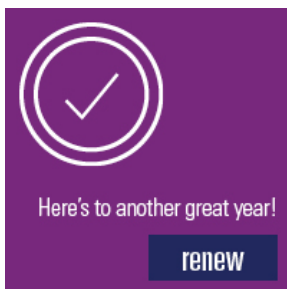




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## President's Message

**Nikki M. Farrell**

Dear Members & Friends,

I hope this edition of the AGA Trenton Chapter's newsletter finds you well. With the recent spread of COVID-19, this month has been one for the books. Our 2020 Spring Symposium has been postponed for the foreseeable future. We hope to provide this professional development training towards the end of our program year if travel bans and social distancing practices are lifted.

In the meantime, our Chapter has worked with AGA National to continue to host our scheduled webinars via an individual log-in. Our March 25 webinar will be available to those who registered by the noted deadline in our last email blast. If travel bans and social distancing practices maintain, we will continue our conversation with AGA National to provide our scheduled April, May, and June webinars in a similar fashion. I encourage all of you to register for the upcoming webinars via our website to ensure you meet any future deadlines for registration. Also, don't forget to renew your AGA Membership if you are scheduled to do so!

Please continue to practice proper personal hygiene, avoid large groups, and above all cherish this time with your family. This world is a fickle being, the unknown can strike at any moment so make every moment count!

Wishing you all the best,

**Nikki M. Farrell, CICA**  
**Chapter President**



## Upcoming Events

**Webinar - Cyber Security (2 CPEs)**

**Date: March 25, 2020**

**Location: Online**

**Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm**

**2020 Spring Symposium fDCGHDCB98**

**Date: TBA**

**Location: The College of New Jersey**

**Webinar - Data Act (2 CPEs)**

**Date: April 22, 2020**

**Location: Roebing Building, 2nd Floor Room 218**

**Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm**

**Webinar - Fraud and Data Analytics (2 CPEs)**

**Date: May 13, 2020**

**Location: Roebing Building, 2nd Floor Room 218**

**Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm**

**Webinar - Leadership (2 CPEs)**

**Date: June 10, 2020**

**Location: Roebing Building, 2nd Floor Room 218**

**Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm**

## 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,**

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kkokotajlo@njleg.org

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

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

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

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

# March is **CGFM** month!



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 February 2020 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER FEBRUARY 2020	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash - Savings	\$12,187.01
Cash - Checking	\$14,744.11
Accts. Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	\$ -
PrePaid Expenses	\$ 4,296.31
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,206.00
Deferred Income	\$ -
Fund Balance	\$ 30,021.43
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
	<b>\$ 31,227.43</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>***