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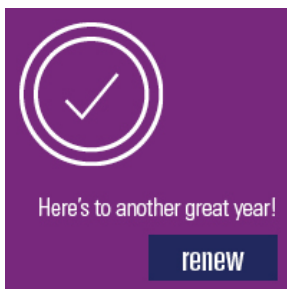
## President's Message Meghan Ellis

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer and staying safe, as always! I would like to welcome you all to the 2021-2022 program year with, hopefully, some in-person events. I am so happy to be serving as Chapter President and ready to meet the needs of all of our members. I would like to congratulate Jessica Donoher (Lippincott) on a successful year as President and a job well done on navigating a particularly difficult year due to the pandemic. This congratulations also goes out to the entire 2020-2021 Chapter Executive Committee on their dedication to making all of our virtual events as seamless as can be.

Additionally, I'd like to take this time to reflect on the very successful and informative virtual AGA National Professional Development Training (PDT) that was held from July 19th to July 21st. We had a number of current board members attend and I think they would all agree that it was a wonderful virtual event. Jessica Donoher, Kiersten Kokotajlo, and I each had the opportunity and honor of presenting at PDT during the Young Professionals Session. I'd like to congratulate Jennifer Dougherty on being a 2021 Young Professional Training Scholarship Recipient. I would also like to say a huge congratulations again to the 2020-2021 Chapter Executive Committee and the Trenton Chapter as a whole on earning Platinum Level in Nationals Achievements in Chapter Excellence (ACE) Awards. This is a huge accomplishment and we should all be very proud!

*...continued on page 2*





## President's Message *(continued)*

As Chapter President this year, I would love to get back to in-person events, safely, of course. As things progress in the next few months, we, as a board, will make the decisions as to whether we can get back to our regular dinner meetings and an in-person Fall PDT and Spring PDT. If these do not pan out, we will make sure to keep providing our members with exceptional virtual events.

For those of you that I have not had the chance to meet yet, I am a graduate of Monmouth University and have worked for the New Jersey Office of the State Auditor for the past 7 years. I enjoy spending my free time reading on the beach, going to the gym, and walking my dog, Oliver. I really hope that I will get a chance to meet you all in-person in the near future. In the meantime, know that I am always available for anything that you may need during this program year.

My very best,  
 Meghan Ellis  
 Trenton Chapter President

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

Chapter President  
**Meghan K. Ellis**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor  
 mellis@njleg.org

Immediate Past President  
**Jessica Donoher**  
 NJ Department of  
 Transportation  
 jessica.donoher@dot.nj.gov

Chapter Treasurer  
**Michael J. Salberta**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor

National Council of Chapters  
 Representative  
**Nikki Farrell,**  
**CICA**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor

Administration  
**Stephanie Rybak**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor  
 srybak@njleg.org

Community Service  
**Christopher J. Fuccello**  
 NJ Office of the State  
 Comptroller  
 Chris.Fuccello@osc.nj.gov

Spring Training Event  
**Nikki Farrell,**  
**CICA**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor

Chapter  
 President-Elect  
**Robert Rizzo**  
 NJ Legislative Services  
 Office of the State Auditor  
 rizzo@njleg.org

Secretary  
**Michelle C. Blatt**  
 NJ Office of the  
 State Comptroller  
 michelle.blatt@osc.nj.gov

Education  
**Robert Rizzo**  
 NJ Legislative Services  
 Office of the State Auditor  
 rizzo@njleg.org

Webmaster  
**Jennifer Dougherty**  
 JDougherty@njleg.org

CGFM/Professional  
 Certification  
**Margarita Stanislavskaya,**  
**CGFM, CPA**  
 Mercer County Improvement  
 Authority  
 mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Webinar -Maintaining Professional Ethics in a Culture of Oversharing (1.5 CPEs)

Date: September 2, 2021

Location: Online

Register via [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

Webinar - Communications (2 CPEs)

Date: September 8, 2021

Location: Online

Register via [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

Webinar - CGMF Live: Governmental (8 CPEs) Environment

Date: September 9, 2021

Location: Online

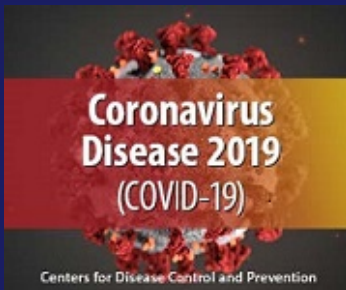
Register via [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

Webinar - Internal Control & Fraud Prevention (14 CPEs)

Date: September 21, 2021

Location: Online

Register via [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)



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**

**Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training 2021**



Sept. 21-22, 2021  
A Virtual Event  
14 CPEs

[register now](#)

The Internal Control & Fraud Prevention Training has a rich history of providing the latest and greatest developments in the field. Together we can find solutions and make a difference in our workplace and in the government finance profession.

Update (Aug. 9, 2021): Due to the ongoing public health concerns regarding COVID-19 and the Delta variant, this year's training will be delivered in a full virtual format.

**Virtual CGFM Training**  
*for groups or individuals*

Convenient learning.  
AGA quality.



AGA is pleased to offer another CGFM preparation option: live, virtual CGFM courses for individual participants. Get the benefits of live training with a knowledgeable instructor and the convenience of staying at your home or office. Click above to sign up!

**Give back to the profession**  
**Apply to be a mentor today!**



**MENTORING**  
program

The program is open to AGA members only. We all have a responsibility to leave this world better than we found it and to have a positive impact on the next generation of government leaders. Mentoring is important, not only because of the knowledge and skills young professionals can learn from mentors, but also because mentoring provides professional socialization and personal support. For more information, visit the AGA website.

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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? Reach out to Margarita Stanislavskaya, Trenton Chapter CGFM Chairperson, for more information.



# 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.*

# Thank You To Our Sponsors!



## AGA Trenton Chapter's June 2021 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER  
JULY 2021

### ASSETS

Cash - Savings	\$	24,189.31
Cash - Checking	\$	10,401.77
Accounts Receivable		
Prepaid Expenses	\$	18.74

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ 34,609.82

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable	\$	669.57
Deferred Income		

Fund Balance \$ 33,940.25

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** \$ 34,609.82

## 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 Donoher to learn more about our CGFM Library Pilot Program!**



# CHAPTER DIRECTORS 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

President - Meghan Ellis  
 President Elect/VP of Education - Robert Rizzo  
 Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee Chair - Jessica Donoher  
 VP of Membership - Kiersten Kokotajlo  
 VP of Finance/ Administration/Programs - Stephanie Rybak  
 Treasurer - Michael Salberta  
 Secretary - Michelle Blatt  
 National Council of Chapters Representative - Nikki Farrell  
 Fall PDT/Technical Coordinator - Co-chairs: Nikki Farrell & Meghan Ellis + Fall PDT Committee  
 Spring PDT/Technical Coordinator - Co-chairs: Nikki Farrell & Meghan Ellis + Spring PDT  
 Committee  
 Audio Conferences - Rene Gervasoni - Backup: Michelle Blatt  
 Sponsorship - Guy Tassi  
 Chapter Recognition - Robert Rizzo and Meghan Ellis  
 CGFM Chairperson - Margarita Stanislavskaya  
 Community Service - Chris Fuccello  
 Awards - Stephanie Rybak  
 Young Professionals/Early Career - Taylor Leavy  
 Budget/Finance - Amanda Ireland  
 Newsletter - Marie Samson  
 Meeting Chair - Rene Gervasoni - Backup: Joseph Pica  
 Paul Vidunas Coordinator - Nat Jackson  
 Historian - Rose Todaro  
 By-Laws - David Kaschak  
 Accountability Outreach Chair - Kiersten Kokotajlo  
 Webmaster/Communications - Jennifer Dougherty - Backup: Nikki Farrell

## Contact Us



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 LinkedIn: ***<https://www.linkedin.com/company/trenton-aga>***  
 Website: ***<https://www.agacgfm.org/trenton>***