



## Top stories



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## Our Mission



The AGA Boston Chapter serves professionals and students in the government financial management community by providing quality education, fostering professional development, and participating in local community projects for the enhancement of everyone in the New England area.

## Our Vision



AGA is the association that connects and empowers professionals who support government, from financial management to IT, human resources, cybersecurity and more, to advance good government initiatives, grow their expertise and accelerate their careers. We connect and empower professionals to help them advance, grow, accelerate.

For more information, visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Membership/Membership.aspx>

## Membership



Be a collaborative and innovative organization that is future focused and committed to excellence in the government financial management arena.

For more information: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Membership/Membership.aspx>

## CGFM Information



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.

For more information, visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/CGFM.aspx>

## Our Sponsors

The AGA Boston Chapter would like to thank our corporate sponsors, BerryDunn, RSM, and CLA, for helping us to make this program year possible! Check them out at:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/OurChapter/Chapter-Sponsors.aspx>



### Message From George Anastos: Chapter President



What a wonderful year we've had coming out of the pandemic! I'm quite pleased with our members and chapter executives who have been incredibly busy; we worked together, in full force spreading our mission to Advance, Grow, and Accelerate!

We held our first in-person event at Maggiano's Restaurant in Boston. We also held a Women in Government meeting recognizing CGFM Month. Our partnership with the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum produced a terrific winter event. In addition, our Regional Professional Development Day was utterly fantastic. Aprel McCabe and Jenny Hedderman were superstars. It was amazing to see awesome fresh faces among our seasoned legion of volunteers. Honestly, there's never been a better time to be a member as our community of positive influencers.

Our chapter has gained ground and have continued to make progress of our reinvented selves. Ben Howe and

Jon Dearborn were phenomenal leading communications with sublime grace. Sara Baruffaldi led our scholarship group to new heights. Deniz Bulut-Ture kept our meetings timely and informative. Parris Kyriakakis did a great job molding our Citizen Centric Report into a state-of-the-art example of transparency. Peter Scavotto, how do you define awesome? You! Matt Twomey, you helped neighboring chapters regain their footing. Rachel Cullity brought in a whole new wave of student services. A most special thanks to Shana Doiron, our Volunteer of the Year, and Biruk Gebreamlak, for thoroughly reviewing our books with Sarah Mongeau and Male Kamy. Elaine Silva grew our membership. Patrick Sullivan, you helped immensely parsing poignant national news back to us. Bill Muench, we owe you a boat trip, thank you for your steady hand, ever willing to help everywhere.

If I missed anyone, please accept my sincerest apologies as we jet into the future program year. I have nothing but fondness for this chapter's membership and sincerely believe that our President Sarah Mongeau for 2023/24 and Incoming President Yoko McCarthy for 2024/25 are set to lead us.

Our Boston Chapter Executive Committee for 2022/2023 was great and please stay tuned as we raise the bar for the next chapter year – it's going to be good!

### CGFM Virtual Panel Event

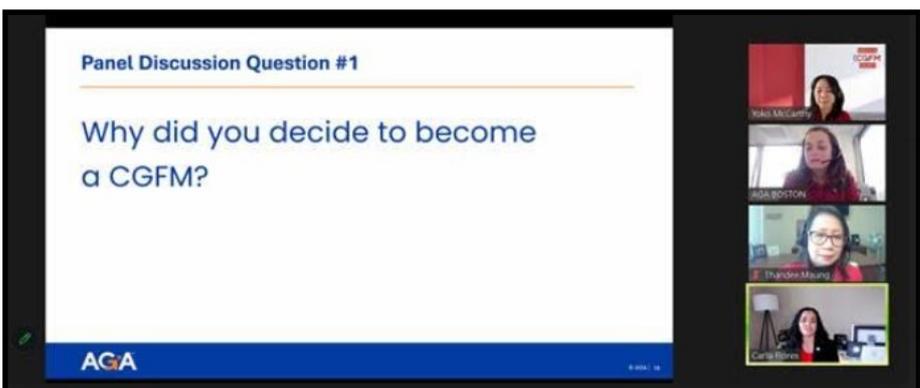
On March 8, 2023, the AGA Boston Chapter held a successful virtual panel featuring experienced AGA members and guests from AGA National who spoke about the value of the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) designation. In addition, AGA Boston Chapter members who received their CGFM answered questions on how being a CGFM helped their career and shared some studying tips.

Event panelists included:

- Sarah Mongeau: CGFM, CPA, CFE, AGA Boston Chapter President-Elect and Audit Director, Independent Authorities and Education, Massachusetts State Auditor's Office
- Yoko McCarthy: CGFM, MBA, CFE, CISA, AGA Boston Chapter CGFM/Professional Certification Director and Senior Manager, BerryDunn
- Kimberly Jones: AGA Senior Program Manager, CGFM and Education
- Thandee Maung: CPA, CFE, CGFM, MBA, Deputy City Auditor, Department of Audits, Office of Comptroller Bill Henry
- Carla Flores: Data Analytics Lead, Internal Revenue Service's Office of the Chief Financial Officer

A replay of this event can be viewed at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/TrainingEvents/Event-Calendar.aspx>.

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. CGFM is a respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed to be an effective government financial manager. To learn more about this valuable professional designation, visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/>



### “Preparing for the Unknown” March 2, 2023



The AGA Boston Chapter would like to thank the more than 190 members and other interested individuals who participated in the Virtual Winter Seminar, "Preparing for the Unknown," held on March 2, 2023 and replayed on March 16 and March 23, 2023.

The event included speakers who provided valuable information on topics including leadership concepts, change management, and ethical considerations.

The Chapter would also like to thank our chapter sponsors RSM, CLA, and BerryDunn who helped us provide our training program this year.



### Successful Valentines for Veterans Event

AGA Boston Chapter completes another successful Valentines for Veterans campaign!

For the eleventh year in a row, the AGA Boston Chapter organized successful efforts to support VA's Valentines for Veterans program. The purpose of VA's National Salute to Veteran Patients Program, of which the Valentines for Veterans is a part, is to pay tribute and express appreciation to our veterans. Learn more about our community service!

<https://www.agacqfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/ChapterResources/CommunityServiceNews.aspx>

### AGA Boston Receives Recognition



AGA applauds the Boston Chapter's commitment to excellence reflected in its Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) and is pleased to present it with the Citizen-Centric Reporting Recognition of Excellence.

For more information on the chapter's report, please visit <https://www.agacqfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/ChapterResources/CitizenCentricReporting.aspx>

### Intern Gathering

AGA Boston Chapter recently organized an intern gathering at the Dubliner in Boston on June 20, 2023. Nearly 20 people attended the event, including some wonderful interns from different agencies in the Commonwealth as well as Chapter President Sarah Mongeau, Incoming Chapter President Yoko McCarthy, and Immediate Past President George Anastos. Everyone enjoyed some light appetizers, networking, and catching up with each other during the event. Thank you to everyone who attended!



### Announcing AGA Boston YouTube Channel!

AGA Boston Chapter is pleased to announce that we have created a new YouTube channel where we will post some of our past educational events for you to view for free!

To start, we have added our three 2022 and 2021 virtual career panels that were held in support of AGA's Council for the Advancement of Women.

All you need to do to watch a session is to register for it, then you be given access to the content.

If you have any questions, please contact [AGABoston.Communications@gmail.com](mailto:AGABoston.Communications@gmail.com)



#### Moving from the Middle Virtual Panel: March 2022

To register, visit <https://agaboston.ce21.com/item/moving-middle-virtual-panel-march-2022-486956#tabDescription>

#### Elevating Your Career through Mentorship Virtual Panel: December 2021

To register, visit <https://agaboston.ce21.com/item/elevating-career-mentorship-virtual-panel-december-2021-486958#tabDescription>

#### Elevating Your Career Virtual Panel: July 2021

To register, visit <https://agaboston.ce21.com/item/elevating-career-virtual-panel-july-2021-485711>

## Virtual Cybersecurity Career Panel

With this engaging and dynamic discussion led by Chapter Student Advisor Rachel Cullity, the seminar focused on practical advice on how to pursue a career in cybersecurity and the skills necessary to succeed in the field.



This free virtual panel was held on Thursday, April 13, 2023, via Zoom, and [is available as a replay event](#). CPEs will not be granted for viewing this replay.

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## Chapter Volunteer of the Year Recipient Announced

The AGA Boston Chapter would like to extend its congratulations to Immediate Past President Shana Doiron as its Volunteer of the Year recipient for the 2022-2023 program year. The Volunteer of the Year Award is a national honor presented annually to one member from each Chapter, recognizing significant service to it. Each Volunteer of the Year receives national recognition—a letter from AGA's National President, a photo and citation on the AGA website, acknowledgement in AGA publications, and is recognized at AGA's Professional Development Training.

For more information on the winners of this award, visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/About/Recognition/OtherAwards/VolunteerOfTheYear/2022-2023.aspx>.

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## 2023 Chapter Scholarship Winners

The AGA Boston Chapter would like to extend its congratulations to Alison Belkin on being selected as the 2023 George Brady Memorial Scholarship recipient. The Chapter would also like to extend its congratulations to Kassandra Guerrero on being selected as the 2023 Walter Frese Memorial Scholarship recipient.

For more information on these two scholarships awarded by the Chapter annually, visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/OurChapter/Boston-Chapter-Scholarships.aspx>.

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## Successful Virtual Regional Professional Development Training Held

AGA Boston would like to thank the more than 120 individuals who participated in the Virtual Regional Professional Development Training, including all the wonderful speakers. Attendees learned about leadership and IT security awareness, among other topics, from government and private sector experts.

Speakers for this event and their sessions included:

- Suzanne Bump, Director (At-Large), AGA – Leading with Accountability
- Sandra Richtermeyer, Dean of the Manning School of Business, UMass Lowell – Environmental, Social, and Governance Policies
- Lisa Parker, Senior Project Manager, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) – GASB Update
- Steven Tremblay, Managing Director, Ron Meldonian, Client Serving Contractor, and Andrew Johnian, Associate, EY – General Controls and Accounting
- Jim Piotrowski, Principal, CLA – Practicing Inclusive Leadership to Build Trust, Increase Transparency, and Promote Accountability
- Doug Farnham, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Administration, State of Vermont – American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Lessons Learned

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