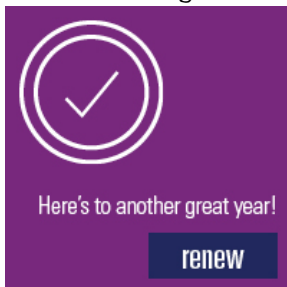




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## President's Message Jessica Lippincott

Hello Members & Friends,

Can you believe that it is already November? It sure does not feel like November with all of the warm weather we have been having lately. I first would like to say Congratulations to Christine Muller! She was the winner of our first Facebook Live Paul Vidunas Raffle. Congratulations on winning a Dunkin Donuts gift card and for making AGA Trenton history! I would like to thank everyone who has donated thus far to the Paul Vidunas Fund in support of HomeFront NJ and as always, I encourage you to continue to donate if possible since we are out of our norm for the Fall Seminar and other events this year. You may make a donation though PayPal using the Friends & Family option, mail a check or you may reach out to Arashdip Singh or David Illuminate for additional ways to donate to the Paul Vidunas Fund! We truly appreciate your kindness in these current times. Donors will be entered into another raffle that will take place via Facebook live again. Be sure to be on the lookout for when we will be holding our drawing!

Our first virtual Lunch and Learn was a great success! Thank you to Rene Gervasoni and Michael Salberta for setting this up. Dan Altobelli spoke on Blockchain 101. His presentation was very informative and was able to help us understand a little more on the Blockchain topic! Thank you Dan for presenting this topic to us. We hope to plan a few more Lunch and Learns in the second half of our program year. Check back after the holidays for more details!

*...continued on page 2*



## President's Message (continued)

On November 4, 2020 we hosted a webinar on Ethics. This webinar offered 2 CPE's and was from 2:00 -3:50 pm.

We also held our Virtual Fall Seminar on November 12, 2020 and used the GoToWebinar platform. This year's seminar had a lot to offer and covered some hot topics, as well as motivational and inspirational speakers. This year's Fall Seminar offered 7 CPEs. The credits were in the subject areas of accounting, auditing, regulatory ethics, and personal development. A HUGE shoutout and Thank you goes out to the Fall Seminar Committee this year. They have worked very hard to make this transition as smooth as possible and making sure we were able to accommodate all of you as well as our speakers. Without you all, we would not have been able to put together a seamless Virtual Fall Seminar. Thank you Rob Rizzo, Kiersten Kokotajlo, Rene Gervasoni, Michael Salberta & Nikki Farrell. Another big thank you goes out to all of the speakers who were in the attendance as well.

As of right now our next webinar will be held on January 13, 2021. The topic of this webinar will be on uniform guidance. You may register for this webinar on our website. Please be sure to check the website, newsletter and e-mail blasts for updates on events.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all of you. Without all of the members and friends we have, we would not be the Chapter we are today. This time of year is truly about what we are thankful for. I am thankful for the successful Chapter that we have and all of your support throughout the years, but this year especially. We have faced some challenges in 2020, but the light at the end of the tunnel shows we are almost there. We, not only as a chapter, have collectively adapted to all the challenges that have come our way. Whether it be transitioning to work from home, family/work-life balance or just struggling to adjust to get through the year, we have done it together. I have said this before, but I will say it again. I am here for you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance at all! We have one more month left of 2020, let's push through together and reflect for what we are all truly thankful for.

Wishing you all a healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!  
 Jessica Lippincott  
 Trenton Chapter President

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Chapter President<br><b>Jessica Lippincott</b><br>NJ Department of Transportation<br>jessica.lippincott@dot.nj.gov  | Chapter President-Elect<br><b>Meghan K. Ellis</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>mellis@njleg.org  |
| Immediate Past President<br><b>Nikki Farrell,</b><br><b>CICA</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>nfarrell@njleg.org  | Secretary<br><b>Michelle C. Blatt</b><br>NJ Office of the State Comptroller<br>michelle.blatt@outlook.com  |
| Chapter Treasurer<br><b>David Illuminate</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>dilluminate@njleg.org   | Education<br><b>Meghan K. Ellis</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>mellis@njleg.org  |
| National Council of Chapters Representative, Accountability, and Membership<br><b>Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo,</b><br><b>CFE, CICA</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>kkokotajlo@njleg.org | Webmaster<br><b>Jennifer Dougherty</b><br>JDougherty@njleg.org   |
| Administration<br><b>Stephanie Rybak</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor<br>srybak@njleg.org  | CGFM/Professional Certification<br><b>Margarita Stanislavskaya,</b><br><b>CGFM, CPA</b><br>Mercer County Improvement Authority<br>mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org |
| Community Service<br><b>Christopher J. Fuccello</b><br>NJ Office of the State Comptroller<br>Chris.Fuccello@osc.nj.gov  |  |
| Spring Training Event<br><b>Michael J. Salberta</b><br>NJ Office of the State Auditor   |  |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar - NJ Law and Ethics 2018-2020

Date: November 24, 2020

Location: Online

Register via

[www.agacgfm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton)

Webinar - Uniform Guidance

Date: January 13, 2021

Location: Online

Register via

[www.agacgfm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton)

Webinar - Cybersecurity and ERM

Date: March 24, 2021

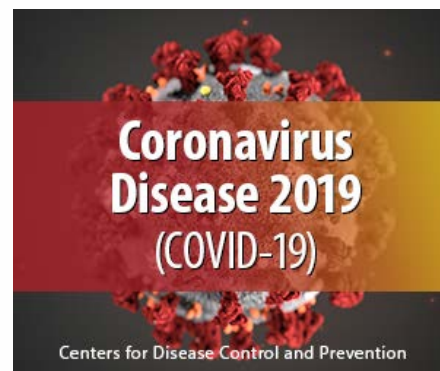
Location: Online

Register via

[www.agacgfm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton)

The image contains two promotional posters. The top poster is for HomeFront, featuring the text 'DONATION MOTIVATION' in large, colorful letters, the HomeFront logo (a family silhouette), and the tagline 'Helping families break the cycle of poverty'. Below this, it states '20% OF ALL PROCEEDS THIS WEEK WILL GO DIRECTLY TO HOMEFRONT'. The bottom poster is for 'VIRTUAL TRIVIA JAM', with the text '20 QUESTIONS', '10 MINUTES', '\$5 ENTRY', and 'WIN UP TO \$150'. It also mentions '20% OF PROCEEDS DONATED TO HOMEFRONT' and includes the dates 'TUESDAY 11/17 @ 7PM & THURSDAY 11/19 @ 8PM'. Both posters feature a decorative border of colorful icons.

This block contains a fundraising announcement set against a yellow background with blue and gold stars and geometric shapes. The text reads: 'We hope to virtually continue to fundraise for our Paul Vidunas charity - [HomeFront!](#) Please make donations through our PayPal (AGATrentonPayPal) using the "Sending to a friend" option or contact our Treasurer, Dave Illuminate at [dilluminate@nileq.org](mailto:dilluminate@nileq.org) for other donor options. Thank you in advance for your generosity!' Below this, it says '\*\*Prizes\*\* A gift card raffle will be held for PV donors.'



## 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](#)

# Speaker Spotlight

## Monika Sattler



### **“How to Pursue Goals That Scare Us? - Lessons Learned From a Cycling Record Holder”**

**Monika Sattler is an endurance cyclist, speaker, and author. Having set a seemingly impossible cycling record, her talks empower the audience to reach beyond their perceived limits by overcoming challenges through determination, goal setting, resilience and teamwork.**

**Her previous speaking engagements include TEDx, Morgan Stanley, Vistage, Ciena, Colt, Women Coaches Symposium and Eurobike.**

**She holds a M.A. from Georgetown, M.Sc. from University of Minnesota, B.A. from Bryant University and speaks English, German and Spanish.**

**Learn more about her at [www.radmonika.com](http://www.radmonika.com) or [www.instagram.com/rad\\_monika](https://www.instagram.com/rad_monika)**

**You can also buy her book on Amazon!**

# Speaker Spotlight

## Mario Lewis



**Mario Lewis is an award-winning, energetic speaker and presentation coach, who provides audiences and individuals with the motivation and strategies to become powerful and dynamic communicators. He delivers high-powered talks at leadership conferences, and corporate events that teach people how to connect with their audiences to make their message memorable. Based on his journey to overcome his fear of public speaking, Mario's mission is to inspire and share with others how to transform their communication challenges into personal success.**

**As a finalist in the Toastmasters' 2012 World Championship of Public Speaking, the largest public speaking contest in the world, and a four-time semifinalist (2012, 2017, 2018, and 2020), he has demonstrated the ability to engage and connect with audiences of all sizes and backgrounds. With over 20 years of banking and finance experience including bank supervision, corporate finance, financial management, and internal auditing, Mario is a seasoned professional that can motivate teams and provide advice on executive communications.**

**Mario received his MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management, a Certificate in Marketing from Harvard University's Extension School, and a BS in Finance from Bentley University. He currently holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Financial Risk Manager (FRM), and Commissioned Bank Examiner credentials, and previously held the Series 7 and 63 licenses, and the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation. Mario achieved his Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) designation in 2019.**

<https://mariolewisconnects.com>  
[Mario@mariolewisconnects.com](mailto:Mario@mariolewisconnects.com)

# Speaker Spotlight

## Stacy Kuhen



Stacy Kuhen is dedicated to empowering others to become the best version of themselves. As a special education teacher, Stacy has developed programs that instill confidence, promote acceptance, and inspire children and adults to embrace growth through gratitude. Her areas of expertise include promoting positive relationships, fostering social-emotional learning, and teaching effective leadership and communication skills.

Stacy is also passionate about service learning and philanthropy and has partnered with many nonprofit organizations both locally and nationally. In 2014, she embarked on a 7-month volunteer journey, traveling to 14 countries with a mission to support communities around the world. This experience inspired her to create her company, *With Gratitude*.

Through *With Gratitude*, Stacy provides messages of inspiration to her community on Facebook and Instagram and offers personal development courses on experiencing growth through gratitude, finding joy in the journey, and becoming the best version of yourself. In addition, she provides motivational training and leadership workshops for individuals, organizations, schools, and businesses. Her programs focus on promoting positivity and cultivating collaborative communities where every person feels valued and appreciated. Stacy is committed to empowering others to work towards being the best version of themselves every day.

Stacy shares her mission to spread joy and inspire others as a co-author in *Women Who Empower*, a collection of 30 inspirational and empowering stories written by women from around the world. *Women Who Empower* is the seventh book in the #1 International Best-Selling Inspired Impact Book Series. Stacy looks forward to sharing her story with you on December 16th when *Women Who Empower* is available on Amazon.

To learn more about the programs and training Stacy offers, please visit [www.stacykuhen.com](http://www.stacykuhen.com) and become a part of her community on social media.

Website: [www.stacykuhen.com](http://www.stacykuhen.com)

Email: [stacy@stacykuhen.com](mailto:stacy@stacykuhen.com)

Facebook: [Ms. With Gratitude](#)

Instagram: [@mswithgratitude](#)

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## **Extensions of CPA Examination Credit Window and Continuing Professional Education Deadline**

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Dear licensees and CPA exam candidates,

Please be advised that the Division has issued a Rule Waiver ([DCA-W-2020-17](#)) 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

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# 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.**



# 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 2021 is December 11, 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 October 2020 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER OCTOBER 2020	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash - Savings	\$ 12,188.23
Cash Checking	\$ 8,526.16
Accounts Receivable - Symp/Mtg/Sem	\$ -
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 4,330.04
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 25,044.43</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 107.49
Deferred Income	\$ 10.00
Fund Balance	\$ 24,926.94
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 25,044.43</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 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 Fucello  
 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

### Contact Us



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 LinkedIn: ***<https://www.linkedin.com/company/trenton-aga>***  
 Website: ***<https://www.agacgfm.org/trenton>***