



## Our Mission

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

## Our Vision

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

## We Work Together

It is hard to believe that March is here and we are busy planning for end of the 2021-2022 program year! I would first like to thank all the Chapter's volunteers for their contributions this year - your help and support is the key to our success!

We have some exciting events planned this month. March is CGFM month, so we hope you join us for a virtual panel event on March 17th to learn more about the benefits and process to become a CGFM. Our third Advancement of Women event will take place on March 31st in support of International Women's Day. This panel event will focus on a discussion "Moving from the Middle." If you missed our Winter Seminar, there are also replay options available this month. Additional information on these events can be found on the Chapter website and on social media.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Chapter, please contact me at [shana.doiron@claconnect.com](mailto:shana.doiron@claconnect.com). Volunteering with the chapter is a great way to find out more about what is going on with the profession locally in New England!

Our final chapter event of the year, the chapter's Regional Professional Development Training will be held virtually on Thursday, June 2nd. We hope to see you there!

-Shana Doiron, AGA Boston Chapter President

\*Please note most photos used in this newsletter were courtesy of the Howe family and used with permission. Otherwise, the photos are the property of the Boston Chapter.



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

# Chapter Announcements

## Membership Survey and Chapter Election

The AGA Boston Chapter would also like to thank the members who participated in our online membership survey that closed on January 25th. The Boston Chapter will use consider this information as it completes this program year and prepares for the next program year.

The Boston Chapter would also like to congratulate new Chapter President-Elect George Anastos and new Vice President of Programs and Education April McCabe. George and April were elected by the members through the membership survey.

## Volunteer Leadership Opportunities - 2022-2023 Program Year!

The AGA Boston Chapter is looking for individuals to serve on its Executive Committee for the 2022-2023 program year, which begins in July 2022. AGA Boston Chapter officer positions offer an opportunity to members to participate in the organization at a high level.

Nominations for this position are due by Friday, April 15, 2022. If you are a member and would like to learn more about this position, please contact our Chapter President-Elect George Anastos at [George.C.Anastos@Mass.gov](mailto:George.C.Anastos@Mass.gov) before the April 15th deadline.

For a list of the chapter's current leadership positions, see <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Our-Chapter/Chapter-Leadership.aspx>.

We work together!

## Chapter Executive Committee Meetings

The AGA Boston Chapter met on January 5th and February 2nd and plans to meet again on March 2nd. Interested in participating in the Boston Chapter? Please contact Chapter President Shana Doiron at [shana.doiron@claconnect.com](mailto:shana.doiron@claconnect.com).

## AGA Boston Chapter Citizen Centric Report Now Available

Chapter reporting for the past program year issued! The Boston Chapter's latest Citizen Centric Report for the year ending June 30, 2021, is posted at:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Chapter-Resources/Citizen-Centric-Reporting.aspx>

# Chapter Announcements

## AGA Boston Chapter Upcoming Events

### *CGFM Informational Virtual Panel*

March 17, 2022

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Training-Events/Event-Calendar.aspx>

### *Moving from the Middle Virtual Panel*

March 31, 2022

2 CPEs

<https://agaboston.ce21.com/item/moving-middle-virtual-panel-457502>

### *Virtual Regional Professional Development Training*

June 2, 2022

6 CPEs

Check back at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Our-Chapter.aspx> for more information.



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



# Chapter Announcements

## Mentoring Program Now Available!

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

To complete a mentorship application for the Boston Chapter's Mentoring Program, visit:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Chapter-Resources/Mentoring.aspx>. Complete the mentorship application and return it to Sarah Mongeau, Boston Chapter Director of Mentorships at [sarah.mongeau@sao.state.ma.us](mailto:sarah.mongeau@sao.state.ma.us).

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Sarah at 508-335-2531.

For more information about the AGA National program, visit

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

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



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## Value in Membership

### It's Not too Late to Renew Your AGA Membership!

**Why renew? Why not. Think of the value you receive with your membership.**

#### **Learning:**

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

#### **Connect, Collaborate & Network:**

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

#### **Stay Informed & Find Solutions:**

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

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

#### **Renew or join now:**

**<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Learn-About-AGA/Join-or-Renew.aspx>**

**Questions? Contact Elaine Silva, Membership and Early Career Programs, at [elaine.silva@comcast.net](mailto:elaine.silva@comcast.net).**



# Chapter Training Events

## Virtual Winter Seminar

On February 17th, the AGA Boston Chapter held its annual Winter Seminar with the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum (NEIAF).

From their location, more than 200 participants learned virtually about leadership and ethics from experts working in the federal government and private firms. Speakers included James Lager, Chief Ethics Adviser, US Government Accountability Office; Sean Pettersen, Manager, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General; and Melinda J. DeCorte, CPA, CFE, CGFM, PMP, Cotton & Company LLP. The sessions were insightful and entertaining.

For this event, the Boston Chapter and NEIAF encouraged event participants to consider volunteering their time for a variety of charitable activities, or to otherwise give back to the community in which they live. For example, the groups encouraged participants to consider donating to local food banks, which have been busier than ever helping those in need. On behalf of the speakers for this event, the Boston Chapter and NEIAF will be donating to Food Link. Food Link is a community organization that aspires to have a food system without waste, in which everyone has enough. This group rescue surplus fresh food that would otherwise be wasted and delivers it to community organizations serving people in need throughout Eastern Massachusetts. For more information about this group, visit <https://www.foodlinkma.org/>.

For more information about Chapter events, visit

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Training-Events/Event-Calendar.aspx>.



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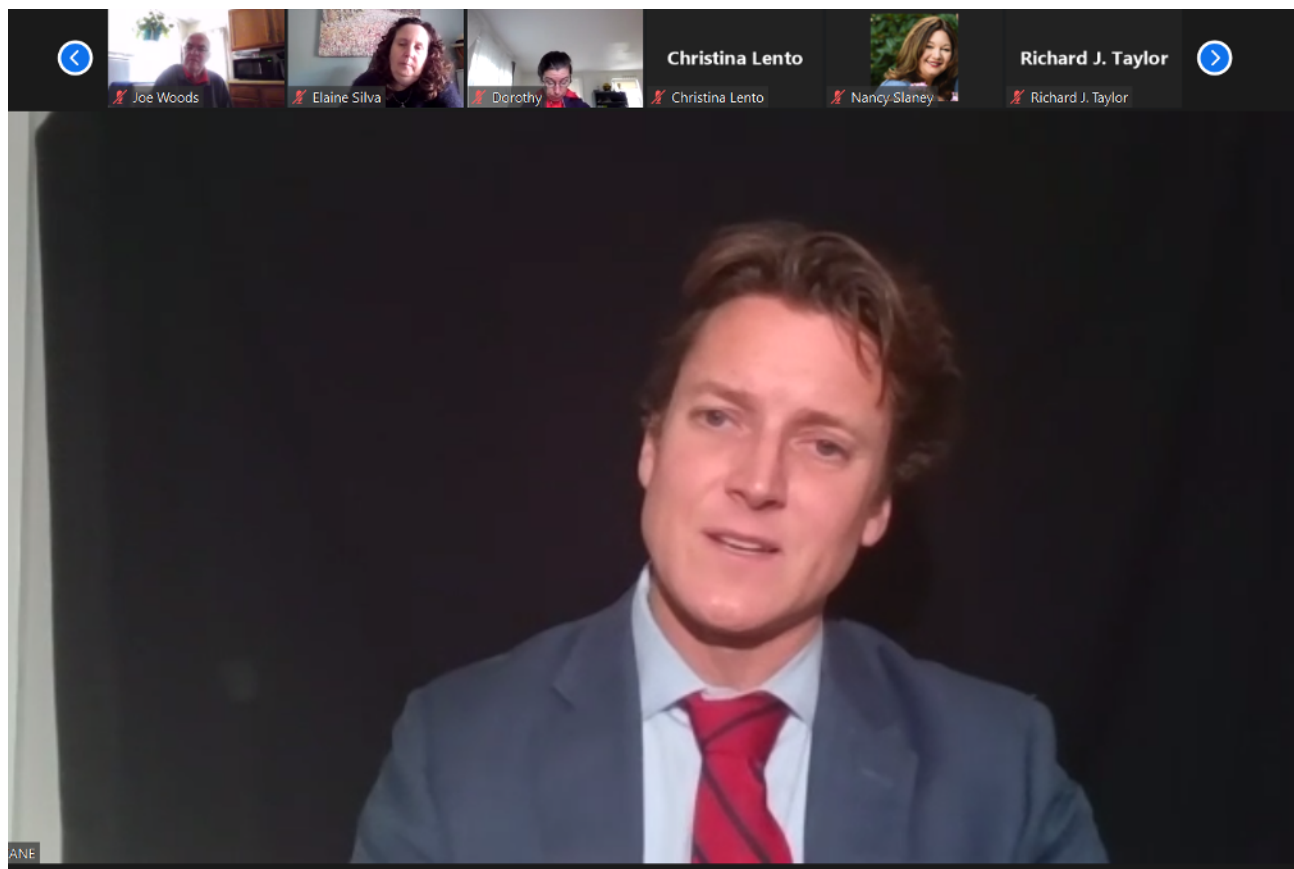


# Community Service

## Virtual Holiday Party and Charity Fundraiser

The AGA Boston Chapter would like to thank the 25 members and friends who attended our Annual (Virtual) Holiday Party and Charity Fundraiser on December 7th. The group enjoyed stories from District Attorney Timothy Cruz and Assistant District Attorney Alexander Zane from the Plymouth County (MA) District Attorney's Office. Both attorneys spoke at the event about fraud cases in Plymouth County, MA.

In lieu of a fee for this party, the Boston Chapter asked attendees to donate to the chosen charity for this event—The Gray House. The Gray House, [www.grayhouse.org](http://www.grayhouse.org), is located at 22 Sheldon Street, Springfield, MA. The Boston Chapter also donated to this charity on behalf of the speakers and participants.



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# Community Service

## AGA Boston Chapter Completes Another Successful Valentines for Veterans Campaign

For the tenth year in a row, the AGA Boston Chapter organized efforts to support VA's Valentines for Veterans program. The purpose of VA's National Salute to Veteran Patients Program, of which the Valentines for Veterans is a part, is to pay tribute and express appreciation to our veterans.

Volunteers, including Chapter members and their families, friends, and local students, participated in this year's collection. Participants created more than 2,650 cards and artwork and provided them to seven VA hospitals in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Chapter members organized these efforts in January and early February 2022.

AGA Boston Chapter member Marcia Luciano from the Office of the State Auditor performed this community service with students at local Massachusetts schools. She noted that her dad was a patient at the Bedford VA Medical Center, and she will never forget the wonderful care he received.

Marcia and AGA Boston Chapter member Benjamin Howe organized this year's effort. The Chapter would like to thank contributors Shana Doiron, William Muench, and Debbie Howe. The Chapter would also like to thank all the groups that participated in this year's event and organized Valentines for Veterans' programs in their communities.

- La Liberte Elementary and Merrill Elementary Schools, Raynham, MA
- Our Lady of Lourdes School, Taunton, MA
- Richardson Olmstead Elementary School, Easton, MA
- Hastings Elementary School, Westborough, MA
- Webster Elementary School, Manchester, NH
- Hopkinton, MA Lions
- Hopkinton, MA Girl Scouts Troops. Troop 65040, led by Laura Barry and Maureen Belger, organized the event. They received support from other Hopkinton Girl Scout troops.
- The Doiron Family
- The Howe Family



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## CGFM News

### The Boston Chapter is Celebrating CGFM Month!

Governor signed a proclamation declaring March as CGFM month in Massachusetts! For the March 2022 Proclamation, visit

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

**Distinguish yourself from your peers. Make financial management decisions with more confidence. Expand career opportunities. Become a Certified Government Financial Manager!**

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

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

For more information about the CGFM certification, visit

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



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## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Intergov features AGA tools *by you, for you!* They are designed to help government financial management professionals do their jobs better. Intergov features tools that officials from any level of government can use to improve program performance and enhance accountability. These tools can be used to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration. They can be used by auditors, accountants, grants managers, IT professionals, program managers, and others.

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Tools-Resources/intergov.aspx>

AGA has launched the **AGA COVID-19 Resource Exchange** as a resource for our community, featuring thought leadership, training, tools, events, and more to help you and your organization navigate this crisis. Please check back often, as the site will be updated as new information becomes available.

### The Exchange Features:

- Government Resources
- AGA Corporate Partner Resources/Events
- AGA Chapter Resources/Events
- For First Responders
- Useful Articles
- AGA Session Videos to Inspire You
- AGA Session Videos to Increase Productivity
- And More!

[AGA COVID-19 Resource Exchange](#)

### Online Store is Open!

The AGA Boston Chapter [online store](#) for purchasing goods and supplies with our logo is open.

[Visit the Store Today!](#)



[Renew AGA Membership Today!](#)

[AGA Event Calendar](#)

[AGA Virtual Training](#)

[AGA Online Training Resources](#)

# AGA Boston Chapter Corporate Partners



## RSM

### Gold Sponsor

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

RSM US LLP is the U.S. member of RSM International, a global network of independent, audit, tax, and consulting firms with more than 43,000 people in over 120 countries. For more information, visit [rsmus.com](http://rsmus.com), like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and/or connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).



## CLA (CliftonLarsenAllen LLP)

### Gold Sponsor

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

We are dedicated to building an inclusive culture that thrives on different beliefs and perspectives. By welcoming and respecting our clients and each other, we can all experience success. For more information visit [CLAconnect.com](http://CLAconnect.com) and/or connect with [CLA on LinkedIn](#).





## Corporate Sponsorship Program – THANKS to RSM & CLA

Our Boston Chapter would like to THANK RSM and CLA (CliftonLarsenAllen) for their partnerships as Gold Sponsors this past year. We greatly appreciate their patronage to aid our Chapter in serving professionals in the government financial management community by helping us provide quality education, foster professional development, and participate in local community projects for the enhancement of everyone in the New England area. Their staff has done a marvelous job in supporting our education program by providing speakers for our events. In addition, RSM and CLA have provided staff to assist our Chapter Executive Committee to better serve its members. The program goal is to have both the Chapter and the for-profit entity benefit from the partnership by working together to ensure each other's success. The firm gets visibility and access, branding with a respected organization, such as the Boston Chapter, and the opportunity to showcase their subject matter expertise. As we move forward to enhance our Corporate Sponsorship Program, we are always looking for new ideas to expand and improve the program. An enhanced program will help us to continue offering great educational programs and services by increasing non-dues revenue, increase and diversify our membership roster, attract new speakers, and enlist additional volunteers.

Please contact Bill Muench at [william.muench@comcast.net](mailto:william.muench@comcast.net) or (508) 259-3382 to discuss any ideas you may have, or for more information about corporate partnership sponsor opportunities with the AGA Boston Chapter.

## AGA Boston Chapter Virtual Holiday Party Participants



## Citizen-Centric Reporting

The Association of Government Accountants, the thought leader for the government accountability profession, evaluates reports for the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting award.

AGA determines award recipients based on content, visual appeal, readability, distribution, and timeliness of reporting.

Interested in learning more? Visit [www.agacgfm.org/ccr](http://www.agacgfm.org/ccr)



## 2021–2022 Officers and Directors

Chapter President Shana Doiron	Chapter President-Elect George Anastos
Immediate Past President Benjamin R. Howe, CFE	Secretary Jane Gustowski, CPA
National Council of Chapters Representative Daniel Bonnette, CPA	Chapter Treasurer Male Kamyra
Accountability Outreach Christina Lento	Community Service Marcia Luciano
Programs and Education Aprel McCabe	Membership and Early Career Programs Elaine Silva, CFS
Audit Katherine White	Scholarships and Awards Kayla Mosesso
Bylaws and Procedures William Bell	Mentorships Sarah Mongeau, CGFM
CGFM/Professional Certification Yoko McCarthy, CGFM	Registrations Karen Payne
Sponsorships William Muench, CGFM, CPA, CFE	Strategies and Planning George Anastos
Webmaster David LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS	Assistant Director to the Webmaster Jon Dearborn
Newsletter Jon Dearborn	Advisors to the President Sara A. Baruffaldi, Alex Mireku, and Patrick M. Sullivan

