

PROGRAM YEAR 2024 - 2025
JANUARY 2025 EDITION
AGA TRENTON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AGA Trenton Chapter Members,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to thank you for your commitment to excellence in governmental financial management. Over the past year, we have made significant progress in enhancing our professional development and creating valuable networking opportunities. Looking ahead, I am excited about the in-person and virtual trainings we have scheduled within the next few months. I hope our members can take advantage of the different networking events and volunteer based events that we have planned for this year. Your active participation is vital to our shared mission of improving the quality of fiscal management across New Jersey. Let's continue to work together to achieve even greater success in 2025. Thank you for your dedication and support, and best wishes for the year ahead!

Best regards,
Douglass MacArthur
AGA Trenton Chapter President

NEWSLETTER NOTICES

Mentorships build a trustworthy, collaborative, safe and open relationship.



AGA 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.

Email AGA or contact a board member with any personal news you would like to share to the Chapter in future newsletters.



AGA Trenton Chapter is currently soliciting and accepting thoughtful articles on a wide range of government financial topics, and may also publish articles relating to Tax, Practice Management, Financial Reporting, Audit, and Accounting. Chosen articles will be featured in the next newsletter and may qualify for CPE credits. For additional information, please contact: agatrenton@gmail.com.



Members' Milestones

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS

**Anthony L. Manno
Terence P. Sharkey
Rose M. Todaro
Anthony J. Glebocki
Robert J. Alu
Janet E. Gregorovic
Betty Jane Eddowes
Richard Grahovac
Steven J. Csogi
Michael L. Einhorn
Paul R. Baron
Thomas Troutman
Michael P. Fabian
William G. Shannon
David J. Kaschak**

AGA Trenton Chapter congratulates the following members celebrating 20 or more years of membership:

20 Years

Barbara E. Galager
Robert H. Davidson
Christopher D. Soleau
Warren Alan Broudy
Margarita Stanislavskaya

25 Years

Claudine W. Zellman
Jack H. Fein
Gerald J. Miller
Mark E. Talbot
Susan Ward

30 Years

Guy L. Tassi
Andrew C. Bishop

35 Years

Connie M. Mason
James M. King
Richard F. Keevey
Donald J. Cammus
Linda P. Maher

AGA
Trenton Chapter

Upcoming Events

National Leadership Training 2025

February 19–20, 2025
Washington, D.C. or Virtual

National Leadership Training (NLT)
February 19–20, 2025 | Washington, D.C.

National Leadership Training (NLT) is the essential event for developing and training government financial professionals to excel as leaders in today's competitive market. Don't miss this opportunity to share best practices, find new solutions to challenges, network with peers and learn from the top financial management leaders and industry experts. [Learn More](#)



developing and training
government financial leaders

February 19–20 | Washington, D.C.
14 CPEs

Registration and Fees

Early bird deadline – Jan. 31, 2025

	Online	All Other
AGA Members		
Early Bird	\$550	\$575
Standard	\$650	\$675
Non-members		
Early Bird	\$725	\$750
Standard	\$825	\$850

AGA NATIONAL EVENTS

January
29
Wednesday

Wake Up Wednesday - 1/29/25
(Integrating Automation & AI within Audit and Business Operations)
Webinar | 1 CPE

February
5
Wednesday

GASB Update
Webinar | 2 CPE

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER EVENTS & NOTICES

Renew Your Membership!
You can also give the gift of Membership

Join us!



Get your CGFM Certification!

Check out our Job Board for opportunities!



Let's go CGFM Month!

Wear RED! Wednesday - 3/12/2025

- Don't forget to send us your photos!



FEBRUARY 2025 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Special Olympics of NJ – February 9, 2025

Dear Members and Friends!

Our chapter will be volunteering at the 2025 Mercer County Special Olympics Bowling Competition hosted by Special Olympics of New Jersey. The event will take place on Sunday, February 9th, 2025 at Hamilton Lanes located on 1200 Kuser Rd., Hamilton Twp, NJ, 08619. If interested, you can volunteer for one of the following 3 shifts: Full day shift (7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.), AM shift (7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.), or the PM shift (11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.). Below is the link to register if you are interested:

[2025 Mercer County Special Olympics Bowling Competition Registration Form](#)

If anyone has any questions, please contact the chapter at this email.

We hope to see you there!

[CLICK HERE](#)



VALENTINE'S DAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



IN HOPES OF BRINGING SOME SMILES TO THE RESIDENTS OF A LOCAL NURSING HOME, WE'RE AGAIN, THIS YEAR, ASKING YOU TO SEND YOUR HANDMADE OR PURCHASED VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

BROOKDALE ASSISTED LIVING AT
WYNWOOD NURSING HOME
ATTN: TAVIA D'AGUILAR
380 FORSGATE DRIVE
MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08831

PLEASE USE GENERIC GREETINGS, AS WELL AS GENERIC MESSAGES. FEEL FREE TO INCLUDE DRAWINGS, AND WELCOME YOUR FAMILY/CHILDREN TO HELP OUT. THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS BY THE NURSING HOME STAFF. PLEASE BE SURE TO MAIL YOUR CARDS A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 7, 2025 TO ENSURE THE NURSING HOME RECEIVES THEM PRIOR TO VALENTINE'S DAY. SIGNATURES ON THE CARDS CAN INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "AGA TRENTON CHAPTER" OR JUST "AGA TRENTON CHAPTER" IF YOU DON'T WANT TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME.



(609) 890-7427
1305 NJ 33
HAMILTON, NJ

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

⇒ *Support* ⇐

AGA

APRIL 29, 2025

4:00PM - 10:00PM

10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support **AGA** by presenting this flyer to the **Hamilton** Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to **AGA!**



Save the date



Trenton Chapter

Happy Hour

Thursday, March 27th

at Blend Bar & Bistro

4:30pm – 6:30pm



Save
The
Date

AGA TRENTON 2025 SPRING PDT

Wednesday, April 23, 2025
Mercer County Community College

Earn 7 CPEs!

For more information, please contact:

agatrenton@gmail.com

AGATM

Trenton Chapter



AGA TRENTON CHAPTER

DESCRIPTION OF 2025 AWARDS

The AGA Trenton Chapter 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:

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).

Distinguished Leadership Award

Conferred on individuals in government service who have provided sustained outstanding leadership in government management (financial, IT, human resources, etc.) over a period of years, resulting in notable contributions to government management. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA)

Achievement of the Year Award

Accords recognition for leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, or improving 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 employees. (Nominee need not be a member of AGA)

Special Achievement Award

Accords recognition for notable contributions toward improving government management (financial, IT, human resources, etc.) early in a professional career. (Nominee must be under age thirty-five at the end of the preceding calendar year to be eligible for this award)

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 scholarship is presented, together with a plaque at the Chapter's Annual Awards Meeting, 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 "**2025 Thomas J Kaschak Scholarship**" and **attach any High School or College Transcripts*****

AWARDS COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER CANDIDATES OUTSIDE OF THE STATED PARAMETERS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS

If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the following steps no later than Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is April 1, 2025

E-Mail Nomination Forms to:

Tanja Fessler (agatrenton@gmail.com)

2025 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER AWARDS

Date: _____

I would like to nominate the following individual for a 2025 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

- Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Education and Training Award
- Special Achievement 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 _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is April 1, 2025

E-Mail Nomination Forms to:

Tanja Fessler (agatrenton@gmail.com)

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 on May 8, 2025. 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 1, 2025.

You may complete the application online at: <https://forms.gle/h3AGwUDeF5dvvyBg7>

Or you may fill out the application on the next page and return via email (agatrenton@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you,
Tanja Fessler, Director of Awards



**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) _____

THOMAS J. KASCHAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

AGA

Trenton Chapter

NOTE: Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of College/University: _____

Year Beginning College/University: _____ Year in 2025-2026: FR SO JR SR OTHER: _____

College Major: _____

Scholastic Standing (Grade Point Average) * _____

Membership In - Out of School Organizations ** _____ Office Held: _____

School Activities Participated In ** _____ Office Held: _____

Honors or Awards Received * _____

Other Family Members Attending College 2025-2026.

NAME	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	YEAR
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Nominator Information:

Member of AGA? (Please Circle) YES NO 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 1, 2025

E-Mail Nomination Form to:

**Tanja Fessler
agatrenton@gmail.com**

*Attach High School and College (if any) Transcripts

** Attach Additional Sheets if Necessary

PREVIOUS AWARDEES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

Celebrating **30** Years



CGFM Turns 30!

The New Year brings reason to celebrate — 30 years of CGFM®! AGA created the Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM) program in 1994 to fill a need in the government financial management community. Through preparation and exams encompassing governmental accounting, auditing, internal controls, budgeting, and financial reporting at all levels of government, CGFMs become well versed in the knowledge and skills needed for the rigors and complexities of their duties.

Furthermore, coverage of federal, state and local government financial management allows CGFMs to expand their career opportunities throughout the United States.



Certified Government Financial Manager

WHAT IS CGFM?

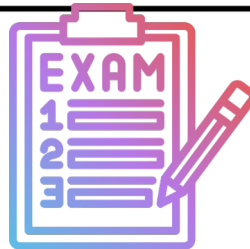
Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) is a professional certification awarded by AGA, demonstrating competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

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.

WHAT IS THE CGFM CERTIFICATION PROCESS?

- Step 1 — Read AGA's Code of Ethics
- Step 2 — Apply for the CGFM Program
- Step 3 — Submit Required Degree Documentation
- Step 4 — Receive an Eligibility Letter
- Step 5 — Prepare for the CGFM Examinations
- Step 6 — Schedule the CGFM Examinations
- Step 7 — Take the CGFM Examinations
- Step 8 — Submit a Work Verification Form
- Step 9 — Receive CGFM Award Letter
- Step 10 — Receive Your CGFM Certificate and Maintain Your Certification



HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE EXAMS?

- Take AGA's Live, Virtual Courses
- AGA's CGFM Online Training Portal
- In-person: Individuals looking for scheduled classroom training can register for CGFM course 1, course 2 and course 3 held through Management Concepts.

SAMPLE AGA CGFM EXAM QUESTION

AGA CGFM Exam Sample Question

1. According to the AGA Code of Ethics, a vendor using an agency contract monitor as a personal reference on a resume, would constitute
 - a. Fraud.
 - b. Professional Incompetence.
 - c. A Conflict of Interest.
 - d. Nepotism.

CGFM Examinations Requirement

The three comprehensive examinations that make up the core requirement of the CGFM program are:

- Examination 1: Governmental Environment (GE)
- Examination 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting (GAFRB)
- Examination 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control (GFMC)

AGA's CGFM Online Training Portal

Online preparation for CGFM examinations with AGA's self-paced courses

[Learn more »](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ADDITIONAL CGFM REFERENCES](#)



Trenton Chapter



Apply to the CGFM Program
in January and SAVE!

JANUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
						4

We want to see you thrive in 2025 by becoming a CGFM!

Each week, a different CGFM product will be available FREE to new applicants. Apply to the CGFM program during that week, and we'll send you a voucher for your product—it's that easy!

Terms and Conditions:

- To qualify for these promotions, an individual must complete the CGFM online application during one of the weeks listed below and pay the non-refundable CGFM application fee.**
- Only one product will be provided for free, and it will be determined by the date of application:**
 - 1/1/25-1/11/25: online CGFM study guide 1**
 - 1/12/25-1/18/25: online CGFM study guide 2**
 - 1/19/25-1/25/25: online CGFM study guide 3**
 - 1/26/25-2/1/25: a CGFM exam**
- No free products will be provided for CGFM applications received prior to 1/1/25.**
- 4. There will be no substitutions/transfers of the free products.**
- Voucher codes will be distributed via email on specific dates only:
1/13, 1/21, 1/27, and 2/3.**

Thank You To Our Sponsors!



AGA TRENTON CHAPTER'S DECEMBER 2024 BALANCE SHEET

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER December 2024			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Cash - Savings	\$24,197.65	Accounts Payable	\$ 356.47
Cash - Checking	\$ 8,120.54	Deferred Income	\$ -
Accounts Receivable	\$ 320.00	Fund Balance	\$35,837.19
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 3,454.97		
Other Assets	\$ 100.50		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 36,193.66	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 36,193.66

Hello. Nice to Meet You!

2024-2025 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Chapter President	Douglass MacArthur
Chapter President-Elect	Eric Fonseca
Immediate Past President	Michael Salberta
Secretary	Joseph Pica
National Council of Chapters Representative	Meghan Ellis
Chapter Treasurer	Amanda Ireland
Finance Chair	Tanja Fessler
ACE Reporting	Eric Fonseca
Accountability Outreach	Kiersten Zadworney
PDT Chair	Robert Rizzo
CGFM/Professional Certification	Margarita Stanislavskaya
Community Service	Christopher Fuccello
Communications	Stephanie Rybak
Young Professionals	Abeeda Razack
Audio Conferences	Rene Gervasoni
Membership	Morgan Stec
Programs	Tanja Fessler
Chapter Historian	Rose Todaro
Administration	Tanja Fessler
Awards	Tanja Fessler
Budget & Finance	Eric Carter
Bylaws & Procedures	David Kaschak
Newsletter Editor	Marie Samson
Nominations	Michael Salberta
Sponsorships	Nikki Farrell
Paul Vidunas Coordinator	Nat Jackson
Webmaster	Michelle Blatt
Webmaster	Jennifer Dougherty
Webmaster	Douglass MacArthur
Webmaster	Dana Mark

Additional Resources



CONTACT US

 <https://www.facebook.com/AGATrentonNJ>

 agatrenton@gmail.com

 <https://www.agacgfm.org/trenton>