

# **ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS**

**TRENTON CHAPTER**

**HISTORY REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020**

**ROSE M. TODARO  
HISTORIAN**

## **CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Trenton Chapter holds annual elections in April for the following Chapter Officers (see Attachment A for 2019-2020 Officers):

President  
President-Elect/Vice President of Education  
Treasurer  
Secretary

During program year 2019-2020, fifteen directors, appointed by the President, were active within the Chapter (see Attachment A for 2019-2020 Officers and Directors).

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DATES**

The full Executive Board met twice during the 2019-2020 program year. The Board held a reorganization meeting on July 31, 2019. An additional mid-year Board meeting was held on January 23, 2020.

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>PROGRAM</u></b>
September 13, 2019	The Chapter kicked off its 2019-2020 program year with a meet and greet happy hour. Nineteen attended the event. The attendees included 13 members and two non-members.
September 18, 2019	George Sowa, CEO of the Greater Trenton, The Capital City. He explained that Greater Trenton is an independent nonprofit that uses private funding and a network of collaborative relationships to advance the economic revitalization efforts in the state's capital city. The key objectives of Greater Trenton include coordinating downtown economic development projects; providing one-stop support and information for investors interested in starting new projects; reaching out to potential residential, commercial and/or retail investors and tenants; supporting and promoting existing downtown initiatives; engaging downtown stakeholders in a strategic economic development plan; and developing investment marketing strategies. One CPE was offered to the 26 attendees, 22 members and 4 non-members.
November 13, 2019	Ben Dworkin serves as the Director of the Rowan Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. The topic of his presentation was a discussion of the shifting of the political environment at the national level and its impact on New Jersey's political environment. One CPE was offered to the 26 attendees.
January 8, 2020	Jill Ann Murphy, CPA, CGMA, Director, Mercadien P.C. and Holly Sabo, Manager, Mercadien Group, P.C. The topic of their discussion was 2019 tax update and insight to the 2019 tax changes for individual and business filers. One CPE was offered to the 24 attendees.
March 11, 2020	B. Sue Fulton Chair and Chief Administrator for the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. Her presentation highlighted the challenges the agency faced implementing REAL ID. One CPE was offered to the 17 attendees.

Four of the five monthly meetings offered one CPE to those attending.

## **EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

### **WEBINARS HELD**

September 11, 2019	Webinar conference topic was <i>Communications: Everyone Communicates, Few Connect</i> -19 individuals attended this session. The session offered 2 CPE credits.
October 23, 2019	Webinar conference topic was <i>Applying ERM Programs to Address Cybersecurity Risks</i> - 39 individuals attended this session. The session offered 2 CPE credits.
November 20, 2019	Webinar conference topic was <i>Building a Culture of Ethical Excellence</i> - 39 individuals attended this session. The session offered 2 CPE credits.
January 8, 2020	Webinar conference topic was <i>Uniform Guidance</i> - 15 individuals attended this session. The session offered 2 CPE credits.
March 25, 2020	Webinar conference topic was <i>Cybersecurity: Mitigating Hacks and Threats</i> - 13 individuals took advantage of the free remote access during the CORONA Virus outbreak and shelter in place period. This session offered 2 CPE credits.
April 22, 2020	Webinar conference topic was <i>DATA Act: Exploring Your Data Act Data for Fraud, Waste and Abuse</i> - 41 individuals took advantage of the free remote access during the CORONA Virus outbreak and shelter in place period. This session offered 2 CPE credits.
May 13, 2020	Webinar conference topic was <i>How to Leverage Data Analytics to Build an Effective Anti-Fraud Strategy</i> - 26 individuals accessed this webinar using the Trenton Chapter's voucher code. This session offered 2 CPE credits.
June 10, 2020	Webinar conference topic was <i>Taking Care of People - Leadership Matters</i> - 30 individuals accessed this webinar using the Trenton Chapter's voucher code. This session offered 2 CPE credits.
June 24, 2020	Webinar conference topic was <i>CARES Act/The GREAT Act; COVID 19 Reporting: Best Practices and Data Standards</i> - 34 individuals accessed this webinar using the Trenton Chapter's voucher 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**

October 25, 2019	Annual Fall Seminar focused on professional development allowing for a myriad of topics to be presented and not restricted to an overall theme. The seminar offered 7 CPE credits to the 121 individuals who attended. Presentations were offered from the following: The New Jersey Department of Transportation – New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund/Gas Tax; the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services CEO of Greater Trenton speaking on the Trenton Revitalization; the New Jersey Division of Taxation – New Jersey's Tax Amnesty Program; and the Federal Government Accountability Office – GAO's Yellow Book Update. There was also a session on Active Listening in the Workplace, a soft skill crucial to professional development as a whole.
June 3, 2020	Due to the CORONA Virus Pandemic the Chapter hosted its first Virtual Professional Development Training (PDT). The training event offered 5 CPE credits to the 54

individuals who participated. Presentations were offered from the following: KPMG – GASB 87 Update; New Jersey Commission of Investigation – “The Beat Goes On and On”; The Mercadieu Group – 2020 CARES ACT; and “Applying Soft Skills in the Workplace” presented by Stacy Kuhen, Educator, Motivational Speaker and Consultant.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS**

October 14, 2019	Five AGA Trenton Chapter members and one non-member volunteered as wait staff for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen serving lunch.
October 25, 2019	Collection of canned goods and donations was held for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen during the event held on this date.
November 2, 2019	Ten AGA Trenton Chapter members participated in the Princeton Child Development Institute’s Meadows Miler Fun Run fund raiser, and of the Chapter’s participants won 1 <sup>st</sup> place in their age group.
May 24, 2020	Eight 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 2019 to June 2020	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 2019-2020 recipient selected was “Princeton Child Development Institute”. The Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI) founded in 1970, is a private, nonprofit program offering a broad spectrum of science-based services to children, youth and adults with autism. PCDI provides quality treatment, education, and professional training and mentoring in New Jersey, but through its research, has pioneered comprehensive intervention models that are used nationally and internationally for the benefit of persons with autism. PCDI programs teach young children to talk, play with siblings and friends, and read and write. Adolescents continue academic and work-study programs while learning to participate in their homes and communities. Adults perfect skills that allow them to maintain jobs and achieve greater levels of independence. The Chapter raised \$1,300 during the program year to benefit the PCDI.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

The Chapter issued eleven newsletters between August 2019 and June 2020 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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 2019-2020 program year this process was still in progress and the target date for completion is the 2020-2021 program year.

## **EARLY CAREER EVENT**

February 28, 2020 the Chapter held a meet and greet bowling night in order to introduce college students and early career government employees to the Chapter and all that it has to offer future and current governmental employees. The event was attended by 6 Chapter board members, 3 Chapter members, 2 students from a nearby area college and 3 professional non-members. The event was free to students and young professionals. Members and professional non-members paid \$6 to attend, and these monies went to the Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial Fund.

## **CHAPTER HONORARIUMS AND AWARDS**

The 2019-2020 award recipients were as follows:

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

Keith A. Costello, New Jersey State Commission of Investigation

### **Special Achievement Award**

Sean McCarthy, New Jersey State Parole Board

### **Chapter Service Award**

Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

### **Distinguished Leadership Award**

Adrienne Kreipke, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

### **Membership Scholarship Recipients**

Arashdip Singh, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

### **Thomas J. Kaschak Memorial Scholarship**

Ryan Fisher

### **Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial (\$1,300)**

Princeton Child Development Institute

### **Special Assistants Award**

Robyn Boyer, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

### **James J. Dolan Award**

Stephen M. Eells, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

## **Past President's Award**

Nikki Farrell, New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

## **NJ GOVERNOR'S CGFM PROCLAMATION**

During the program year the Chapter's CGFM/Professional Certification Director prepared and submitted a request for a proclamation to the Governor's Office. The purpose of the request was to have March 2020 proclaimed Certified Government Financial Manager Month. The documentation required a description of the Association of Government Accounts (AGA), its mission as a global professional organization, and the demographics of its member base. Details describing the requirements needed to earn the CGFM certification and maintain the certification were also provided. Both the Trenton and Northern New Jersey Chapters are professional organizations that are part of the Association of Government Accounts (AGA) which is a network of more than 15,000 members in 101 chapters in the United States and around the world. The New Jersey Chapters have approximately 200 active members from state, federal, municipal and private sector auditors and financial managers. Governor Murphy signed the proclamation on March 31, 2020. (Attachment D)

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

During the 2019-2020 program year a Chapter Board member passed the Certified Public Account (CPA) 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 and the recipient of the 2019 Young Professional PDT Scholarship, and the Out-Going 2018-2019 President attended the July 2019 Professional Development Training (PDT) held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Chapter's Director of Awards received a Young Professional Group (YPG) grant to attend the July 2019 Professional Development Training (PDT) held in New Orleans, Louisiana. National select up to five young professionals from the active local AGA chapters and as part of their attendance at the PDT these young professional act as ambassadors, and assist at the AGA exhibit booth and other activities during the training event.

The Chapter's CGFM Representative continued to be part of the National CGFM Certification Board serving a second 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 Membership Director 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 Platinum Award from National for 2019–2020 program year. The Chapter earned over 19,501 credits. Credits are awarded by the National Association for fulfilling all the various goals set by the National office.

The Chapter was awarded the Certificate of Excellence for its 2018–2019 Citizen Centric Report.

**CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2019-2020**

**OFFICERS**

**President** - Nikki Farrell  
**President-Elect/Vice President of Education** - Jessica Lippincott  
**Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee Chair** - Robert Rizzo  
**Secretary** - Michelle Blatt  
**National Council of Chapters Representative** - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
**Treasurer** - David M. Illuminate Jr.

**DIRECTORS**

**Accountability Outreach** - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
**CGFM/Professional Certification** - Margarita Stanislavskaya  
**Community Service** - Chris Fuccello and Stephanie Rybak  
**Young Professionals** - Taylor V. Leavy  
**Education** - Jessica Lippincott  
**Audio Conferences** - Thalia I. Treby and Michelle C. Blatt  
**Membership** - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
**Meetings and Events** - Rene Gervasoni and Michael J. Salberta  
**Awards** - Rene Gervasoni and Meghan K. Ellis  
**Administration and Programs** - Meghan K. Ellis  
**Historian** - Rose M. Todaro  
**Budget & Finance** - David M. Illuminate Jr.  
**Budget** - Amanda Ireland  
**Bylaws & Procedures** - David J. Kaschak  
**Chapter Recognition** - Brian Larkin  
**Newsletter Editor** - Marie E. Samson  
**Nominations** - Robert Rizzo  
**Sponsorships** - Guy L. Tassi  
**Paul Vidunas Coordinator** - Jennifer Dougherty and Amanda Ireland  
**Technical PDT/Seminars** - Christine S. Brennan  
**Webmaster** - Brian Larkin

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

**Spring Symposium** - Co-chairs: Nikki Farrell/Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo/Christine S. Brennan + Spring Symposium Committee includes but not limited to Meghan Ellis and Michael J. Salberta

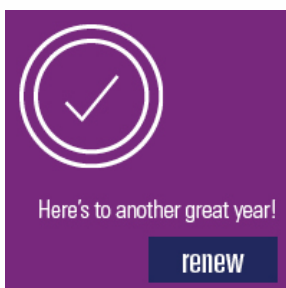
# CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2020



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## President's Message

Jessica Lippincott

Dear Members & Friends,

I would like to welcome you all to the 2020-2021 program year and wish you a Happy Summer! I first would like to say that I am very excited to be serving as Chapter President and can assure you that this year will be just as successful. I also would like to congratulate Nikki Farrell on her presidency, as well as the entire 2019-2020 Chapter Executive Committee for a job well done. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to transition to having a successful virtual PDT, along with many other accomplishments this past year.

With everything going on right now in the COVID-19 pandemic, I would also like to wish good health for you all and hope that you all are staying safe! I know during this pandemic, it can be difficult to enjoy time with friends and family. Please feel free to reach out to me if there is anything I can do to help! With that being said, I also attended my first virtual AGA National Professional Development Training (PDT). It was very successful, although, I did miss seeing everyone in person. I hope this broadens our outlook not only as a chapter, but as an organization overall.

*(continue on page 2)*





## President's Message (continued)

As Chapter President, one of my main goals is to further transition to virtual seminars as well as being in-person, if allowable. I think providing an in-person event, as well as being able to host them virtually at the same time, will be of huge benefit to the Chapter. I also would like to extend our networking with local colleges and universities. I think getting young professionals and college students involved early is key to growing our chapter. I am excited to get involved in any way possible.

For those whom do not know me, I would like to further introduce myself. I graduated from Rider University with both my Bachelor's degree as well as my Master's degree. Additionally, I also received a certificate in business analytics from Rider. I currently work for the New Jersey Department of Transportation and have been with them for the last six years. I will be getting married in May of 2021 (hopefully being able to keep that date due to the COVID-19 Pandemic). As I am still fairly new to the chapter, I will do my best to keep in touch with everyone. I am always willing to lend a listening ear. I am also open to any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for anything at all!

Here's to another successful chapter year!

Stay well,  
Jessica Lippincott  
Trenton Chapter President

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 AGA Trenton Chapter Awards  
Nomination

Due date: July 31, 2020

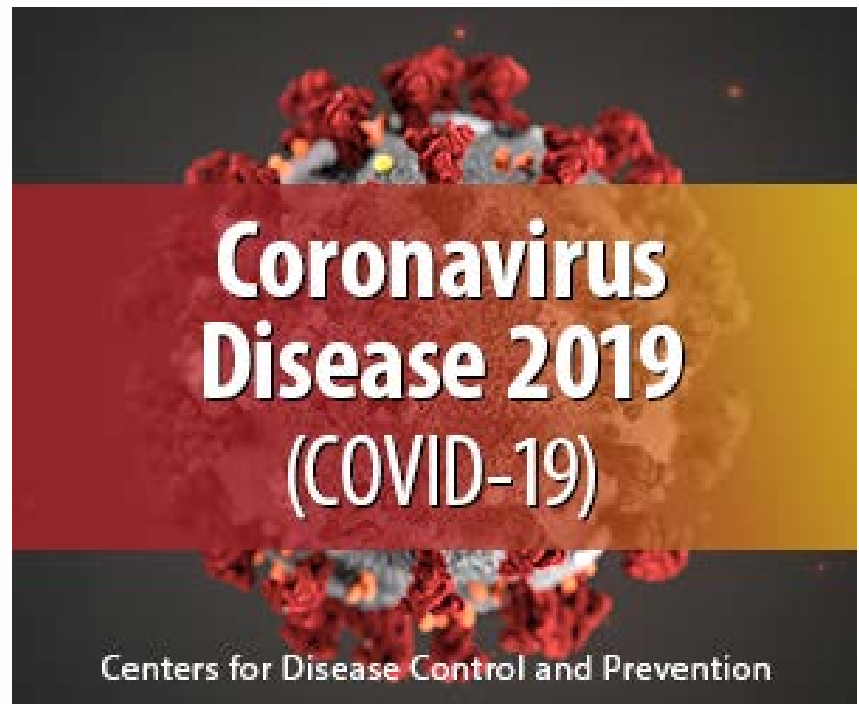
Submit your nominations to  
Mellis@njleg.org

Webinar - Personnel/Human  
Resources Free for AGA Members\*  
(1 CPE)

Date: September 2, 2020

Location: Online

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm



**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.**

**Access AGA's COVID-19 Resource Exchange**

### **Help Flatten the Curve**

**Clean your hands often**

**Avoid close contact**

**Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face**

**Cover when around others**

**Cover coughs and sneezes**

**Clean and disinfect**



# Accomplishments



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Trenton and Northern New Jersey Chapters of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) are professional organizations, part of the Association of Government Accountants which has a network of more than 15,000 members in 101 chapters in the United States and around the world and approximately 200 active members representing state, federal, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, AGA Trenton and Northern New Jersey Chapters' members have responded to AGA's mission of Advancing Government Accountability, as they continue their broad educational efforts, with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor, and character in its Code of Ethics, and are making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of New Jersey by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history, to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and to pass three examinations requiring expertise in Governmental Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting, and requires each CGFM holder to maintain certification by completing at least 80 hours of continuing professional education in government financial management topics or related technical subjects every two years;

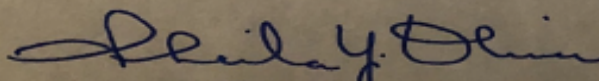
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim:

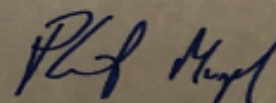
**MARCH 2020  
AS  
CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER  
MONTH**

*in New Jersey.*



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirty-first day of March in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR

# 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 Nov. 6, 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.



# 2020 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER AWARDS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to nominate the following individual for a 2020 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
- ☐ Achievement of the Year Award
- ☐ Education and Training Award
- ☐ Chapter Service Award

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 JULY 31, 2020** ◆

Please E-Mail Nomination Forms to:

Meghan K. Ellis

[MEllis@njleg.org](mailto:MEllis@njleg.org)

## *DESCRIPTIONS OF AWARDS CATEGORIES*

### *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.)

### *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.)

### *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.

# Thank You To Our Sponsors!



## AGA Trenton Chapter's June 2020 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER JUNE 2020	
ASSETS	
Cash - Savings	\$12,187.83
Cash - Checking	\$12,398.97
Accts. Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	\$ 20.00
PrePaid Expenses	\$ 4,296.31
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 28,903.11</b>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Deferred Income	\$ 40.00
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 28,863.11</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 28,903.11</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  
Vice President of Finance/ Administration/Programs - Stephanie Rybak  
Webinar Director - Michelle C. Blatt  
Sponsorship Director - Guy Tassi  
Chapter Recognition - Jessica Lippincott/Directors  
CGFM Chairperson - Margarita Stanislavskaya  
Community Service Director - Chris Fuccello  
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 2018-2019*

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Rob Rizzo passing the President's gavel  
to Nikki Farrel

### 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

	2018	2019	% Diff
State	86	90	4%
Federal	8	11	-9%
Local	3	3	0%
Private Sector	12	15	20%
Retired	17	11	-55%
Academia	4	4	0%
Student	1	0	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>10%</b>

### Member Certifications

	2018	2019
CGFM	33	31
CPA	54	50
CIA	4	4
CFE	12	11
Other	11	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>108</b>



2018 Fall Seminar presentation held at MCCC

# HOW WE HAVE PROGRESSED

## IN 2018 - 2019

### 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:

	2017	2018	2019
Audio Conferences	224	194	296
Fall Seminar	700	720	763
Spring Symposium	847	889	840
Dinner Meetings	112	103	98
Other	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>1,997</b>

Happy Hour gathering after a successful  
2019 Spring Symposium



### 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 on 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 \$1,400 for the Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial donated to Signal 22 Canteen.

### Awards Banquet

- Presented various awards to members and non-members for a number of services in governmental financial management
- \$2,250 awarded through scholarships to college students

### Early Career

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



May 2019 Veteran Flag Placing Community Service

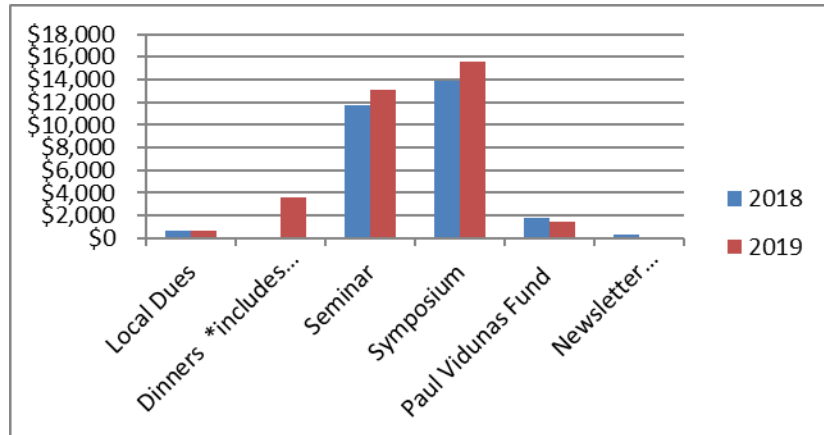


Monthly Dinner Meeting

### Primary Sources of Revenue

	2018	2019
Local Dues	\$661	\$632
Dinners *includes 40th Anniversary Dinner	\$4,394*	\$3,624
Seminar	\$11,741	\$13,067
Symposium	\$13,905	\$15,540
Paul Vidunas Fund	\$1,757	\$1,408
Newsletter Ads/Other Education/Misc	\$275	\$52
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$32,733</b>	<b>\$34,323</b>

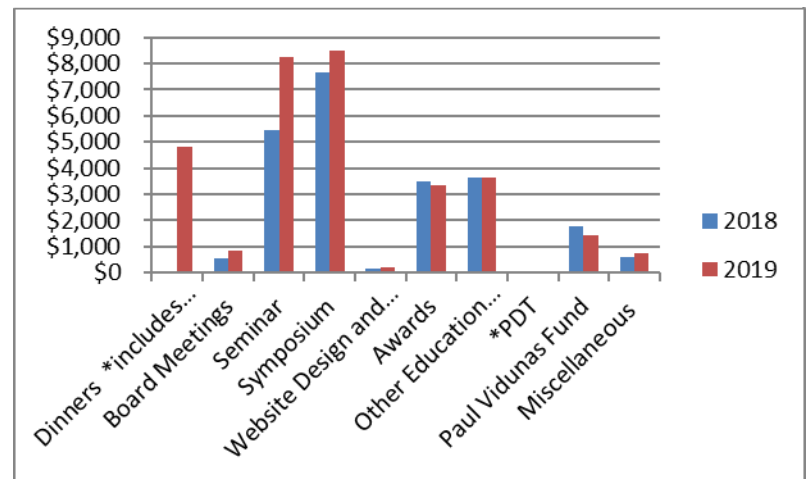
### Fiscal Year 2018 & 2019 Revenue by Type



### Primary Functional Expenses

	2018	2019
Dinners *includes 40th Anniversary Dinner	\$8,106*	\$4,818
Board Meetings	\$545	\$847
Seminar	\$5,460	\$8,227
Symposium	\$7,674	\$8,509
Website Design and Maintenance	\$154	\$194
Awards	\$3,485	\$3,343
Other Education Expenses *PDT	\$3,651	\$3,655
Paul Vidunas Fund	\$1,757	\$1,408
Miscellaneous	\$586	\$750
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$31,418</b>	<b>\$31,751</b>

### Fiscal Year 2018 & 2019 Expenses by Type



### Independent Audit

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



Fall Seminar



2019 Program Year Kick-off Event



### 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

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

FACEBOOK: "AGA Trenton Chapter"



Like us on  
**Facebook**



Members enjoying the carnival themed fair at Lead! 2019



2019-2020 Membership Scholarship Recipient  
at AGA's Award's Dinner



- 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 Regional and 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.



Office of the Governor  
Philip D. Murphy  
Governor



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, the Trenton and Northern New Jersey Chapters of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) are professional organizations, part of the Association of Government Accountants which has a network of more than 15,000 members in 101 chapters in the United States and around the world and approximately 200 active members representing state, federal, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, AGA Trenton and Northern New Jersey Chapters' members have responded to AGA's mission of Advancing Government Accountability, as they continue their broad educational efforts, with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor, and character in its Code of Ethics, and are making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of New Jersey by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history, to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and to pass three examinations requiring expertise in Governmental Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting, and requires each CGFM holder to maintain certification by completing at least 80 hours of continuing professional education in government financial management topics or related technical subjects every two years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim:

**MARCH 2020  
AS  
CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER  
MONTH**

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirty-first day of March in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR