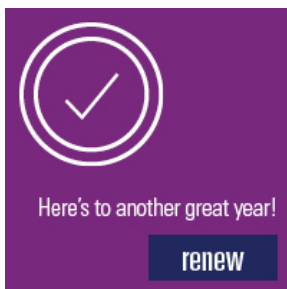




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## President's Message

**Nikki M. Farrell**

Dear Members & Friends,

In this final edition of the 2019-2020 AGA Trenton Chapter newsletter I want to say THANK YOU to you, our members! Without all of your support, the Trenton Chapter would not be able to have continued success and achieve its Mission. This program year hasn't happened quite as I imagined but as a Chapter we came together and provided a full program year worth of events, both in-person and virtual. It's quite amazing how we are able to adapt during unsettling times not only as a Chapter, but as individuals and as a Nation. The AGA Trenton Chapter stands in solidarity with all of our members and communities and echoes AGA National's message: we reject bigotry, racism, and hate. I encourage all of you to read the linked message and the AGA Diversity and Inclusion policy.

In the July 2019 edition of the newsletter, I stated my goals as Chapter President were to "provide quality educational events, prime networking opportunities, and to promote community service events throughout the year". Given the unexpected surge of COVID-19 and the social distancing rules put in place, I still feel that those goals have been met!

*(continue on page 2)*



# President's Message

*(continued)*

Even though we were unable to come together face-to-face in the latter half of the year, we were able to host all planned events for the year and even expanded our horizons by hosting the Chapter's first ever virtual PDT. We were even able to hold all of our planned community service events, even in the midst of COVID-19!

To everyone who has helped me throughout the year, thank you. It was not an easy transition going from one child to two during the program year but the support and dedication of our board members has not gone unnoticed. I hope to catch up with all of you during one of our 2020-2021 events. Until then be well, be safe, and be kind.

**Wishing you all the best,  
Nikki M. Farrell, CICA  
Chapter President**

## 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

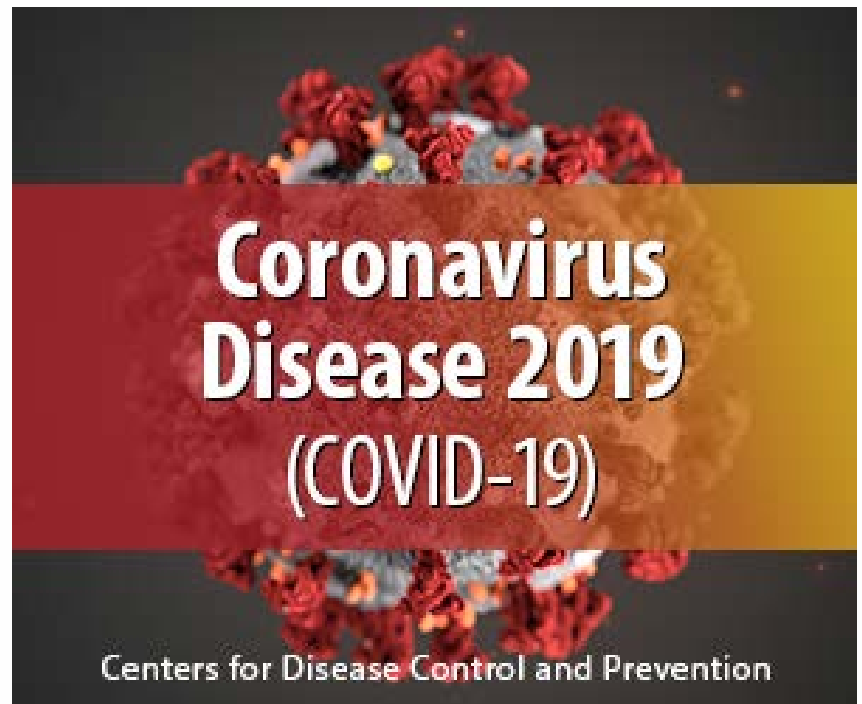
Webmaster  
**Brian Larkin**  
NJ Office of the  
State Auditor  
blarkin@njleg.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar - Professional Development  
 Free for AGA Members\*  
 (2 CPEs)  
 Date: June 26, 2020  
 Location: Online  
 Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm

2020 AGA Virtual PDT (21 CPEs)  
 Date: July 20-22, 2020  
 Location: Online  
 AGA member fee: \$550  
 Non-member fee: \$650

2020 AGA Trenton Chapter Awards  
 Nomination  
 Due date: July 31, 2020  
 Submit your nominations to  
[MEllis@njleg.org](mailto:MEllis@njleg.org)



**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.**

**Access AGA's COVID-19 Resource Exchange**

### **Help Flatten the Curve**

**Clean your hands often**  
**Avoid close contact**  
**Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face**  
**Cover when around others**  
**Cover coughs and sneezes**  
**Clean and disinfect**

# Accomplishments



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Trenton and Northern New Jersey Chapters of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) are professional organizations, part of the Association of Government Accountants which has a network of more than 15,000 members in 101 chapters in the United States and around the world and approximately 200 active members representing state, federal, municipal and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, AGA Trenton and Northern New Jersey Chapters' members have responded to AGA's mission of Advancing Government Accountability, as they continue their broad educational efforts, with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor, and character in its Code of Ethics, and are making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of New Jersey by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history, to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics and to pass three examinations requiring expertise in Governmental Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, and Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting, and requires each CGFM holder to maintain certification by completing at least 80 hours of continuing professional education in government financial management topics or related technical subjects every two years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim:

**MARCH 2020  
AS  
CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER  
MONTH**

*in New Jersey.*



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirty-first day of March in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.

*Phillip D. Murphy*  
Lt. GOVERNOR

*Philip D. Murphy*  
GOVERNOR

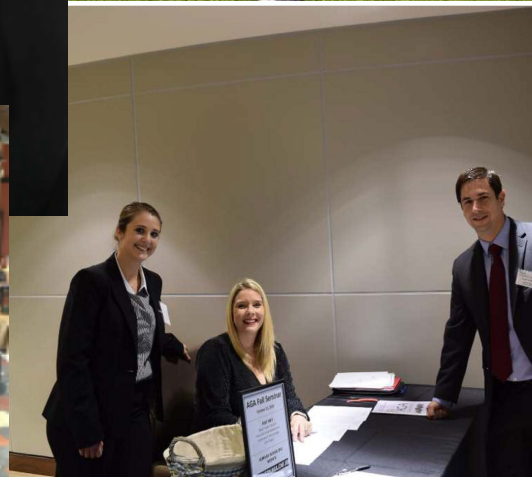
## *Accomplishments*

**THROUGH OUR  
PAUL VIDUNAS  
MEMORIAL FUND,  
WE RAISED....**

**\$1,300!**

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to our Paul Vidunas Memorial Fund!  
All proceeds will be donated to the Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI)!

# 2019-2020 Year Recap



# 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 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.*



# 2020 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER AWARDS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to nominate the following individual for a 2020 AGA Trenton Chapter Award:

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(City/State/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

(Telephone Number) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the designation of the award for which you nominate this individual.

**CHECK ONE ONLY**

- The James Dolan Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Education and Training Award
- Chapter Service Award

Additional supporting information may accompany this nomination form. Please be concise as possible. We may contact you for additional information, if necessary.

**Biographical Sketch of Nominee** (*position, title, education, other pertinent background information, etc.*)

**Description of Accomplishments/Achievements**

**Citation** (*For use as the formal award citation. Succinctly describe accomplishments, particularly their impact or results.*)

Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is JULY 31, 2020** ◆

Please E-Mail Nomination Forms to:

Meghan K. Ellis

[MEllis@njleg.org](mailto:MEllis@njleg.org)

## *DESCRIPTIONS OF AWARDS CATEGORIES*

### *The James J. Dolan Award*

Established in honor of the Chapter's founding president, conferred on a member of eminent service to the Chapter. (Any member of AGA, except an individual serving as a Chapter Officer, is eligible for this award.)

### *Achievement of the Year Award*

Accords recognition for leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, or improving financial management in government. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA but must have been employed in government service at the time the work being recognized was performed.)

### *Education and Training Award*

Conferred on individuals who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers. (Nominee need not be a member of AGA.)

### *Chapter Service Award*

Conferred on individuals who are active members of the Association for consistently important contributions to the development and enhancement of the Chapter over long periods of time or for distinguished or spectacular contributions to the Chapter during the year of nomination.

# Thank You To Our Sponsors!



## AGA Trenton Chapter's May 2020 Balance Sheet

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER MAY 2020	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash - Savings	\$12,187.63
Cash - Checking	\$13,996.65
Accts. Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	\$ -
PrePaid Expenses	\$ 4,296.31
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 30,480.59</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,246.00
Deferred Income	\$ -
Fund Balance	\$ 29,234.59
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 30,480.59</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 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  
 Vice President of Finance/ Administration/Programs - 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



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>***