



Boston Chapter

Boston's Beacon

December Edition 2022

Volume 2022 - 2023, Issue 3



Our Mission

The AGA Boston Chapter serves professionals and students in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development, and participating in local community projects for the enhancement of everyone in the New England area.

Our Vision

Be a collaborative and innovative organization that is future focused and committed to excellence in the government financial management arena.

We Work Together

AGA Boston Chapter President's Message

Greetings everyone!

We've reached the halfway mark for our Chapter year, and we've already held our first in-person event—a great Holiday Party. Thank you for the generous donations to My Brother's Keeper and for attending! In addition, thank you for supporting our efforts with Wreaths Across America.

Coming out of the pandemic, there are a great deal of new challenges that we are all facing, and our goal is to try to meet our members' needs. We look forward to a continued membership drive to help more people Advance, Grow, and Accelerate! I encourage all of you to participate in the Chapter's membership survey.

Please stay safe and have a happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Cheers,

George Anastos

AGA Boston Chapter President 2022-2023



Please visit our home page at [AGA Boston Chapter \(agacgfm.org\)](http://agacgfm.org), like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and/or connect with us on LinkedIn!

Chapter Announcements

Volunteer Opportunities 2022-2023 Program Year!

The AGA Boston Chapter is looking for individuals to serve on its committees for the 2022-2023 program year, which began in July 2022.

AGA Boston Chapter's committee positions offer an opportunity to members to participate in the organization. If you are a member and would like to learn more about these opportunities, please contact our Chapter President George Anastos at George.C.Anastos@Mass.gov.

For a list of the chapter's current committees, see our website:
<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Home.aspx>.

We work together!

Chapter Executive Committee Meetings

The AGA Boston Chapter's Executive Committee met in November and December and plans to meet again in January.

Interested in participating in the Boston Chapter? Please contact our Chapter President George Anastos at George.C.Anastos@Mass.gov.

AGA Boston Chapter Citizen Centric Report Now Available

Chapter reporting for the past program year is issued! The Boston Chapter's latest Citizen Centric Report for the year ending June 30, 2022, is posted on the Boston AGA Chapter website.

For more information:
<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/ChapterResources/CitizenCentricReporting.aspx>

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Chapter Announcements

Successful Chapter Holiday Party

by Sarah Mongeau

The Chapter welcomed everyone back to Maggiano's Little Italy in Boston for our first in-person Chapter event post-COVID. The Chapter hosted nearly 50 people at the restaurant for food and holiday fun on December 1st.

Attendees were welcomed by AGA Boston President George Anastos who introduced Jim Orcutt, co-founder of My Brother's Keeper, our charitable sponsor for this year. Jim shared an endearing story where his organization helped to outfit a new home for a struggling family on Christmas eve. Thank you everyone who donated an unwrapped children's toy. Jim returned to Easton with a wonder load of holiday spirit to share with children in the South Coast area.

Our Holiday Gift basket raffles sent some lucky attendees home with beautiful gifts. The 50/50 raffle was won by Marty Benison who generously donated his portion of the proceeds back to our charitable sponsor My Brother's Keeper. Both raffles generated over \$500 to support their mission.

Attendees enjoyed Maggiano's wonderful family style lunch items before getting comfortable for an engaging session with Gina Cash, Esq., Director/Legal Counsel, Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor. Ms. Cash spoke on public benefits fraud. Attendees received one CPE for their participation.



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Chapter Announcements

Successful Chapter Holiday Party

The Chapter also had the opportunity to acknowledge the service of some key Chapter members at the end of the Holiday Party. Many thanks to the following:

Jane Gustowski. Jane joined the AGA Boston Chapter in 1980. Throughout her professional career, Jane has served as Chapter President (1999-2000) and chaired the Community Service Committee for several years. Jane was instrumental in establishing the Chapter's annual Holiday Party. Most recently, Jane served as Chapter Secretary. Thank you, Jane, for 42 years of service to the Chapter.

Marcia Luciano. Marcia retired from state service this week following over 34 years of service to the Massachusetts State Auditor's Office. For the past twelve years, Marcia has extended volunteer efforts for the Chapter by assisting at numerous training and community service events, including blood drives and food donations. An advocate for veterans, Marcia has coordinated Chapter efforts to provide valentines for veterans annually and honor veteran grave sites during the holiday season through the Wreaths Across America Program. Thank you, Marcia, for your service to the Chapter.

Auditor Suzanne Bump. Auditor Bump is the 25th Auditor of Massachusetts and the first woman to serve this role. Elected in 2011, she established a vision to make government work better for the residents of Massachusetts by bringing greater accountability and transparency to state government. One strategy she used to achieve this goal was to become active in the AGA at the Chapter and National levels. During her tenure, the Auditor's Office identified more than \$1.4 billion worth of inefficiencies, misspending, and fraud. The impact of her work has led to changes that have both human and financial impact within programs including Medicaid, child welfare, public safety, public benefits, and education.

Since joining AGA, Auditor Bump has served as the Chapter President from 2013-2014, and received the 2018 AGA National's Professional Development Training Award, the Chapter's 2018 President's Award for Audit Operations, the 2020 AGA's National Leadership Award for Excellence in Government Leadership for State Auditors.

Currently, Auditor Bump serves on AGA National's National Governing Board and chairs AGA's Committee for the Advancement of Women. Thank you, Auditor Bump, for your many contributions to the AGA!

Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we hope to see you all next year!



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Chapter Announcements

AGA Boston Recruitment Month Extended to December 2022

AGA helps new members advance, grow, and accelerate their careers!

AGA National has challenged the Boston Chapter to work together to see if everyone in our chapter can recruit one new member this year. So this year, we are upping the offer by throwing in prizes to our supporting members!

Recruitment Prizes

To the Boston Chapter member who recruits the most members for us in the month of November, we are awarding your efforts with prizes such as AGA swag (AGA branded bag and notebook), as well as an Amazon gift card! If you recruit a new member, please ask that individual to note you as their sponsor when they become members!

AGA membership has its benefits!

With the AGA, you **advance**. You **grow**. You **accelerate**.

AGA is the association that connects and empowers professionals who support government, from financial management to IT, human resources, cybersecurity and more, to advance good government initiatives, grow their expertise and accelerate their careers.

Visit the AGA Boston website for more information on how to join AGA!



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Chapter Announcements

Mentoring Program Now Available!

Hello Boston AGA Members. Are you interested in participating in a mentoring program as a mentor or mentee? AGA National and the Boston Chapter are both in the process of developing mentoring programs.

To complete a mentorship application for the Boston Chapter's Mentoring Program, visit the AGA Boston Chapter Website.

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Chapter-Resources/Mentoring.aspx>.

For more information about the AGA National program, visit

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Mentoring-Program.aspx>.

This site also provides you with the opportunity to enroll as mentor or mentee.



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Community Service News

Wreaths Across America

The AGA Boston Chapter would like to thank our members and friends who sponsored a wreath for the holiday season through **Wreaths Across America**, a 501(c)(3) organization. Their mission is to place a wreath on every veteran's grave throughout the United States each December. People could sponsor a wreath in honor of a living veteran, in memory of those family/friends that have passed, or in memory of a non-veteran, too. The Boston Chapter selected the Massachusetts National Cemetery at Bourne to place our wreaths. In 2022, the Chapter donated **45** wreaths! All wreaths will be placed on graves on Saturday, December 17, 2022, during ceremonies at over 1,200 cemeteries, throughout the United States.

Please visit Wreaths Across America's website at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0119> for more information on this program.

The AGA Boston Chapter thanks you!



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Member Spotlight

It's Great to be in AGA!

by Patrick Sullivan

My name is Patrick Sullivan and I am the National Council of Chapters (NCC) Representative for the best chapter in the AGA...Boston, of course! Assuming this role in the spring of 2022, I had the pleasure of attending the Professional Development Training in California to learn the latest and greatest initiatives from our partners from AGA National. I also just participated in my first quarterly NCC meeting back on November 1. It's clear, the national staff is excited to work with us as we improve our Chapter, and Boston is well suited to lead the way. Here are some things on AGA's mind as we move our way into 2023:

a. **Champion AGA.** We are no longer the Association of Government Accountants, but AGA. Why? We are more than accountants, aren't we? We are budget builders, IT solution professionals, auditors, marketers and leaders. By re-branding as AGA, we are **INCLUSIVE** of everyone's strengths and talents and **Advance, Grow, and Accelerate** together!

b. **Grow the Chapter.** Bring someone with you to the next meeting, social event or training! Although we are made up of over 300 professionals and students, we always welcome new members. Tell your friends about the Fraud Seminar, the Accounting Continuing Professional Education Network (ACPEN) or the Chapter's online library to build your knowledge and sharpen your skills.

c. **Network and Collaborate.** Boston, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is rich with students and public servants from the local, state and federal sectors. We have a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, build relationships, and learn how to better serve others.

d. **Step Up.** Write an article, attend a national event, serve on a committee, or run for a leadership role. Without you, we can't be our best WE.

A few more things to note: All nominations for the 2023 National Leadership Awards are due by **December 11, 2022**. Check out this link for more details - [AGA - National Leadership Awards \(agacgfm.org\)](https://www.agacgfm.org). Also, the 2023 LEAD! Conference is planned to be in Baltimore, MD April 20-23, 2023.

I'm excited for the next NCC meeting on Wednesday, February 1, and will be sure to report back on all the latest news and opportunities. Until then, enjoy the holidays and I hope to meet you at an upcoming event!

News From AGA National

Intergov features AGA tools *by you, for you!* They are designed to help government financial management professionals do their jobs better.

Intergov features tools that officials from any level of government can use to improve program performance and enhance accountability.

These tools can be used to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration. Visit

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Resources/intergov.aspx> for more information.

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Value in Membership

It's Not too Late to Renew Your AGA Membership

Why renew?

Why not! Think of the value you receive with your membership.

Learning:

- Free CPEs : every year, members receive up to 14 hours per year.
- AGA is here to provide you with the training and education needed to adapt and thrive!

Connect, Collaborate & Network:

- Expand your network, participate in mentoring, volunteer on AGA and Chapter committees or boards, and engage in conversations on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.
- Check out the website for updates on networking events.

Stay Informed & Find Solutions:

- Online tool kits.
- Free subscription to the quarterly Journal of Government.
- Website access to best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
- Hear about innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.

Renew or join now:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Membership/Membership.aspx>

“The best investment you can make is in yourself.” —Warren Buffett

Questions? Contact Elaine Silva, Membership and Early Career Programs, at elaine.silva@comcast.net.

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CGFM News

Become a Certified Government Financial Manager!

Distinguish yourself from your peers. Make financial management decisions with more confidence. Expand career opportunities.

What is CGFM? Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is a professional certification awarded by the AGA, and a credential that recognizes an individual's specialized knowledge and experience related to management of government finance. Being a CGFM expands career opportunities and distinguishes those who have earned the certification from others in the field of government accounting.

How to become a CGFM? To become a CGFM, candidates are required to pass three exams. The comprehensive exams prove candidates' knowledge in Government Environment, Government Accounting, Financial Reporting, and Budgeting, and Government Financial Management and Control. The Boston Chapter is committed to supporting CGFM candidates and those that have attained the CGFM designation.

For more information about the CGFM certification, visit

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/CGFM-Certification.aspx>



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RSM's purpose is to deliver the power of being understood to our clients, colleagues and communities through world-class audit, tax and consulting services focused on middle market businesses. The clients we serve are the engine of global commerce and economic growth, and we are focused on developing leading professionals and services to meet their evolving needs in today's ever-changing business environment.

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CLA exists to create opportunities for our clients, our people, and our communities through industry-focused wealth advisory, outsourcing, audit, tax, and consulting services. With more than 6,200 people, 120 U.S. locations, and a global affiliation, we promise to know you and help you.

We are dedicated to building an inclusive culture that thrives on different beliefs and perspectives. By welcoming and respecting our clients and each other, we can all experience success.

For more information visit CLAconnect.com and/or connect with [CLA on LinkedIn](#).

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We help manage risk, maintain fiscal integrity and compliance, strengthen cybersecurity, and optimize operations. We can work independently or integrate seamlessly with your project team.

Learn more at berrydunn.com

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2022–2023 Officers and Directors

Chapter President George Anastos	Chapter President-Elect Sarah Mongeau, CGFM
Immediate Past President Shana Doiron	Chapter Treasurer Male Kamyra
National Council of Chapters Representative Patrick M. Sullivan	Strategies and Planning Peter Scavotto
Accountability Outreach Parris Sophia Kyriakakis	Community Service Marcia Luciano
Programs and Education Aprel McCabe	Membership and Early Career Programs Elaine Silva, CFS
Bylaws and Procedures William Bell	Mentorships Benjamin Howe, CFE
CGFM/Professional Certification Yoko McCarthy, CGFM	Registrations Robert Birmingham
Sponsorships William Muench, CGFM, CPA, CFE	Communications Jon Dearborn
Webmaster Jon Dearborn	Assistant Director to the Webmaster David LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS
Senior Advisor Benjamin Howe, CFE	Young Professionals Advisor Sara A. Baruffaldi
Municipal Advisor Alex Mireku	Federal Advisor Matthew Twomey



Boston Chapter

