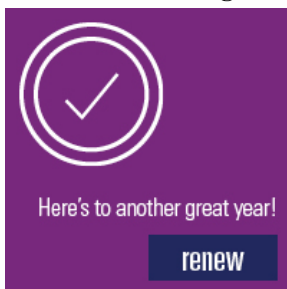




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President's Message Meghan Ellis

Hello Members & Friends,

As we get ready to gather with friends and family to celebrate the upcoming holidays, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your membership and for continuing to support our chapter throughout these difficult times. I also hope, for those of you now transitioning back to commuting into the office every day that it is going as smooth as possible.

It's been a busy past few months for the Trenton Chapter. We have had 2 virtual webinars on Internal Control and Ethics since our last newsletter. We also held our Annual Fall Professional Development Training virtually on October 27th. We had some amazing speakers and great turnout. Thank you to the committee and everyone who helped out planning for the event. Also, thank you to our sponsors, Rutgers Business School and Mercer County Improvement Authority. Check out the speaker spotlight page of the newsletter to learn more about Rachel Kronenfeld, Investigations Manager at the Hetherington Group who presented on Utilizing Social Media & Other Search Engine Resources. Congratulations to our winners of the Paul Vidunas Fund Raffle for two Amazon gift cards, Kenyona Booker and Robert Rizzo! Thank you for your continued support of the Paul Vidunas Fund and HomeFront NJ. Remember you can donate via our PayPal or check throughout the year.

...continued on page 2



President's Message *(continued)*

We also held our first in-person community service event on October 17th since COVID, for Ryan's Quest 5K, 5 Miler, & Family Walk. As a team we raised \$201! Congratulations to Dave Kaschak for winning best time of his age group!

Our 2021 Citizen Centric Report and our chapter's 2021 History Report are now on our website under the "Chapter News" section. Make sure to check them out. Thank you to Kiersten Kokotajlo and Rose Todaro, respectively, for putting these together!

We have one more webinar to finish out 2021 on December 15th on Performance Management. You can register now on our website.

For the upcoming holidays, I hope you all have wonderful celebrations with your loved ones and remember to give back to your community during this giving season.

My absolute best,

Meghan Ellis
Trenton Chapter President

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

Chapter President Meghan K. Ellis NJ Office of the State Auditor	Chapter President-Elect Robert Rizzo NJ Legislative Services Office of the State Auditor
Immediate Past President Jessica Donoher NJ Department of Transportation	Secretary Michelle C. Blatt NJ Office of the State Comptroller
Chapter Treasurer Michael J. Salberta NJ Office of the State Auditor	Education Robert Rizzo NJ Legislative Services Office of the State Auditor
National Council of Chapters Representative Nikki Farrell, CICA NJ Office of the State Auditor	Webmaster Jennifer Dougherty
Administration Stephanie Rybak Community Service	CGFM/Professional Certification Margarita Stanislavskaya, CGFM, CPA Mercer County Improvement Authority
Christopher J. Fuccello NJ Office of the State Comptroller	
Spring Training Event Nikki Farrell, CICA NJ Office of the State Auditor	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar - CGFM Live: Governmental Financial Management and Control (16 CPEs)
 Date: December 7, 2021 - December 9, 2021
 Location: Online
 Time: 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM
 Register via www.agacgfm.org

Webinar- Performance Management (2 CPEs)
 Date: December 15, 2021
 Location: Online
 Time: 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM
 Register via www.agacgfm.org

Webinar - Uniform Guidance (2 CPEs)
 Date: January 12, 2022
 Location: Online
 Time: TBA
 Register via www.agacgfm.org

Webinar - CGFM Live Course: Governmental Environment (8 CPEs)
 Date: January 13, 2022 - January 14, 2022
 Location: Online
 Time: 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
 Register via www.agacgfm.org

Virtual CGFM Training
for groups or individuals

Convenient learning.
 AGA quality.



AGA is pleased to offer another CGFM preparation option: live, virtual CGFM courses for individual participants. Get the benefits of live training with a knowledgeable instructor and the convenience of staying at your home or office. Click above to sign up!



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.
 For more information, visit the AGA website.

Speaker Spotlight

Rachel Kronenfeld, Investigations Manager

“Utilizing Social Media & Other Search Engine Resources”



Ms. Kronenfeld joined Hetherington Group in 2016 and is Hg’s lead investigator. As a skilled and diverse analyst, she performs comprehensive background investigations and enhanced due diligence, providing clients valuable insights into making sound business and personal decisions on hiring, investing, and asset management. Ms. Kronenfeld is responsible for management and development of the analyst team and oversees all investigations.

Trained under Cynthia Hetherington’s tutelage, Ms. Kronenfeld conducts trainings to investigators, security professionals, attorneys, accountants, auditors, military

intelligence professionals, and federal, state, and local agencies on best practices in conducting asset and background investigations.

Ms. Kronenfeld is a contributing writer of Hg’s newsletter, Data2know: Internet & Online Intelligence—one of the industry’s most trusted sources on due diligence investigations, background checks, online personal security assessments and protection, and open source research. Her professional research specialty is Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) techniques.

Before joining Hg, Ms. Kronenfeld worked as a paralegal, where she honed her skills in due diligence investigations, legal research, and case analysis through public record research. She interned at the Regional Operations Intelligence Center for the New Jersey State Police in their Major Crimes Unit, where she worked side-by-side with detectives to uncover threats and fraud through gathering and analyzing information. Ms. Kronenfeld holds a B.A. in Political Science (magna cum laude) from Ramapo College of New Jersey.

[Ms. Kronenfeld's LinkedIn](#)

www.hetheringtongroup.com

“Hetherington Group’s mission is to make our world a safer place by leading in corporate online intelligence and due diligence investigations and by training a network of global investigators on best practices.”



CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY SERVICE - Ryan's Quest 5K



Congratulations, David Kaschak! For placing 1st in his age group at Ryan's Quest 5K!



AGA Trenton Chapter members are all smiles at Ryan's Quest 5K!

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER IS A PLATINUM CHAPTER!

Congratulations to all Board Members for a job well done in program year 2020-2021!



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):

- 1. Double-check the email address.**
- 2. 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 time? 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



Get Your **CGFM** Certification!



Interested in getting your employer to recognize the AGA Certified Government Financial Manager certification? Reach out to Margarita Stanislavskaya, Trenton Chapter CGFM Chairperson, for more information.



AGA National News



AGA's Recruitment Challenge - Everyone Get One!

In anticipation of our return to *normalcy* as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, we're heading back to the basics of recruitment with a member-get-a-member campaign. Our target for the 2021–2022 membership year is to recruit 2,022 new members by April 30, 2022.

AGA membership is more important than ever. It is a key link to our profession, an opportunity to learn from others, invest in ourselves and make our profession stronger.

As members, YOU are the best advocates for AGA membership! Only you know how AGA membership has impacted you and your professional career and can easily convey it to others. Tell them *what AGA means to you!* By recruiting new members, you can help strengthen your Association and impact the future of your profession!

In as little as 5 minutes — with a quick call, a Zoom chat, or an email, you can have a tremendous impact!

Plus, by encouraging your friends and colleagues to elevate their professional potential via AGA membership can lead to awards and rewards for you!

Step 1: Reach to Colleagues and Friends

Step 2: Share What AGA Means to You

Step 3: Invite Them to Join AGA

Step 4: Receive Awards and Rewards!

The Fine Print

- All AGA members in good standing are eligible to participate.
- Recruiting free electronic members (students and professors), retired and suspended members do not qualify for campaign awards and rewards.
- The 2021–2022 Recruitment Challenge runs for 9 months! July 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022.

National Leadership Awards

These awards, presented annually at AGA's National Leadership Training (NLT), primarily recognize individuals for their contribution to the government financial management profession. Award submissions are due December 10, 2021.

- Elmer Staats Award (federal)
- Distinguished Federal Leadership Award (federal)
- Excellence in Government Leadership Award (state/local)
- William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award (state)
- Distinguished Local Government Leadership Award (local)
- Andy Barr Award (private sector - federal)
- Private Sector Financial Excellence Award (private sector - state/local)
- Eleanor Clark Diversity Leadership Award (public sector) — NEW!

Nomination Information

- AGA chapters, individuals or government units may make nominations. An AGA chapter may only nominate one individual for each award.
- Nominations for individual awards must include a high-resolution photo of the nominee. The photo must be submitted electronically with your nomination.
- If you are making the nomination on behalf of a chapter, you must be authorized to do so as a representative of the chapter. Chapters may contact awards@agacgfm.org for examples of successful chapter NLT award entries.
- All applicants will be notified of the National Awards Committee's decision approximately 6-8 weeks after the deadline.

Visit AGACGFM.org for more information!

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 was on **November 5, 2021**. Recipients will be announced on **December 3, 2021**. 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

AGA Trenton Chapter's October 2021 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER OCTOBER 2021

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Cash - Savings	\$ 24,189.93	Accounts Payable	\$ 1,219.57
Cash - Checking	\$ 8,131.05	Deferred Income	\$ -
Accounts Receivable	\$ 4,820.00		
PrePaid Expenses	\$ 1,704.74	Fund Balance	\$ 37,626.15
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 38,845.72	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 38,845.72

Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

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CHAPTER DIRECTORS 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

President - Meghan Ellis
 President Elect/VP of Education - Robert Rizzo
 Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee Chair - Jessica Donoher
 VP of Membership - Kiersten Kokotajlo
 VP of Finance/ Administration/Programs - Stephanie Rybak
 Treasurer - Michael Salberta
 Secretary - Michelle Blatt
 National Council of Chapters Representative - Nikki Farrell
 Fall PDT/Technical Coordinator - Co-chairs: Nikki Farrell & Meghan Ellis + Fall PDT Committee
 Spring PDT/Technical Coordinator - Co-chairs: Nikki Farrell & Meghan Ellis + Spring PDT Committee
 Audio Conferences - Rene Gervasoni - Backup: Michelle Blatt
 Sponsorship - Guy Tassi
 Chapter Recognition - Robert Rizzo and Meghan Ellis
 CGFM Chairperson - Margarita Stanislavskaya
 Community Service - Chris Fuccello
 Awards - Stephanie Rybak
 Young Professionals/Early Career - Taylor Leavy
 Budget/Finance - Amanda Ireland
 Newsletter - Marie Samson
 Meeting Chair - Rene Gervasoni - Backup: Joseph Pica
 Paul Vidunas Coordinator - Nat Jackson
 Historian - Rose Todaro
 By-Laws - David Kaschak
 Accountability Outreach Chair - Kiersten Kokotajlo
 Webmaster/Communications - Jennifer Dougherty - Backup: Nikki Farrell

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>***