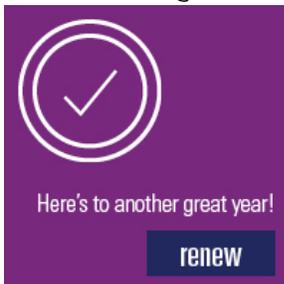




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## President's Message Jessica Lippincott

Hello Members & Friends,

First and foremost I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! We are halfway through our 2021 program and so far I feel we are doing great! With all of the adjustments everyone has had to make, I feel that we are handling things quite well.

With that being said, I would like to let you all know that we are beginning to form a committee for our annual Spring Symposium! Please feel free to reach out to myself ([jessica.lippincott@dot.nj.gov](mailto:jessica.lippincott@dot.nj.gov)) or Nikki Farrell ([NFarrell@njleg.org](mailto:NFarrell@njleg.org)) if you have any interest in joining the committee this year. We will be using the GoToWebinar virtual platform again this year. 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, as we will try to keep all suggestions in mind. In addition to our spring symposium, we are going to try to transition a few other in person events to a virtual event in the coming weeks. I know everyone typically looks forward to our bowling event, so we are looking into hosting a virtual happy hour this year

As for upcoming National Events, the annual LEAD! Event is still being put together by National and more information will be coming soon! Registration for National's PDT is also open. PDT will be hosted in Nashville, TN this year, however, you are still able to attend virtually. If you have any interest in any of these events, you may email me.

*...continued on page 2*



## President's Message (continued)

In addition, National is currently looking for individuals to join their mentorship program as well. I will be putting together an email blast with some helpful information on these events in the coming days.

Award season is soon approaching. Please keep any nominations in mind for this year's upcoming Awards. The board has discussed some alternatives in the event where we are not able to hold our awards dinner again this year. A notification will be going out for when we will be accepting nominations and further details on the awards.

It has been brought to my attention that some of you are still receiving spam emails from me regarding the purchase of gift cards. I have made National aware of what is going on. If at any time you are unsure if an email is from me, DO NOT REPLY to the email that you received. Instead, forward me the email you received, start a new email to me, or for those that have my number, you can always call me to verify as well.

Suggestions, comments and concerns are always welcomed. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me in any instance. I am looking forward to continuing this journey with all of you!

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!

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and happy new year!

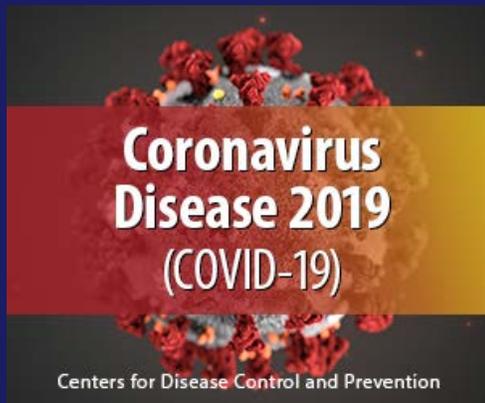
Jessica Lippincott  
Trenton Chapter President

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Kevin Holt for passing the CGFM exam! We congratulate you on your accomplishment and are very proud to have you as a member of the AGA – Trenton Chapter.



## National Leadership Training - NLT 2021 February 24-25, 2021



National Leadership Training (NLT) is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find new solutions to challenges, network with peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. This training offers up to 14 CPE hours.

For the first time, NLT 2021 will be 100% virtual! NLT offers virtual attendance — from your home or office — so you don't have to miss out on this important leadership training event. Virtual attendance also offers up to 14 CPE hours.

# Speaker Spotlight

## Monika Sattler



### **“How to Pursue Goals That Scare Us? - Lessons Learned From a Cycling Record Holder”**

**Monika Sattler is an endurance cyclist, speaker, and author. Having set a seemingly impossible cycling record, her talks empower the audience to reach beyond their perceived limits by overcoming challenges through determination, goal setting, resilience and teamwork.**

**Her previous speaking engagements include TEDx, Morgan Stanley, Vistage, Ciena, Colt, Women Coaches Symposium and Eurobike.**

**She holds a M.A. from Georgetown, M.Sc. from University of Minnesota, B.A. from Bryant University and speaks English, German and Spanish.**

**Learn more about her at [www.radmonika.com](http://www.radmonika.com) or [www.instagram.com/rad\\_monika](https://www.instagram.com/rad_monika)**

**You can also buy her book on Amazon!**

# Speaker Spotlight

## Mario Lewis



**Mario Lewis is an award-winning, energetic speaker and presentation coach, who provides audiences and individuals with the motivation and strategies to become powerful and dynamic communicators. He delivers high-powered talks at leadership conferences, and corporate events that teach people how to connect with their audiences to make their message memorable. Based on his journey to overcome his fear of public speaking, Mario's mission is to inspire and share with others how to transform their communication challenges into personal success.**

**As a finalist in the Toastmasters' 2012 World Championship of Public Speaking, the largest public speaking contest in the world, and a four-time semifinalist (2012, 2017, 2018, and 2020), he has demonstrated the ability to engage and connect with audiences of all sizes and backgrounds. With over 20 years of banking and finance experience including bank supervision, corporate finance, financial management, and internal auditing, Mario is a seasoned professional that can motivate teams and provide advice on executive communications.**

**Mario received his MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management, a Certificate in Marketing from Harvard University's Extension School, and a BS in Finance from Bentley University. He currently holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Financial Risk Manager (FRM), and Commissioned Bank Examiner credentials, and previously held the Series 7 and 63 licenses, and the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation. Mario achieved his Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) designation in 2019.**

<https://mariolewisconnects.com>  
[Mario@mariolewisconnects.com](mailto:Mario@mariolewisconnects.com)

# Speaker Spotlight

## Stacy Kuhen



Stacy Kuhen is dedicated to empowering others to become the best version of themselves. As a special education teacher, Stacy has developed programs that instill confidence, promote acceptance, and inspire children and adults to embrace growth through gratitude. Her areas of expertise include promoting positive relationships, fostering social-emotional learning, and teaching effective leadership and communication skills.

Stacy is also passionate about service learning and philanthropy and has partnered with many nonprofit organizations both locally and nationally. In 2014, she embarked on a 7-month volunteer journey, traveling to 14 countries with a mission to support communities around the world. This experience inspired her to create her company, *With Gratitude*.

Through *With Gratitude*, Stacy provides messages of inspiration to her community on Facebook and Instagram and offers personal development courses on experiencing growth through gratitude, finding joy in the journey, and becoming the best version of yourself. In addition, she provides motivational training and leadership workshops for individuals, organizations, schools, and businesses. Her programs focus on promoting positivity and cultivating collaborative communities where every person feels valued and appreciated. Stacy is committed to empowering others to work towards being the best version of themselves every day.

Stacy shares her mission to spread joy and inspire others as a co-author in *Women Who Empower*, a collection of 30 inspirational and empowering stories written by women from around the world. *Women Who Empower* is the seventh book in the #1 International Best-Selling Inspired Impact Book Series. Stacy looks forward to sharing her story with you on December 16th when *Women Who Empower* is available on Amazon.

To learn more about the programs and training Stacy offers, please visit [www.stacykuhen.com](http://www.stacykuhen.com) and become a part of her community on social media.

Website: [www.stacykuhen.com](http://www.stacykuhen.com)

Email: [stacy@stacykuhen.com](mailto:stacy@stacykuhen.com)

Facebook: [Ms. With Gratitude](https://www.facebook.com/WithGratitude)

Instagram: [@mswithgratitude](https://www.instagram.com/mswithgratitude)

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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 December 2020 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER  
DECEMBER 2020

### ASSETS

Cash - Savings	\$ 12,188.43
Cash - Checking	\$ 13,692.92
Accounts Receivable - Symp/Mtg/Sem	\$ 110.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 3,330.04
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 29,321.39</b>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Accounts Payable	\$ 155.14
Deferred Income	\$ 10.00
Fund Balance	\$ 29,156.25
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 29,321.39</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



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>***