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President's Message

Nikki M. Farrell

Dear Members & Friends,

As we work our way through the second half of our program year I continue to encourage you to recruit! Friday, February 28 we will be hosting our annual Networking Bowling Event at Slocum's Bar and Grille. I encourage all of you to attend and if you can, bring a non-member with you (they are FREE) so we can show them what the AGA Trenton Chapter is all about.

Are you interested in becoming a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM)? The 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. Visit National's website for more information and make sure to wear red during the month of March to celebrate the CGFM certification!

Wishing you all the best,

Nikki M. Farrell, CICA
Chapter President



Upcoming Events

Annual Bowling Networking Event

Date: February 28, 2020

Location: Slocum's Bar & Grille

Time: 4:30pm-6:30pm

March Dinner Meeting

Topic: REAL ID Implementation

Guest: Sue Fulton, Chief Administration NJMVC

Date: March 11, 2020

Location: Tessara Restaurant,
812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Time: Social Hour begins at 5:30pm; Dinner and presentation to follow.

Webinar - Cyber Security (2 CPEs)

Date: March 25, 2020

Location: Roehling Building, 2nd Floor Room 218

Time: 2:00pm-3:50pm

2020 Spring Symposium

Date: April 17, 2020

Location: The College of New Jersey

Webinar - Data Act (2 CPEs)

Date: April 22, 2020

Location: Roehling 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,**

NJ Office of the
State Auditor
kkokotajlo@njleg.org

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

Administration
Meghan K. Ellis

NJ Office of the
State Auditor
mellis@njleg.org

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

Webmaster

Brian Larkin

NJ Office of the
State Auditor
blarkin@njleg.org

SAVE THE DATE!

**Association of Government Accountants
Bowling & Networking Event**

Friday, February 28, 2020

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Slocum's Bowling Alley

1675 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ

FREE for STUDENTS & Potential New Members!

\$6 for AGA Members

Join us for bowling, appetizers, & networking opportunities!

www.agacgfm.org/trenton ~ [Facebook.com/agatrentonchapter](https://www.facebook.com/agatrentonchapter)



March is **CGFM** month!

Wear red on March 13th to celebrate



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 or contact AGA at 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 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 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

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 January 2020 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER JANUARY 2020	
ASSETS	
Cash - Savings	\$12,186.82
Cash - Checking	\$16,059.02
Accts. Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	\$ -
PrePaid Expenses	\$ 3,296.31
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 31,542.15
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,206.00
Deferred Income	\$
Fund Balance	\$ 30,336.15
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 31,542.15

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>***