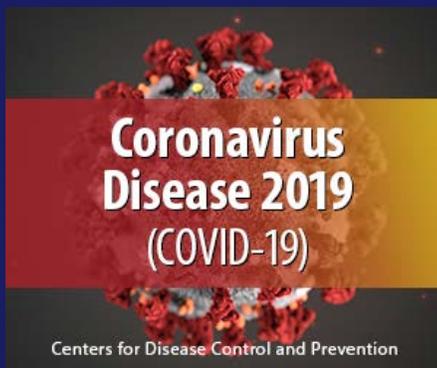
Webinar - CARES Act Webinar (2 CPEs)
 Date: April 21, 2021
 Location: Online
 Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm
 FOS: FIN
 Register via
www.agacgfm.org/trenton

Webinar - 2021 AGA Trenton Virtual PDT (7 CPEs)
 Date: May 12, 2021
 Location: Online
 Time: 8:00am-4:00pm
 Register via
www.agacgfm.org/trenton



AGA Trenton Chapter's CGFM Chairperson, Margarita Stanislavskaya, sporting AGA CGFM gear!

Refer to page 6 of this newsletter for more information on CGFM Certification Process. Also click here to visit the AGA CGFM Information Page.



Access AGA's COVID-19 Resource Exchange

AGA launched the AGA COVID-19 Resource Exchange, a resource for our community, featuring thought leadership, training, tools, events and more to help us and our Chapter navigate this crisis.

[Help Flatten the Curve](#)



AGA's Professional Development Training (PDT) brings together a broad audience of more than 2,000 federal, state and local government financial professionals, including federal, state and local government CFOs, inspectors general, accountants, auditors as well as financial professionals from the private sector.

PDT offers educational sessions over three days of training. Participants can earn up to 21 hours of NASBA-approved continuing professional education (CPE) credits. Participants gain skills and knowledge toward more effective leadership, performance in a cost-constrained environment, solutions to shared challenges, and best practices. Join us to learn from top government financial management professionals and industry experts.

Extensions of CPA Examination Credit Window and Continuing Professional Education Deadline

Dear licensees and CPA exam candidates,

Please be advised that the Division has issued a Rule Waiver ([DCA-W-2020-17](#)) temporarily extending until December 31, 2020, the expiration of certain exam credits for the multi-part Certified Public Account Exam (CPA Exam). Additionally, DCA-W-2020-17 extends until June 30, 2021, the deadline for licensees to complete continuing professional education (CPE).

The Division takes this action today due to the COVID-19 pandemic and difficulties CPA Exam candidates have faced – and continue to face – in sitting for the multi-part CPA Exam within the required 18-month window, and the challenges licensees have experienced obtaining CPE credits. Under the order, candidates' exam credits that expire between March 9, 2020, and December 30, 2020, will be extended to the new December 31, 2020 deadline. Additionally, the order extends – from December 31, 2020, to June 30, 2021 – the deadline by which Board-licensed certified public accountants and public accountants must complete 120 CPE credits. This order takes effect immediately.

We at the Division recognize the many challenges our licensees face during this difficult time and thank you for the work you do to serve the public.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Rodríguez
Acting Director
Division of Consumer Affairs
New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety

E-mail Scam Alert

Messages like this have been reported by many AGA chapters in the past few days:

Hi [Board member name],

I need you to handle this as soon as possible: I need you to purchase a gift card as we have some charity donations to make today. Please let me know when you are ready for the details.

P.S: I'm busy at the moment and can't talk but will lookout for your reply.

Regards,

[Chapter President Name]

So what can we do to keep our chapters safe? The answers are simple —internal controls and website security!

Internal Controls

If you receive a suspicious email, pause and rely on your instincts and internal controls. Here are a few tips we've found, especially in this article from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):

- 1. Double-check the email address.**
- 2. Hover over the email address to make sure the address in the tool-tip matches the email address in the "from" field.**
- 3. Forward the message to the known email address of the officer requesting payment (i.e., if they use their work email, but the message is from a personal email address, use the one you're familiar with).**
- 4. Pick up the phone! Directly contact the person (e.g., an AGA chapter member) who "appears" to be requesting funding, information, etc., before quickly responding to an email — or, worse yet, opening an attachment.**
- 5. Do not reply to the email address. This will confirm for the scammer that the email address is live and can result in follow-up contact.**
- 6. Does the sender seem pressed for time? Don't feel rushed simply because of an "urgent" email. A minute of caution can save thousands of dollars.**
- 7. Do your own typing. If someone sends you a link or phone number, don't click. Use your favorite search engine to look up the website or phone number yourself.**
- 8. Report phishing emails and texts. The aforementioned FTC article tells you how.**

Website Security

Many AGA chapters have been hit by phishing scams like the one described at the beginning of this article. Sophisticated scammers use "bots" to scan public websites for email addresses, then use the addresses to contact their targets. So, leverage the web tools at your disposal to implement these safeguards:

- 1. Use links! Ensure that you link to email addresses on your website rather than writing them out, as we've done in this sentence. If you have an AGA-hosted website, refer to the "Working with Documents and Links — Link to an Email Address" section of the user guide.**
- 2. Update your leadership roster settings. You can change the leadership rosters so you have options for the way you want to display them:**
 - 3. Internal controls. Establish, and use, your internal controls.**



Get Your **CGFM** Certification!



Interested in getting your employer to recognize the AGA Certified Government Financial Manager certification? Use the following sample CGFM professional certification letter to bring awareness to the benefits of AGA and the CGFM certification.



AGA Training Scholarships, Member Recruitment and CGFM Certification

Training Scholarships

This year, AGA will award:

National Collegiate Leadership Program: AGA annually selects up to 10 full-time college students for the opportunity to attend the National Leadership Training (NLT). Deadline to apply for 2021 is December 11, 2020; search "collegiate leadership" at www.agacgfm.org to apply.

Member Recruitment

As treasured members, we can influence the future of AGA by sharing our experiences with peers, colleagues, and others in our organizations with any interest in government financial management. Membership in AGA has many benefits, including education and networking opportunities, awards and scholarship programs, discounts for training, exclusive CPE opportunities and access to our resources, such as free utilization of the CGFM Online Library. Members join a local chapter through which they gain additional networking, leadership and education experience. Start recruiting today. Provide the following information to our prospective members:

- Online application via website: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership.aspx>

- E-mail - agamembers@agacgfm.org

Telephone - (800)-AGA-7211 or (703)-684-6931



CGFM Certification

Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is a professional certification awarded by AGA, demonstrating competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

CGFM is a respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed to be an effective government financial manager.

Being a CGFM allows you to expand your career opportunities and distinguishes you from others in your field.

To become a CGFM, you must fill out an online application and meet the following requirements:

- * *Ethics - read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics*
- * *Education - have a bachelor's degree in any subject area from an accredited U.S. college or university*
- * *Examinations - pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations*
- * *Experience - have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.*

2021 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER AWARDS

Date: _____

I would like to nominate the following individual for a 2021 AGA Trenton Chapter Award:

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City/State/Zip) _____

(Telephone Number) _____

Please check the designation of the award for which you nominate this individual.

CHECK ONE ONLY

- The James Dolan Award
- Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Education and Training Award
- Special Achievement Award
- Chapter Service Award
- Thomas J. Kaschak Memorial Scholarship*

**Note: This award requires submission of the "Scholarship Application"*

Additional supporting information may accompany this nomination form. Please be concise as possible. We may contact you for additional information, if necessary.

Biographical Sketch of Nominee (*position, title, education, other pertinent background information, etc.*)

Description of Accomplishments/Achievements

Citation (*For use as the formal award citation. Succinctly describe accomplishments, particularly their impact or results.*)

Signature of Nominator _____

Printed Name of Nominator _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

◆ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is April 30, 2021** ◆

Mail or E-Mail Nomination Forms to:
Stephanie Rybak (SRybak@njleg.org), AGA Trenton,
P.O. Box 536, Trenton, NJ 08604

THOMAS J. KASCHAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Association of Government Accountants

Trenton Chapter

NOTE: Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of College/University: _____

Year Beginning College/University: _____ Year in 2021-2022: FR SO JR SR OTHER: _____

College Major: _____

Scholastic Standing (Grade Point Average) * _____

Membership In - Out of School Organizations ** _____ Office Held: _____

School Activities Participated In ** _____ Office Held: _____

Honors or Awards Received * _____

Other Family Members Attending College 2021-2022.

NAME	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	YEAR
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Nominator Information:

Member of AGA? (Please Circle) **YES** **NO** How Long? _____

Printed Name of Nominator: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number () _____ E-Mail _____

Employer: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____ Signature of Nominator: _____

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is April 30, 2021

Mail Nomination Form to:

Stephanie Rybak

AGA Trenton

P.O. Box 536, Trenton, NJ 08604

*Attach High School and College (if any) Transcripts

** Attach Additional Sheets if Necessary

PREVIOUS AWARDEES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

AWARDS INFORMATION:

The Trenton Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) annually recognizes outstanding individuals with meritorious achievement in the field of financial management. This is a great opportunity to recognize your staff. We are pleased to announce that the awards committee is currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

The James J. Dolan Award - Established in honor of the Chapter's founding president, conferred on a member of eminent service to the Chapter. (Any member of AGA, except an individual serving as a Chapter Officer, is eligible for this award.)

Distinguished Leadership Award - Conferred on individuals in government service who have provided sustained outstanding leadership in financial management over a period of years, resulting in notable contributions to financial management. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA.)

Achievement of the Year Award - Accords recognition for leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, or improving financial management in government. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA but must have been employed in government service at the time the work being recognized was performed.)

Education and Training Award - Conferred on individuals who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers. (Nominee need not be a member of AGA.)

Special Achievement Award - Accords recognition for notable contributions toward improving government financial management early in a professional career. (Any member of AGA who was under age thirty-five at the end of the preceding calendar year is eligible for this award.)

Chapter Service Award - Conferred on individuals who are active members of the Association for consistently important contributions to the development and enhancement of the Chapter over long periods of time or for distinguished or spectacular contributions to the Chapter during the year of nomination.

Thomas J. Kaschak Memorial Scholarship - Established as a memorial to Thomas J. Kaschak, a member of the Trenton Chapter of the AGA and First Vice President at the time of his death in 1982. A \$1,000 award is presented to an individual who is demonstrating sound scholastic achievement, in addition to participation in extracurricular and/or civic activities. (Nominees must be enrolled in an institution of higher learning in the pursuit of a degree. First priority for scholarship will be given the dependents of Chapter members.)

******NOTE: To nominate someone for this scholarship, you must fill out and complete the attached "2021 AGA Awards Scholarship Application" and attach any High School or College Transcripts******

If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the following steps no later than **Friday, April 30, 2021:**

See the attached nomination form, complete it, and return back via email (SRybak@njleg.org) or mail to:

*Stephanie Rybak
AGA Trenton
P.O. Box 536
Trenton, NJ 08625-0067*

Thank you,

AGA Trenton Chapter
www.agacgfm.org/trenton
www.facebook.com/agachapters.trenton



**AGA-Trenton Chapter
Membership-Scholarship Program
Application**

Name _____

Place of work _____

Position _____

Contact Info _____

Experience _____

Candidate Statement (why interested in joining AGA) _____

Comments/References (optional) _____

Membership-Scholarship Program

In order to promote the AGA-Trenton Chapter and its membership, the AGA-Trenton's "Membership-scholarship" program (the Program) was launched in January 2011. For one year, the Program sponsors National and Trenton's Chapter AGA membership dues, CPE awarding monthly meetings, Annual Fall Seminar and Annual Spring Symposium for the individuals (one or more) who meet the following selected criteria.

The qualified individual is the one who:

- * Works for Federal, State, or Local Government
- * Performs accounting, auditing, or IT related duties
- * Has not previously been a member of AGA-Trenton
- * Regularly attends (commits to attend) AGA-Trenton Chapter's functions (e.g. monthly meetings, Seminar and Symposium, etc.)
- * Agrees to serve as a Board member (at the position available or assigned by the Board)
- * Committed to actively promote the AGA-Trenton Chapter, its membership, and events

Evaluation criteria and scholarship's term:

At the end of the first year the Program's Committee will evaluate the scholarship recipient's performance based on the criteria specified above, and, if satisfied, this member may be awarded one more year of the sponsorship for full membership (Dues-National and Trenton Chapter-only).

The application for the Program will be placed on AGA-Trenton website shortly. The scholarship recipient will be announced and introduced at AGA-Trenton's annual Award Dinner in June 2021. Please, forward this information to your colleagues, clients, and friends. Please, nominate your colleagues, clients, and friends who are not yet members of AGA-Trenton.

The due date for the application/nomination is April 30, 2021.

(please see application on next page)

Return via email (srybak@njleg.org)

We look forward to hearing from you,
Stephanie Rybak, Director of Awards

Thank You To Our Sponsors!



AGA Trenton Chapter's March 2021 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER
FEBRUARY 2021

ASSETS

Cash - Savings	\$ 12,188.62
Cash - Checking	\$ 13,754.04
Accounts Receivable - Symp/Mtg/Sem	\$ 110.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 3,330.04
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 29,382.70

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable	\$ 155.14
Deferred Income	\$ 10.00
Fund Balance	\$ 29,217.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 29,382.70

WHAT'S NEW CORNER "CGFM LIBRARY"

Are you interested in taking the CGFM exams but are hesitant about the costs of study materials? The AGA Trenton Chapter may be able to help! Interested candidates can contact Jessica Lippincott to learn more about our CGFM Library Pilot Program!

CHAPTER DIRECTORS 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

Chapter President - Jessica Lippincott
 Chapter President-Elect/Vice President of Education - Meghan Ellis
 Immediate Past President - Nikki Farrell
 Secretary - Michelle C. Blatt
 Chapter Treasurer - David M. Illuminate Jr.
 National Council of Chapters Representative - Kiersten Kokotajlo
 Vice President of Membership - Kiersten Kokotajlo
 Administration - Stephanie Rybak
 Webinar Director - Michelle C. Blatt
 Sponsorship Director - Guy Tassi
 Chapter Recognition - Jessica Lippincott/Directors
 CGFM Chairperson - Margarita Stanislavskaya
 Community Service Director - Chris Fucello
 Awards Director - Stephanie Rybak
 Young Professionals/Early Career Director - Taylor Leavy
 Budget Director - Amanda Ireland
 Newsletter Director - Marie Samson
 Meeting Director - Rene Gervasoni/Michael Salberta
 Paul Vidunas Coordinator - Membership Scholarship Awardee
 Historian - Rose Todaro
 By-Laws - David Kaschak
 Accountability Outreach Chair - Kiersten Kokotajlo
 Webmaster/Communications Director - Jennifer Dougherty
 Technical PDT/Seminar - Christine S. Brennan

Contact Us



By mail: ***AGA-Trenton PO Box 536 Trenton, NJ 08604***
 E-mail: ***agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com***
 Facebook: ***<https://www.facebook.com/AGATrentonNJ>***
 LinkedIn: ***<https://www.linkedin.com/company/trenton-aga>***
 Website: ***<https://www.agacgfm.org/trenton>***