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## President's Message

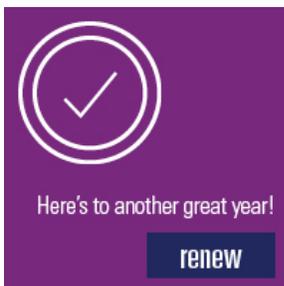
### Jessica Lippincott

Hello Members & Friends,

It is that time of the program year where we typically work on all of the recruiting for new members. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we are unable to hold our annual Networking Bowling Event this year. However, we are working on a few virtual events that will take place to try and supplement for the in person networking/recruiting event. I continue to encourage you to recruit members throughout the year. In the last few weeks, I've already noticed some new members signing up with our chapter. Great job to those whom have recruited thus far!

I also would like to thank everyone who had sent Valentine's Day cards to the Mercerville Center, a local nursing home. We were able to warm the hearts of many this year!

Please remember that March is CGFM month! Are you interested in becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)? The 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. Visit National's website for more information and make sure to wear red during the month of March to celebrate the CGFM certification!



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## President's Message (continued)

Our spring events are underway! More information will be coming out soon on the Spring PDT event as well as the awards. If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see or any comments, please also feel free to reach out to myself or Nikki Farrell, as we will try to keep all suggestions in mind. Be sure to keep any nominations in mind for this year's upcoming Awards. A notification will be going out for when we will be accepting nominations and further details on the awards.

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](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com) and you will be added to our distribution list!

Hakuna Matata!

Jessica Lippincott  
Trenton Chapter President

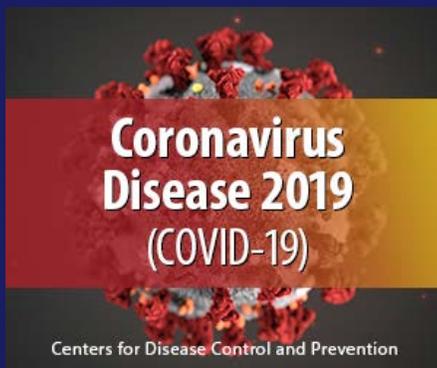
### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Chapter President<br><b>Jessica Lippincott</b><br>NJ Department of Transportation<br>jessica.lippincott@dot.nj.gov  | Chapter President-Elect<br><b>Meghan K. Ellis</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>mellis@njleg.org  |
| Immediate Past President<br><b>Nikki Farrell, CICA</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>nfarrell@njleg.org  | Secretary<br><b>Michelle C. Blatt</b><br>NJ Office of the State Comptroller<br>michelle.blatt@outlook.com  |
| Chapter Treasurer<br><b>David Illuminate</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>dilluminate@njleg.org   | Education<br><b>Meghan K. Ellis</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>mellis@njleg.org  |
| National Council of Chapters Representative, Accountability, and Membership<br><b>Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo, CFE, CICA</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>kkokotajlo@njleg.org | Webmaster<br><b>Jennifer Dougherty</b><br>JDougherty@njleg.org   |
| Administration<br><b>Stephanie Rybak</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>srybak@njleg.org  | CGFM/Professional Certification<br><b>Margarita Stanislavskaya, CGFM, CPA</b><br>Mercer County Improvement Authority<br>mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org |
| Community Service<br><b>Christopher J. Fuccello</b><br>NJ Office of the State Comptroller<br>Chris.Fuccello@osc.nj.gov  |  |
| Spring Training Event<br><b>Michael J. Salberta</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor   |  |

**CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT - VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS FOR MERCERVILLE CENTER**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Webinar - Cybersecurity and ERM  
 Date: March 24, 2021  
 Location: Online  
 Register via  
[www.agacgm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgm.org/trenton)



**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.

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## **Extensions of CPA Examination Credit Window and Continuing Professional Education Deadline**

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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

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# 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](http://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](mailto: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.*

# Thank You To Our Sponsors!



## AGA Trenton Chapter's January 2021 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER  
JANUARY 2021

ASSETS	
Cash - Savings	\$ 12,188.53
Cash - Checking	\$ 13,318.04
Accounts Receivable - Symp/mtg/Sem	\$ 110.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 3,330.04
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 28,946.61</b>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Accounts Payable	\$ 155.14
Deferred Income	\$ 10.00
Fund Balance	\$ 28,781.47
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 28,946.61</b>

## 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



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 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>***