

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.

...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 and you will be added to our distribution list!

Best wishes, Jessica Lippincott **Trenton Chapter President**

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

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

Immediate Past President Nikki Farrell, NJ Office of the State Auditor

nfarrell@njleg.org

ChapterTreasurer David Illuminate dilluminate@njleg.org

National Council of Chapters Representative, Accountability, and Membership Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo,

CFE, CICA kkokotajlo@njleg.org

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 Michael J. Salberta NJ Office of the State Auditor

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

Secretary Michelle C. Blatt NJ Office of the StateComptroller | michelle.blatt@outlook.com

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

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

CGFM/Professional Certification Office of the State Auditor Margarita Stanislavskaya, CGFM, CPA Mercer County Improvement

Authority mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar - 2021 AGA Trenton Virtual PDT

(7 CPEs)

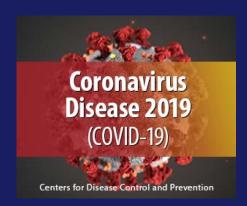
Date: May 12, 2021 Location: Online Time: 8:00am-4:00pm

Desister via

Register via

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - David Kaschak



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:

<u>Group</u>

- 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.

<u>Individual</u>

Signature

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

Online Registration:

- Register and pay online via PayPal at 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.

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

Date

I	ndividual Infor	mation	Date			
Name:			Loca	12, 2021 ation:		\sim Λ
Γitle:			Virtı	ıal	·A	GA _®
Organization:						ON CHAPTER
Mailing Address:						
				Credit for	Continuing Edu	cation
City:	State:	Zip:		Level of K1	nowledge	Basic
•	State.	E.p.		Prerequ	uisite	None
Email:		Phone:		Advanced P	reparation	None
Гotal Enclosed: \$				Recommend	ded Credit	7 CPE Hours
	•					

Fee	Select	CPE Fields of Study (FOS)		
¢55.00		Accounting, Accounting (Governmental), Auditing,	Information	
\$55.00	u u	reemotogy, retsonal Development		
¢110.00	П	Payment Method		
\$110.00	ч			
FREE		NJ Check or Payment Voucher		
\$	۵	Personal or Company Check		
	\$55.00 \$110.00	\$55.00	\$55.00 Accounting, Accounting (Governmental), Auditing, Technology, Personal Development \$110.00	

AGA Trenton Chapter 2021 Virtual Spring Professional Development Training

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST

Opening Remarks	8:00 - 8:05	Jessica Lippincott, AGA Trenton Chapter President
Sessions:	8:05 - 9:20	Dr. Sean Stein Smith, CPA, Lehman College RPA/Blockchain
2	9:30 - 10:20	Dan Lohrmann, Chief Security Officer & Chief Strategist, Security Mentor Inc. Cybersecurity - The Human Element
3	10:30 - 11:20	Dr. Annika Sorensen Stress Management in the Workplace - How to Reduce Stress and Increase Productivity
4	11:30 - 12:20	Jessica Lucas-Judy, Director of Strategic Issues, GAO GAO 2020 Annual Report - Identifying and Quantifying Cost Savings
5	1:30 - 2:45	Andrea M. Rozario, PhD, CPA, Stevens Institute of Technology Impact of RPA in Auditing
6	2:50 - 3:40	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	3:40 - 4:00	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

Extensions of CPA Examination Credit Window and Continuing Professional Education Deadline

Dear licensees and CPA exam candidates,

Please be advised that the Division has issued a Rule Waiver (<u>DCA-W-2020-17</u>) 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

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):

- Double-check the email address.
 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 tme? 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

*CGFM®

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 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

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
AddressCity/State/Zip

♦ DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is April 30, 2021 **♦**

Telephone Number_

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 SC) JR SR OTHER:	
College Major:			
Scholastic Standing (Grade Point Average)	*		
Membership In - Out of School Organizat	tions **	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 N	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:

<u>The James J. Dolan Award</u> - 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.)

<u>Distinguished Leadership Award</u> - 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.)

<u>Achievement of the Year Award</u> - 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.)

<u>Education and Training Award</u> - 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.)

<u>Special Achievement Award</u> - 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.)

<u>Chapter Service Award</u> - 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 (<u>SRybak@njleg.org</u>) or mail to:

Stephanie Rybak AGA Trenton P.O. Box 536 Trenton, NJ 08625-0067

Thank you,

AGA Trenton Chapter www.agacgfm.org/trenton 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)

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.

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
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 29,378.40

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable	\$ 155.14
Deferred Income	\$ 10.00
Fund Balance	\$ 29,213.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 29,378.40

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 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

AGA®

TRENTON CHAPTER

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