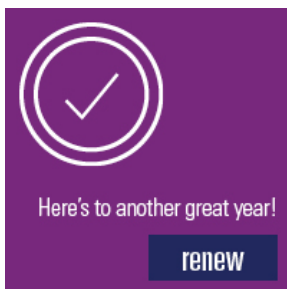




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## President's Message

**Nikki M. Farrell**

Dear Members & Friends,

Since our last newsletter, not much has changed in the world outside of AGA but inside of AGA we are always adapting and changing to meet our Chapter Mission: to promote continuing education, development, and professionalism in the areas of government financial management and to promote opportunities for community service. While the last portion of our mission will be difficult to achieve in this new climate, I recommend if you can to donate goods to food shelters or help a neighbor if you know they are in need. Small acts of kindness can go a long way!

This past month, we were able to successfully "host" our scheduled webinar on April 22 through AGA National. I attended this one myself and thought it went very well! As mentioned in the March newsletter, if social distancing practices continue, we will continue to offer our scheduled webinars in this fashion. Our upcoming May 13 webinar will be capped at 30 people; first come, first served. This limit is due to the fact that it is sold out on Nationals end. How amazing is that!

*(continue on page 2)*



# President's Message

*(continued)*

Speaking of webinars, the Trenton Chapter has purchased an additional webinar to help our members meet their CPE requirements and to promote continuing education. This webinar will be held on June 24 and as of now, the location is to be determined. Please keep an eye on our website and your email for further webinar updates.

Regarding the 2020 Spring Symposium, our committee members have been working diligently to find an alternative way to host this event. We are currently working towards providing a half-day virtual event in lieu of the in-person event in either May or June. Again, check our website and your email for further updates!

Please continue to stay safe and enjoy your "new normal".

**Wishing you all the best,  
Nikki M. Farrell, CICA  
Chapter President**

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2019-2020 PROGRAM YEAR

Chapter President  
**Nikki Farrell,**  
CICA

NJ Office of the  
State Auditor  
nfarrell@njleg.org

Chapter  
President-Elect  
**Jessica Lippincott**  
NJ Department of  
Transportation  
jessica.lippincott@dot.nj.gov

Immediate Past  
President  
**Robert Rizzo,**  
NJ Office of the  
State Auditor  
rrizzo@njleg.org

Secretary  
**Michelle C. Blatt**  
NJ Office of the  
State Comptroller  
michelle.blatt@outlook.com

Chapter Treasurer  
**David Illuminate**  
NJ Office of the  
State Auditor  
dilluminate@njleg.org

Education  
**Jessica Lippincott**  
NJ Department of  
Transportation  
jessicalippincott@dot.nj.gov

National Council  
of Chapters  
Representative  
**Kiersten Marie  
Kokotajlo, CFE,**  
CICA

NJ Office of the  
State Auditor  
kkokotajlo@njleg.org

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

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

Nominations  
**Robert Rizzo,**  
NJ Office of the  
State Auditor  
rrizzo@njleg.org

Webmaster  
**Brian Larkin**  
NJ Office of the  
State Auditor  
blarkin@njleg.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 Spring Symposium (POSTPONED)

Date: TBA

Location: The College of New Jersey

Webinar - Fraud and Data Analytics  
(2 CPEs)

Date: May 13, 2020

Location: TBD

Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm

Webinar - Leadership (2 CPEs)

Date: June 10, 2020

Location: TBD

Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm

Webinar - The Great Act (2 CPEs)

Date: June 24, 2020

Location: Online

Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm

Webinar - Professional Development

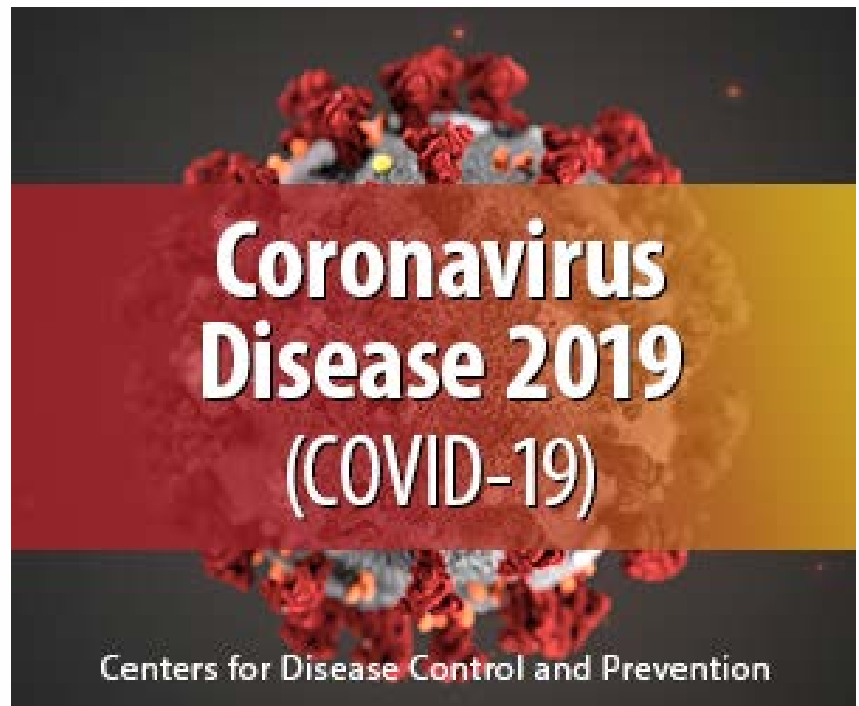
Free for AGA Members\*

(2 CPEs)

Date: June 26, 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**

# 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.



Date  
Name  
Address

Dear Prefix Last Name,

As the {TITLE} for {AGENCY}, I formally request that {AGENCY} add AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) designation as one of the qualifications for the {TITLE} and other financial management positions within {AGENCY}.

The CGFM designation is directly applicable to the duties of accountants, auditors, budget analysts and other financial professionals in government. It is the only certification that covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels. Those who become CGFMs have an extensive knowledge of government financial management and are more prepared to handle our nation's most pressing financial challenges.

This professional certification is not only beneficial to those who earn it, but to their employers and the public, as well. It offers a number of benefits, including:

- increased knowledge of government financial management;
- greater confidence on the job;
- better understanding of the "big picture" of government;
- tool for identifying qualified candidates and training new employees;
- enhanced credibility, public confidence and employee value; and
- demonstrated commitment to professional development and continuing education.

The current CGFM certification requirements are:

- Ethics — read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics.
- Education — have a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.
- Examinations — pass three comprehensive CGFM examinations ("Governmental Environment," "Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting," "Governmental Financial Management and Control").
- Experience — complete at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.

To maintain the CGFM designation in an active status, certified individuals must renew their designation annually, continue to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and complete at least 80 continuing professional education (CPE) hours every two years.

For more information on the CGFM certification, please see [www.agacgfm.org/cgfm](http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm) or contact AGA at [agacgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org) or 703-684-6931.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

# AGA Training Scholarships, Member Recruitment and CGFM Certification

## Training Scholarships

*This year, AGA will award:*

**Young Professionals PDT Scholarship:** AGA annually selects up to five young professionals to attend AGA's Professional Development Training (PDT). Deadline to apply for YP PDT 2020 is March 12, 2020. Search "YP PDT" at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org) to apply.

**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.*

# Thank You To Our Sponsors!



## AGA Trenton Chapter's March 2020 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER MARCH 2020	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash - Savings	\$12,187.22
Cash - Checking	\$14,632.20
Accts. Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	\$ -
PrePaid Expenses	\$ 4,296.31
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 31,115.73</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,246.00
Deferred Income	\$ -
Fund Balance	\$ 29,869.73
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 31,115.73</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 Nikki Farrell to learn more about our CGFM Library Pilot Program!**

# CHAPTER DIRECTORS 2019-2020 PROGRAM YEAR

Chapter President - Nikki Farrell  
 Chapter President-Elect - Jessica Lippincott  
 Immediate Past President - Robert Rizzo  
 Secretary - Michelle C. Blatt  
 National Council of Chapters Representative - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
 Chapter Treasurer - David M. Illuminate Jr.  
 Accountability Outreach - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
 CGFM/Professional Certification - Margarita Stanislavskaya  
 Community Service - Christopher J. Fucello & Stephanie Rybak  
 Young Professionals - Taylor V. Leavy  
 Education - Jessica Lippincott  
 Audio Conferences - Thalia I. Treby & Michelle C. Blatt  
 Membership - Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo  
 Meetings & Events - Rene Gervasoni & Michael J. Salberta  
 Awards - Rene Gervasoni & Meghan K. Ellis  
 Administration & Programs - Meghan K. Ellis  
 Chapter 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 & 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, Mike Salberta, and Stephanie Rybak  
 Spring Symposium – Co-chairs: Nikki Farrell/Chrissy Brennan + Spring Symposium Committee  
 includes but not limited to Meghan Ellis and Mike Salberta

## 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>***