

# **ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS**

**TRENTON CHAPTER**

**HISTORY REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2021**

**ROSE M. TODARO  
HISTORIAN**

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Trenton Chapter holds annual elections in April for the following Chapter Officers (see Attachment A for 2020-2021 Officers):

President  
President-Elect/Vice President of Education  
Vice Presidents (2)  
Treasurer  
Secretary

During program year 2020-2021, fifteen directors, appointed by the President, were active within the Chapter (see Attachment A for 2020-2021 Officers and Directors).

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DATES

The full Executive Board met twice during the 2020-2021 program year. The Board held a reorganization meeting via Zoom on August 12, 2020. An additional mid-year Board meeting via Zoom was held on January 20, 2021.

## LUNCH and LEARN WEBINAR

### DATE

### PROGRAM

October 14, 2020 Through the GoToWebinar Platform the Chapter held its first “Lunch and Learn” webinar. The topic for the afternoon event was ***Blockchain 101***. The presenter was Daniel Altobelli, Audit Manager from the New Jersey Office of the State Auditor. He provided an explanation of how blockchain technology works; insights on the emerging record keeping technology behind the blockchain environment; as well as its impact on the auditing profession and the approach the auditors should take to audit this environment. One CPE was offered to the 15 attendees, 14 members and 1 non-member.

## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

### WEBINARS HELD

September 9, 2020 Webinar conference topic was ***Communicate and Lead Through Intention, Interaction and Influence*** - 27 individuals accessed this webinar using the Trenton Chapter’s voucher access code. The session offered 2 CPE credits.

October 7, 2020 Webinar conference topic was ***Advancing Program Integrity: Best Practices and Use Cases*** - 25 individuals attended this webinar using the Trenton Chapter’s voucher access code. The session offered 2 CPE credits.

November 4, 2020 Webinar conference topic was ***Becoming a Person of Influence*** - 25 individuals attended this webinar using the Trenton Chapter’s voucher access code. The session offered 2 CPE credits.

January 13, 2021 Webinar conference topic was ***The New Uniform Guidance and Compliance Supplement - Tools for the Grant Professionals and Auditors*** - 30 individuals attended this webinar using the Trenton Chapter’s voucher access code. The session offered 2 CPE credits.

March 24, 2021 Webinar conference topic was *Building Cybersecurity Resilience through the Integration of Cybersecurity Risk Management and Enterprise Risk Management* - 26 individuals attended this webinar using the Trenton Chapter's voucher access code. This session offered 2 CPE credits.

April 21, 2021 Webinar conference topic was *CARES ACT Implementing, Monitoring, and Reporting* - 18 individuals attended this webinar using the Trenton Chapter's voucher access code. This session offered 2 CPE credits.

These training sessions were offered to AGA members free. Non-members were charged a small fee.

### **FULL DAY TRAINING EVENTS**

November 12, 2020 Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the Chapter hosted its first Virtual Fall Professional Development Training (PDT). A myriad of topics were presented and 7 CPE credits were offered to the 75 individuals who attended. Presentations were offered from the following: The Bloustein School of Planning and Policy, Rutgers University with a presentation on *New Jersey Budget and Fiscal Issues*; the Connecticut Department of Banking with a presentation on *Coronavirus Scams: How to Avoid these and Other Common Banking Scams*; a presentation was given by Ernie Almonte, AGA National's Immediate Past President; Monika Sattler, Record Holder and Author provided a presentation on *How to Pursue Goals that Scare Us? Lessons Learned from a Cycling Record Holder*; there was a presentation on *Cyber Risk Compliance/C-19 & Beyond*; and there was session on *COVID-19 Funding Monitoring and Oversight* offered by KPMG.

May 12, 2021 Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the Chapter hosted its second Virtual Professional Development Training (PDT). The training event offered 7 CPE credits to the 87 individuals who participated. There were 12 presenters who were also eligible for the CPE credits. Presentations were offered on the following topics: *RPA/Blockchain*; *Cybersecurity – the Human Element*; *Stress Management in the Workplace – How to Reduce Stress and Increase Productivity*; *GAO 2020 Annual Report – Identifying and Quantifying Cost Savings*; *Impact of RPA in Auditing*; and *Anti-Fraud Playbook*. The event's opening and closing remarks were provided the Chapter President.

### **VIRTUAL PARTNERSHIP WEBINAR TRAINING**

November 18, 2020 The Chapter partnered with the New Jersey Office of the State Auditor in offering the  
November 24, 2020 required four hour New Jersey Law and Ethics 2018-2020 training course. This mandatory CPA course was free to government employees, government retirees and AGA members. Four CPE credits were awarded to 179 individuals who attended.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS**

February 14, 2021 Members mailed gender neutral Valentine cards with a general Valentine wish to a local nursing home to be distributed to the 100 plus long term residents.

May 22, 2021 Nine AGA Trenton Chapter members and three non-members participated in a program to honor our veterans by assisting the Mercer County Veterans' Service Office with placing flags on veterans' grave sites at a local cemetery.

September 2020 to June 2021 Various projects were undertaken to raise funds for the Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial. Paul passed away during his term as Chapter President and

the Chapter established the fund to recognize Paul's dedication to community service. Annually the Chapter selects a community service entity to receive this award. The 2020-2021 recipient selected was "HomeFront". HomeFront's mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring resources and expertise of the community. They lessen the immediate pain of homelessness and help families become self-sufficient. They work to give their clients the skills and opportunities to ensure adequate incomes, and they work to increase the availability of adequate affordability housing. They help homeless families to advocate for themselves individually and collectively. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and limited in person events it was decided that HomeFront would be the recipient for two consecutive program years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

The Chapter issued twelve newsletters between July 2020 and June 2021 containing our President's letter, financial status of the Chapter, CGFM information, meeting announcements, speaker's biographies, etc. Each newsletter was posted to the Chapter's website. (Attachment B)

During the year the Chapter prepared the 2019-2020 Citizen Centric Report which highlighted the demographics the Chapter's membership by employer and professional certification; educational events offered during the program year; community service activities; the Chapter's financial activities for the 2019-2020 program year; as well as, discussing the Chapter's efforts to enhance its communications with current members; and efforts to expand its membership. The Citizen Centric Report was posted to the Chapter's website. (Attachment C)

The Chapter prepared and submitted its 2019-2020 annual history report to the National Office. The annual history report was posted to the Chapter's website.

## **CHAPTER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UPDATE**

During the 2019-2020 program year the Chapter's Director of By-Laws formed a committee that included himself, the current Chapter President, the Immediate Past President and Chapter Treasurer. The purpose of the committee is to update the Chapter's Policies and Procedures. AGA National's Prototype Policies and Procedures are serving as the model for the Chapter's update, and to update the Chapter's current Policies and Procedures to reflect the changes the Chapter has implemented such as accepting electronic payments/PayPal, along with other changes. At the January 2020 Board meeting, the Chapter President requested that each of the Board members review their area for responsibility and e-mail the By-Laws Director with their suggested changes. As of the close of the 2020-2021 program year this process was still in progress and the target date for completion is the 2021-2022 program year.

## **CHAPTER HONORARIUMS AND AWARDS**

The 2020-2021 award recipients were as follows:

### **Achievement of the Year Award**

Dia Ganney, New Jersey State Parole Board

### **Special Achievement Award**

Jeffery DeCicco, New Jersey Department of the Treasury

### **Chapter Service Award**

Rene Gervasoni, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor  
Michael Salberta, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

**Distinguished Leadership Award**

Lewis Daidone, New Jersey Department of Transportation

**Thomas J. Kaschak Memorial Scholarship**

Paige Menegus

**Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial Donation \$669.57**

HomeFront

**Special Assistant Award**

Robyn Boyer, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

**James J. Dolan Award**

Andrew Bishop, Bishop and Bishop PC

**President's Award**

Robert Rizzo, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

**Past President's Award**

Jessica Lippincott, New Jersey Department of Transportation

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

During the 2020-2021 program year a Chapter member passed the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) exam.

**NATIONAL LEVEL SERVICE and RECOGNITION**

The Chapter's In-Coming President, the Chapter's Director of Membership and National Council of Chapters Representative, the Chapter's Director of Awards, the Chapter's Treasurer, the Chapter's Budget Director and the Out-Going 2019-2020 President attended the virtual July 2020 Professional Development Training (PDT).

The Chapters' President and Newsletter Director along with the Chapter's National Council of Chapters Representative/Vice President of Membership/Accountability Outreach Chair attended National's virtual LEAD meeting held in August 2020. The National Council of Chapters Representative provided the meeting with a recorded presentation on the Trenton Chapter's Membership Scholarship program. The presentation described the Chapter's program as their initiative to attract young professionals, diversify the Chapter's board, and demonstrating the value of being an AGA member through involvement in the various Chapter activities.

The Chapter's Immediate Past President and the National Council of Chapters Representative/Vice President of Membership/Accountability Outreach Chair attended National's virtual LEAD meeting held in May 2021. The Chapter's National Council of Chapters Representative (NCC) provided a written summary of the meeting to the Chapter's Officers and Directors, and participated in a discussion on the Achievement in Chapter Excellence Award.

The Chapter's CGFM Representative continued to be part of the National CGFM Certification Board serving the third of a three-year term. This nine member Board is responsible for establishing and/or changing the CGFM certification and/or exam rules, regulations, and qualifications; handle candidate's complaints, questions or concerns; review exam questions and other issues regarding the administration of the CGFM certification process.

In December 2018, AGA National asked the Chapter President to select someone from the Board to be the Chapter's National Council of Chapter (NCC) Representative for upcoming program year 2019-2020. The

Chapter's Vice President of Membership and the 2016-2017 Past President was chosen and approved by the Board. The NCC is National's modification of the regional vice president governance. AGA National revised the chapter representation from one individual for a region of chapters to a NCC representative from each of the 101 active chapters, thus allowing each active chapter to have a voice in the overall governance of AGA.

### **NATIONAL AWARDS and CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE**

The Trenton Chapter earned the Achievement in Chapter Excellence (ACE) Platinum Award from National for 2020–2021 program year. The Chapter earned between 4,400 to 5,500 points. Points are awarded by the National Association for fulfilling the Chapter goals established by the Chapter's current year President and President-elect, and completed during the ACE year which began on June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Chapter was awarded the Certificate of Completion for its 2019–2020 Citizen Centric Report.

**CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2020-2021**

**OFFICERS**

**President** - Jessica Lippincott  
**President-Elect/Vice President of Education** - Meghan Ellis  
**Vice President of Membership** - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
**Vice President of Finance/Administration/Programs** - Stephanie Rybak  
**Immediate Past President** - Nikki Farrell  
**Secretary** - Michelle Blatt  
**Treasurer** - David M. Illuminate  
**National Council of Chapters Representative** - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo

**DIRECTORS**

**Accountability Outreach** - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
**CGFM/Professional Certification** - Margarita Stanislavskaya  
**Community Service** - Chris Fucello  
**Young Professionals/Early Career** - Taylor V. Leavy  
**Education** - Jessica Lippincott  
**Webinar Director** - Michelle C. Blatt  
**Membership** - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
**Meeting Directors** - Rene Gervasoni and Michael J. Salberta  
**Awards Director** – Stephanie Rybak  
**Historian** - Rose M. Todaro  
**Budget Director** - Amanda Ireland  
**Bylaws & Procedures** - David J. Kaschak  
**Chapter Recognition** – Jessica Lippincott/Directors  
**Newsletter Editor** - Marie E. Samson  
**Nominations** – Nikki Farrell  
**Sponsorships** - Guy L. Tassi  
**Paul Vidunas Coordinator** – Arashdip Singh  
**Technical PDT/Seminars** - Christine S. Brennan  
**Webmaster/Communications Director** - Jennifer Dougherty

**Fall PDT** - Co-chairs: Robert Rizzo/Jessica Lippincott /Nikki Farrell, Fall PDT Committee included but not limited to Rene Gervasoni, Michael J. Salberta and Stephanie Rybak

**Spring PDT** – The Committee included Michael J. Salberta, Nikki Farrell, Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo, Robert Rizzo, David M. Illuminate, Rene Gervasoni, Stephanie Rybak, Meghan Ellis, and Jessica Lippincott



# CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2021



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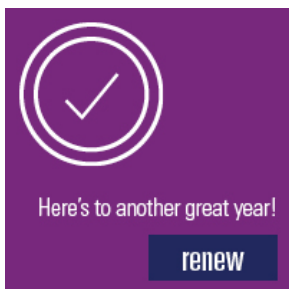
## President's Message Jessica Lippincott

Hello Members & Friends,

I would first like to give a big CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. David Kaschak for being named as the New Jersey State Auditor. David has been working in the Office of Legislative Services since January of 1984. David has also been a huge part of the Trenton Chapter as well. Congratulations again on your well-deserved success!

We are now in the final stages of planning for the Spring Professional Development Training. Don't forget to register for this event. It will be taking place on Wednesday, May 12th. We have a great lineup of speakers planned including sessions on RPA/Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Stress Management in the Workplace and much more. Registration is open on our website and will close on Monday, May 10th, so please register as soon as possible.

There are a few more spots left for our April 21st webinar on the CARES Act. The Webinar is FREE to members. Registration is open on our website so be sure to register as spots are filling up quickly. In the event that you register, but are unable to attend, please send an email to [agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com).



*...continued on page 2*





## President's Message (continued)

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.

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

Best wishes,  
 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,</b><br><b>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,</b><br><b>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,</b><br><b>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   |  |

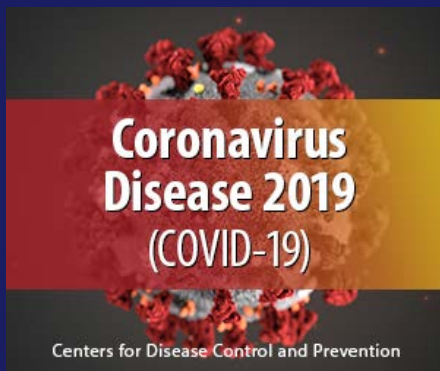
**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - David Kaschak**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton)

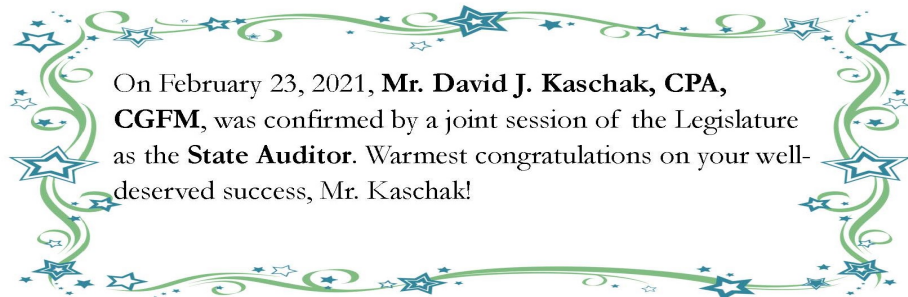
See pages 4-5 for the PDT Registration Form and Day At A Glance\*



**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](#)**



On February 23, 2021, **Mr. David J. Kaschak, CPA, CGFM**, was confirmed by a joint session of the Legislature as the **State Auditor**. Warmest congratulations on your well-deserved success, Mr. Kaschak!



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.

# 2021 AGA Virtual Spring Professional Development Training (PDT) Registration Information

## Paper Registration:

### Group

- Complete a registration form for each member of the group and submit it with a list of all registrants. Include a contact name and phone number for the group.
- Each registrant's individual form should indicate the method of payment being used.
- Each registrant must sign the form.

### Individual

- Complete registration form below. Be sure to sign the form!

## Online Registration:

- Register and pay online via PayPal at [www.agacgfm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton).
- If registering a group of individuals, include their names in the comments section of the registration form.

I agree with the above terms of the cancellation policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Fees:

Registration Type	Fee
AGA or ASPA Members	\$55.00
Non-Members	\$110.00
Full-Time Students	FREE
We will be accepting donations to the Paul Vidunas Memorial Fund. Any donation is greatly appreciated!	

**CPE Sponsor Numbers**  
**NJ: 20CE00023700**  
**PA: PX177258**

- Online registration is encouraged. If you'd like to mail payment & registration, please contact our Treasurer:

**David Illuminate**  
**dilluminate@njleg.org**

- Registrations must be received by Monday, May 10, 2021
- No phone registrations will be accepted.

### Cancellation Policy:

- If a registrant cannot attend, substitutions will be accepted.
- Cancellations will be accepted through 4:00pm on May 10, 2021.
- Cancellations received after this date and no-shows will be liable for payment in full.

## 2021 AGA Virtual Spring PDT Registration Form

Individual Information		
Name:		
Title:		
Organization:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email:	Phone:	
Total Enclosed: \$		

**Date:**  
May 12, 2021  
**Location:**  
Virtual



Credit for Continuing Education	
Level of Knowledge	Basic
Prerequisite	None
Advanced Preparation	None
Recommended Credit	7 CPE Hours

Registration Type	Fee	Select
AGA or ASPA Members Chapter: _____	\$55.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Members	\$110.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-Time Students	FREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Optional Donation to the Paul Vidunas Memorial Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

CPE Fields of Study (FOS)	
Accounting, Accounting (Governmental), Auditing, Information Technology, Personal Development	

Payment Method	
NJ Check or Payment Voucher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal or Company Check	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p><b>AGA Trenton Chapter</b></p> <p><b>2021 Virtual Spring Professional Development Training</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday, May 12, 2021   8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST</b></p>
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Opening Remarks	<b>8:00 - 8:05</b>	Jessica Lippincott, AGA Trenton Chapter President
<u>Sessions:</u>		
1	<b>8:05 - 9:20</b>	Dr. Sean Stein Smith, CPA, Lehman College RPA/Blockchain
2	<b>9:30 - 10:20</b>	Dan Lohrmann, Chief Security Officer & Chief Strategist, Security Mentor Inc. Cybersecurity - The Human Element
3	<b>10:30 - 11:20</b>	Dr. Annika Sorensen Stress Management in the Workplace - How to Reduce Stress and Increase Productivity
4	<b>11:30 - 12:20</b>	Jessica Lucas-Judy, Director of Strategic Issues, GAO GAO 2020 Annual Report - Identifying and Quantifying Cost Savings
5	<b>1:30 - 2:45</b>	Andrea M. Rozario, PhD, CPA, Stevens Institute of Technology Impact of RPA in Auditing
6	<b>2:50 - 3:40</b>	Taylor Larimore, Senior Manager, Fraud Risk Mitigation & Analytics - Grant Thornton Sophia Carlton, CFE, Manager, Fraud Risk Mitigation & Analytics - Grant Thornton The Anti-Fraud Playbook
Closing Remarks	<b>3:40 - 4:00</b>	Jessica Lippincott, AGA Trenton Chapter President

**Please note the schedule and speakers are subject to change.**

**Continuing Professional Education credits: 7 credits in the fields of study of**

**“Accounting/Auditing/Governmental Auditing/Information Technology/Personal Development”**

**CPE certificates will be sent via email. In the event of your early departure, the certificate will be adjusted accordingly.**

**-- The Trenton Chapter is registered with the NJ and PA State Boards. --**

**AGA Trenton Chapter NJ Sponsor #20CE00023700, PA Sponsor #PX177258**





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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.**

In an uncertain world,  
**be certain of what  
 you know.**



Know More.  
**Become More**



# 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 2022 is TBA. Visit [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) for more information.

## 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.*



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton)  
[www.facebook.com/agachapters.trenton](https://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](mailto:srybak@njleg.org))

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



## **FREE Training Scholarship for Young Professionals!**

AGA's [Professional Development Training \(PDT\)](#) is in July, and AGA has ten scholarships to distribute to Young Professionals valued at \$550 each.

The virtual training event will be held July 19–21, and this scholarship provides mentorship, training and access to all PDT sessions, earning up to 21 CPEs.

To apply, you must be a current AGA Young Professional member (under the age of 35), working directly for the government.

Applications are due **May 24 at 11:59 p.m. ET!**



# Thank You To Our Sponsors!



## AGA Trenton Chapter's March 2021 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER  
MARCH 2021

### ASSETS

Cash - Savings	\$	12,188.72
Cash - Checking	\$	13,905.95
Accounts Receivable - Symp/Mtg/Sem	\$	-
Prepaid Expenses	\$	3,283.73
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,378.40</b>

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable	\$	155.14
Deferred Income	\$	10.00
Fund Balance	\$	29,213.26
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,378.40</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>***





# A Report to Our Members

## *Citizen Centric Report 2019-2020*

### Attachment C

#### Table of Contents

2019 – 2020 Progress.....2

Our Finances.....3

What’s Next.....4



Meghan Ellis, Kiersten Kokotajlo, Rob Rizzo, and Nikki Farrell at the AGA PDT 2019 in New Orleans

### Vision Statement

AGA is to be the premier association for advancing government accountability.

### Our Mission

The Trenton Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a leading advocate for improving the quality and effectiveness of Governmental fiscal management. To this end, our goal is to carry forward the purpose of the AGA itself - to promote continuing education, development and professionalism in the areas of government financial management and to promote opportunities for community service.

### Total Members by Employer

	2019	2020	% Diff
State	90	77	-17%
Federal	11	10	-10%
Local	3	3	0%
Private Sector	15	16	6%
Retired	11	15	27%
Academia	4	2	-100%
Student	0	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>10%</b>

### COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 9, 2020, Governor Murphy declared a State of Emergency to marshal the full resources of government to address the impacts and risks associated with the novel corona virus, COVID-19. The AGA Trenton Chapter altered/postponed events to meet the state health mandates. In light of the pandemic, the AGA Trenton Chapter held their first ever fully virtual training event in June 2020.

### Member CGFMs

Not a CGFM? What are you waiting for? More than 20% of the Trenton Chapter members are CGFMs! Reach out for more information on how you could become a CGFM!



2019 Fall Seminar presentation held at MCCC

### National Mission

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

### Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Hours Awarded

We strive to provide our members with more than 40 hours of CPE credits per year. The following table shows total CPE credits awarded over the past three years:

	2018	2019	2020
Audio Conferences	194	296	572
Fall Seminar	720	763	847
Spring Symposium (Virtual PDT in 2020)	889	840	270
Dinner Meetings	103	98	93
Other	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>1,782</b>

AGA Trenton Members at the Paul Vidunas Charity, PCDI Walk



### Community Service

- Various canned goods and other donations were provided to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and Trenton Animal Shelter throughout the year.
- Members participated in a program prior to Memorial Day to honor veterans by assisting the Italian American War Veterans Post # 2 in placement of flags on Veterans' grave sites at a local cemetery
- Raised \$1,300 for the Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial donated to Princeton Child Development Institute.

### Awards Banquet

- Presented various awards to members and non-members for a number of services in governmental financial management
- \$1,500 awarded through scholarships to college students

### Early Career

- Hosted a bowling networking event where two students from TCNJ and Rider as well as three non-member young professionals were in attendance



2020 Veteran Flag Placing Community Service



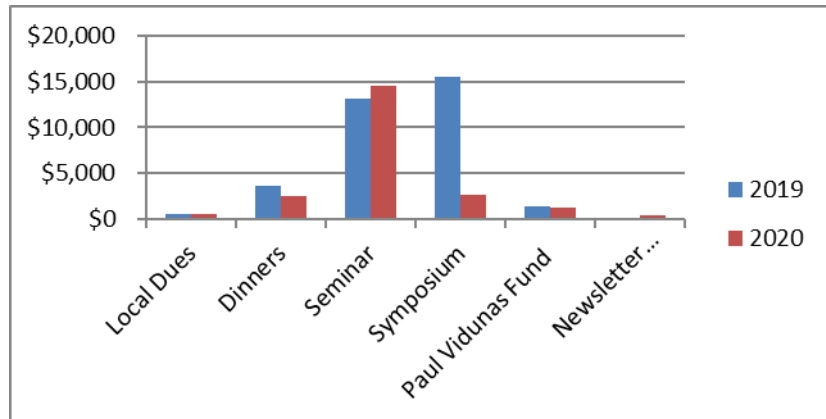
Monthly Dinner Meeting

## REVENUES AND EXPENSES

### Primary Sources of Revenue

	2019	2020
Local Dues	\$632	\$570
Dinners *includes 40th Anniversary Dinner	\$3,624	\$2,527
Seminar	\$13,067	\$14,475
Symposium	\$15,540	\$2,630
Paul Vidunas Fund	\$1,408	\$1,246
Newsletter Ads/Other Education/Misc	\$52	\$476
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$34,323</b>	<b>\$21,924</b>

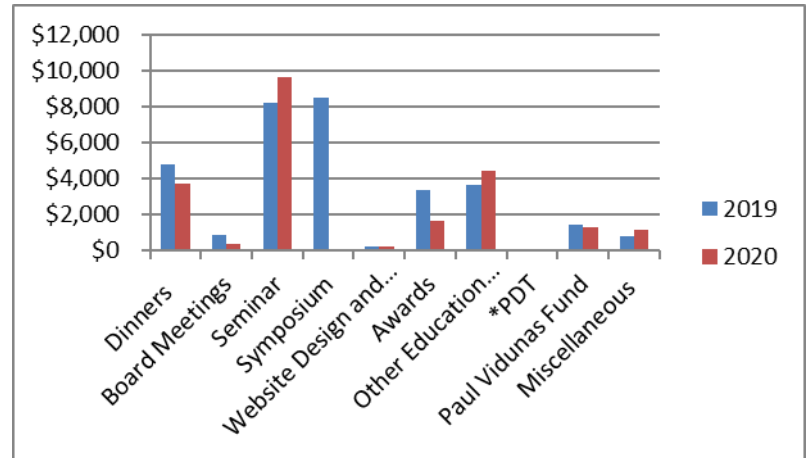
### Fiscal Year 2019 & 2020 Revenue by Type



### Primary Functional Expenses

	2019	2020
Dinners	\$4,818	\$3,676
Board Meetings	\$847	\$349
Seminar	\$8,227	\$9,644
Symposium	\$8,509	\$71
Website Design and Maintenance	\$194	\$185
Awards	\$3,343	\$1,605
Other Education Expenses *PDT	\$3,655	\$4,415
Paul Vidunas Fund	\$1,408	\$1,300
Miscellaneous	\$750	\$1,125
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$31,751</b>	<b>\$22,370</b>

### Fiscal Year 2019 & 2020 Expenses by Type



### Independent Audit

Independent audits of the Association's finances were conducted, resulting in clean opinions.



Fall Seminar



2020 Annual Bowling – Networking Event



## Challenges moving forward

### We want to hear from you.

Do you like this report?  
Would you like to see other information?  
Please let us know by contacting Kiersten  
Kokotajlo at [kkokotajlo@njleg.org](mailto:kkokotajlo@njleg.org).

#### AGA - Trenton

PO Box 536

Trenton, NJ 08604

[agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)

[www.agacgfm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton)

FACEBOOK: "AGA Trenton Chapter"



Like us on  
**Facebook**



Trenton Soup Kitchen and Animal Shelter donations  
collected at our 2019 Fall Seminar



Due to COVID-19 our  
Annual Awards recipients  
were honored through  
various virtual and  
published platforms since  
we could not host an in-  
person dinner.

We're proud to introduce  
our 2020-2021  
Membership Scholarship  
Recipient:

Arashdip Singh



- Continue to increase our presence in the professional community through constant upgrade and update of our website and use of social media to provide the most current and important information to the Chapter's members and friends and by issuing periodic electronic newsletters. This will strengthen and move AGA-Trenton forward to communicate its vision, mission, and goals to the existing and potential membership.
- Continue constant and regular communication with AGA's National coordinators to exchange information and ideas.
- Membership:
  - ✓ Continue improving and expanding annual Membership-Scholarship Program to promote AGA-Trenton Chapter and its membership especially among early career government employees by providing full sponsorship of the one full year of membership dues (national and chapter) along with registration for all AGA-Trenton Chapter's functions during the year at the member's rate (including annual Fall Seminar and Spring Symposium) for one or more individuals.
  - ✓ Continue promoting AGA-National Members' Recruitment and Retention Program with the Focus on Early Career and Student Members.
- Raise Public Awareness of Government Accountability, Transparency and Performance:
  - ✓ Preparing and distributing Chapter's Citizen-Centric Report to AGA-Trenton's membership and beyond.
  - ✓ Encouraging governmental entities to adopt four-page Citizen-Centric Report for greater governments' transparency and accountability.
  - ✓ Establishing and maintaining the Board position of Accountability Coordinator.
- Continue providing regular education programs through CPE dinner meetings, audio conferences, and Annual Fall and Spring Symposiums inviting highly respected and recognized speakers from all levels of government, private enterprise, and academia.
- Continue to promote the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program. Implement a scholarship incentive to become a CGFM.