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### President's Message Meghan Ellis

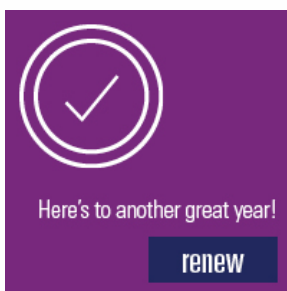
Hello Members & Friends,

Welcome to 2022!

As we prepare for the second half of AGA's program year, we have started the planning process for our annual Spring Professional Development Training. Unfortunately, we will continue with a virtual platform but we plan to bring you a full day of interesting topics. If you would like to join our planning committee or have any speaker suggestions, please reach out to me [MEllis@njleg.org](mailto:MEllis@njleg.org).

In light of the holiday upticks in COVID cases, we have decided, as a board, to postpone the Annual Bowling Event on January 28th. We hope to have this at some point in April. We will keep you updated when a final date has been made!

We also, are hoping to host our Annual Awards Dinner, where we honor those Professionals and Students who have made outstanding achievements this past year sometime in the month of June. Keep an eye out for an email from Stephanie Rybak, our Awards Chair, with details on that but start thinking about if there's anyone you would like to nominate for an award.



*...continued on page 2*



## President's Message *(continued)*

We have our first webinar of 2022 on February 2nd at 2pm. Wow! 2/2/22 at 2! The webinar will give an overview of the GASB pronouncements that become effective in the coming fiscal years. Don't miss out, registration is open on our website!

My best,  
 Meghan Ellis  
 Trenton Chapter President

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

Chapter President  
**Meghan K. Ellis**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor

Immediate Past President  
**Jessica Donoher**  
 NJ Department of Transportation

Chapter Treasurer  
**Michael J. Salberta**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor

National Council of Chapters Representative  
**Nikki Farrell, CICA**  
 NJ Office of Legislative Services

Administration  
**Stephanie Rybak**  
 Community Service  
**Christopher J. Fucello**  
 NJ Office of the State Comptroller

Membership  
**Kiersten Kokotajlo**  
 NJ Office of the State Auditor

Chapter President-Elect  
**Robert Rizzo**  
 NJ Office of Legislative Services

Secretary  
**Michelle C. Blatt**  
 NJ Office of the State Comptroller

Education  
**Robert Rizzo**  
 NJ Office of Legislative Services

Webmaster  
**Jennifer Dougherty**  
 NJ Office of Legislative Services

CGFM/Professional Certification  
**Margarita Stanislavskaya, CGFM, CPA**  
 Mercer County Improvement Authority

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Webinar - GASB Update  
 (2 CPEs)  
 Date: February 2, 2022  
 Location: Virtual  
 Time: 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM  
 Register via [www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton-Chapter](http://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton-Chapter)

Webinar - AGA's Council for the  
 Advancement of Women Book Talk  
 (No CPEs)  
 Date: February 3, 2022  
 Location: Virtual  
 Time : 3:00 PM  
 Register via [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

Webinar - CGFM LiveCourse: Governmental  
 Environment (16 CPEs)  
 Date: February 8, 2022 - February 10, 2022  
 Location: Online  
 Time: 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
 Register via [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org)

Webinar - Critical Steps to Obtaining An  
 Audit Opinion  
 (No CPEs)  
 Date: February 9, 2022  
 Location: Virtual  
 Time : 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
 Register via [www.agacgfm.org](http://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.

# Postponed!



**Bowling & Networking Event**

**~~Friday, January 28, 2022~~**

**4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Slocum's Bowling Alley**

1675 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ

**FREE for STUDENTS & Non-Members!**

**\$6 for AGA Members**

**Join us for bowling, appetizers, & networking opportunities!**

**[www.agacgfm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton) ~ [facebook.com/AGATrentonNJ](https://facebook.com/AGATrentonNJ)**



## *Volunteer Opportunity - Valentine's Day Cards at Complete Care at Mercerville*



*AGA Trenton Chapter's 2021 Valentine's Day Cards*

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 cards to the following address:

*Complete Care at Mercerville  
2240 Whitehorse Mercerville Road  
Mercerville, NJ 08619  
Valentines from AGA Trenton Chapter*

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 letters a few days prior to Valentine's Day (February 14th) 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.

*Thank you and a Happy Valentines day to you and all your loved ones!*

## *Submit Your Articles and Be Featured in the AGA Trenton Newsletter!*

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 [agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)

# 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.



# AGA Training Scholarships, Member Recruitment and CGFM Certification

## Training Scholarships and Nominations

*This year, nominations for the 2022 Professional Development Training awards will open in January 2022. Preliminary information can be found in the AGA National website. More information will be provided in the February 2022 newsletter. Stay tuned!*

## 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

## AGA Trenton Chapter's December 2021 Balance Sheet

### AGA TRENTON CHAPTER DECEMBER 2021

#### ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Cash - Savings	\$ 24,190.34	Accounts Payable	\$ 1,348.98
Cash - Checking	\$ 12,419.24	Deferred Income	
Accounts Receivable	\$ 345.00	Fund Balance	\$ 36,748.34
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 1,142.74		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 38,097.32</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 38,097.32</b>

## Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

### GOLD

**RUTGERS**

Rutgers Business School  
Newark and New Brunswick

MAACY Program

### BRONZE

**MCIA**

MERCER COUNTY  
IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

# 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 - Meghan Ellis  
 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>***