



## 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

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

## We Work Together

### President's Message

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. In the spirit of giving thanks, I want to express my appreciation to all of our Chapter members and industry partners. I would also like to thank all of our Chapter volunteers. Their time and effort that they put in to providing important training content and giving back to local communities is valued by all Chapter members. The upcoming holidays are sure to be exciting and I hope you are able to spend time with your loved ones, relax and re-energize for 2022. Take a moment to celebrate all of your personal and professional accomplishments this past year!

Happy holidays and thanks for all your support this year,  
Shana Doiron

\*Please note most photos used in this newsletter were courtesy of the Howe family and used with permission. Otherwise, the photos are the property of the Boston Chapter.



Please visit our home page at [AGABostonChapter.org](http://AGABostonChapter.org), like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and/or connect with us on LinkedIn!

## Chapter Training Events

### **Virtual Many Faces of Fraud Seminar**

On October 28th, the Chapter held its annual Many Faces of Fraud Seminar. From their location, participants learned virtually about fraud, including detection and prevention in government programs, current fraud trends and risks, and key concepts in risk and compliance from experts working in federal and state agencies and private firms. Speakers included Jenny Hedderman, Esq., Risk Counsel, Office of the Comptroller, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Neil Cohen, Director of Regulatory and Compliance Division, Office of the Inspector General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The sessions were insightful and entertaining.

### **Elevating Your Career through Mentorship Virtual Panel**

On December 2nd, the Chapter hosted a virtual event focused on mentoring. Panelists Peggy Sherry, Yoko McCarthy, Carmelita Caranog, and moderator Elena Tercero, engaged in a spirited discussion on topics ranging from how to initiate a mentor relationship and get the most out of those discussions to the differences between formal programs and reaching out informally. This event was developed by local, female Chapter members and non-members that featured women at various points in their career who discussed their mentoring journey. This event was developed based on AGA National's Council for Advancement of Women effort.



Save the Date! The Chapter's **Virtual Winter Seminar** is scheduled for February 17, 2022! For more information about upcoming events, visit the Chapter's website.

Visit our home page at [AGA Boston Chapter \(agacgfm.org\)](https://agacgfm.org), like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and/or connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

## Chapter Community Service

### Veteran's Day is More Than Just a Day Off, It's a Day to Honor Military Service

We honored Veteran's Day, which falls annually on November 11, as the federal holiday designated to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military. We feel one of the best ways to thank a veteran for their service is by hiring them. It's not only patriotic but a good business decision.

Military personnel are trained in multi-diverse skills and have a wide range of experiences that make them great employees. A strong work ethic fostered through their service makes them an asset to the workforce.

From AGA Boston to all our members that who have served – thank you.

### November 13th– World Kindness Day

On November 13th, as part of World Kindness Day, we encouraged our AGA Boston membership to carry out an act of kindness. We each have the potential to improve each other's' lives through understanding and kindness. Whether it's a friend, family member, coworker or stranger, our ability to show our humanity should have no limit.

### November 30th– National Day of Giving

Celebrated annually on every Tuesday after Thanksgiving, the National Day of Giving is dedicated to encouraging giving among people and organizations to their communities to make the world a better place!

More commonly referred to as 'Giving Tuesday,' this day quite simply promotes, taking advantage of all the holiday deals to add to your charitable giving.

There are several ways to purchase and give, including but not limited to:

- Set up a collection for non-perishable food at work. Deliver the collection to a local food pantry;
- Donate gift cards to a shelter; and
- Buy new toys and donate them to children spending the holidays in the hospital.

Please visit <https://www.givingtuesday.org/> to discover more ideas on how to spread generosity.

# Chapter Community Service Continued

## AGA Boston Chapter's Community Service Committee Remembers and Pays Tribute on 9/11

In remembrance and paying tribute to the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the AGA Boston Chapter's Community Service Committee challenged our members to contribute to a day of giving or offer an act of kindness. The committee offered suggestions to the financial accountability community that included donating a pint of blood at the American Red Cross or paying for the person in back of you at Starbucks or Dunkin's drive-up. We had one chapter member report making a food donation to a local food pantry at a local supermarket. The following photo shows the committee's chair, Marcia Luciano, who brought three dozen chocolate chip cookies to a neighbor, who also is caretaker of a local dam, as a thank you for his time and attention in controlling the water flow for many years on her lake in New Hampshire.



## Community Service Committee Supports Local Food Banks in October

The AGA Boston Community Service Committee encouraged its members, their families, and friends to consider volunteering their time for a variety of charitable activities, or to otherwise give back to the community in which they live as part of its recent Virtual Fall Fraud Seminar. For example, the Chapter suggested interested individuals consider donating to local food banks, which have been busier than ever helping those in need. Interested? You can also contact your local community food bank to help. Visit <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank> for more information.

# Chapter Community Service Continued

## Another Successful Chapter Campaign to Support Wreaths Across America

This November, the Boston Chapter again encouraged members and friends to sponsor a wreath for the holiday season through Wreaths Across America, a 501(c)(3) organization. Each December, the group places a wreath on every veteran's grave throughout the United States. Interested individuals can sponsor a balsam wreath, in honor of a living veteran or in memory of those family or friends that have passed. Individuals can also sponsor a wreath in memory of a non-veteran. The Chapter choose the MA National Cemetery at Bourne to place the wreaths. In 2020, the Chapter was responsible for sponsoring 59 wreaths and we matched that number again this year! THANK YOU to all who participated in this effort.



The Chapter's Community Service Committee will continue volunteering in the new year! We think outside the box with virtual volunteering and other initiatives. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters. From all of us on the committee, thank you again and stay safe and healthy! If you have any questions about Chapter community service events or volunteering at a future event, please contact Marcia Luciano, Community Service, at [mrl5080@verizon.net](mailto:mrl5080@verizon.net).

Visit our home page at [AGA Boston Chapter \(agacgfm.org\)](http://agacgfm.org), like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and/or connect with us on LinkedIn.

# Chapter Announcements

## Congratulations to the Following Chapter Members!

The following members will serve as Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) members for the upcoming 2021-2022 program year:

Chapter President - Shana Doiron

Immediate Past President - Benjamin Howe, CFE

Treasurer - Male Kamyra

Secretary - Jane Gustowski

Programs and Education Vice President (Acting) - April McCabe

Strategies and Planning Vice President - George Anastos

National Council of Chapters Representative - Daniel Bonnette, CPA

Accountability Outreach Director - Christina Lento

Community Service Director - Marcia R. Luciano

Membership & Early Career Programs Director - Elaine M. Silva, CFS

Registrations Director - Karen L. Payne

Mentorships Director - Sarah B. Mongeau, CGFM

Scholarships and Awards - Kayla Mosesso

Bylaws & Procedures Director - William J. Bell

Sponsorships Director - William A. Muench, CGFM, CPA, CFE

Webmaster - David A. LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS

Young Professionals Advisor - Sara A. Baruffaldi

Municipal Advisor - Alex A. Mireku

Senior Advisor - Joseph N. Valchuis, CGFM

Federal (Military) Advisor - CDR Patrick M. Sullivan

Student Advisor - Alexis Kupis

Interested in volunteering with the Chapter? Please contact Chapter President Shana Doiron at [shana.doiron@claconnect.com](mailto:shana.doiron@claconnect.com)

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# Chapter Announcements Continued

## Boston Chapter Member Milestones

AGA recognizes members who have demonstrated distinguished service and dedication throughout the years. The commitment and determination shown by these individuals, as well as many other dedicated members, made AGA the strong, vital organization it is today. *Congratulations!*

### AGA Lifetime Members

Kathleen M. Cushing, CGFM-Retired, 10/27/1980

Jane Gustowski, CPA, 10/1/1980

Wallace A. Franklin, CGFM-Retired, CGA, 6/1/1978

John T. Wilkes, CGFM-Retired, 12/1/1977

William J. Yazbek, CGFM-Retired, 3/1/1976

Vincent P. Donovan, CGFM-Retired, 5/1/1975

Alfred R. Vieira, CGFM-Retired, 9/1/1974

James P. Foley, 4/1/1970

Thomas Kaminskis, CGFM-Retired, 9/1/1969

Joseph D. Cericola, 6/1/1969

Jacintho J. Farea, CPA, 10/1/1966

Walter S. Dunbar Jr., CGFM-Retired, CPA, 1/1/1965

Louis Lucas, 4/1/1959

Thomas H. McCormack, 4/1/1959

Bernard T. Dembro Jr., 2/5/1958

Martin L. Leonard, CGFM-Retired, 4/1/1957

Joseph B. D'Alessandro, 12/10/1956

Salvatore Peter Luciano, 4/1/1955

# Chapter Announcements Continued

## Current AGA 35-Year Members

Howard Olsher, CFE, 5/1/1983

Susan Perna-Damon, CGFM-Retired, CPA, 2/11/1985

Mark D. Abrahams, CGFM, CPA, 3/25/1985

## Current AGA 30-Year Members

David A. LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS, 2/1/1987

Kathleen A. Still, CGFM-Retired, 8/15/1988

Frank William Ray, 5/16/1989

## Current AGA 25-Year Members

Karen L. Lowe, 1/3/1992

Sharon Torosian, CGFM, 4/9/1992

Kent Barkhouse, CGFM-Retired, 5/24/1993

William A. Muench, CGFM, CPA, CFE, 9/13/1993

William W. Plummer, CGFM, 5/24/1994

Craig S. Simpson, CGFM, 9/3/1994

Ernest Almonte, CGFM, CPA, CFE, 3/17/1995

Lisa M. Goncalves, CGFM, 4/1/1996

Martin J. Benison, CGFM, 4/26/1996

Ravinder S. Chana, CGFM, 4/30/1996

Cathy A. Fletcher, CGFM-Retired, 5/29/1996

Wendy A. Haynes, CGFM, 8/2/1996

Craig C. Hall, MPA, 10/22/1996

Thomas G. Hedderick, CGFM, 12/20/1996

Alan P. Hoban, CGFM-Retired, 12/30/1996

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## Chapter Announcements Continued

### Current AGA 20-Year Members

George L. Martin, CGFM, 2/13/1997

Lynn M. Penkala, CGFM, 4/18/1997

Edmund L. Kelley, CGFM-Retired, 7/23/1997

Amy Harriman, 9/29/1997

Francis Daniel Ahern Jr., CGFM, 2/6/1998

Nicholas H. Dahl, CGFM, CGAP, CFE, 5/20/1998

Gerard E. Zimmer, CGFM-Retired, 12/22/1998

Ralph M. DeAcetis, CGFM, CPA, 12/31/1998

Linda A. Ide, CGFM, 1/4/1999

Francis X. McCarthy, 2/10/1999

Michael E. Paul, CGFM-Retired, 11/1/2000

Stephen P. Donahue, CGFM-Retired, 5/1/2001

Stephen Paul Concilio, CPA, 7/1/2001



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# The Value of Membership

## It's Not too Late to Renew Your AGA Membership!

Why renew? Why not. Think of the value you receive with your membership.

### Learning:

- Free CPEs - Every year, members receive up to 14 hours per year.
- AGA is here to provide you with the training and education needed to adapt and thrive!

### Connect, Collaborate & Network:

- Expand your network, participate in mentoring, volunteer on AGA and Chapter committees or boards, and engage in conversations on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.
- Check out the website for updates on networking events.

### Stay Informed & Find Solutions:

- Online tool kits.
- Free subscription to the quarterly Journal of Government.
- Website access to best practices described in AGA research and executive reports.
- Hear about innovations in government by tuning into AGA's Accountability Talks podcasts.

***“The best investment you can make is in yourself.” —Warren Buffett***

### **Renew or join now:**

**<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Learn-About-AGA/Join-or-Renew.aspx>**

**Questions? Contact Elaine Silva, Membership and Early Career Programs, at [elaine.silva@comcast.net](mailto:elaine.silva@comcast.net).**

# Chapter Mentoring

## Mentoring Program Now Available!

Hello Boston AGA Members. Are you interested in participating in a mentoring program as a mentor or mentee? AGA National and the Boston Chapter are both in the process of developing mentoring programs.

To complete a mentorship application for the Boston Chapter's Mentoring Program, visit:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Chapter-Resources/Mentoring.aspx>. Complete the mentorship application and return it to Sarah Mongeau, Boston Chapter Director of Mentorships at [sarah.mongeau@sao.state.ma.us](mailto:sarah.mongeau@sao.state.ma.us).

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Sarah at 508-335-2531.

For more information about the AGA National program, visit

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Mentoring-Program.aspx>.

This site also provides you with the opportunity to enroll as mentor or mentee.



# CGFM News

**Distinguish yourself from your peers. Make financial management decisions with more confidence. Expand career opportunities. Become a Certified Government Financial Manager!**

**What is CGFM?** Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) is a professional certification awarded by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), and a credential that recognizes an individual's specialized knowledge and experience related to management of government finance. Being a CGFM expands career opportunities and distinguishes those who have earned the certification from others in the field of government accounting.

**How to become a CGFM?** To become a CGFM, candidates are required to pass three exams. The comprehensive exams prove candidates' knowledge in Government Environment, Government Accounting, Financial Reporting, and Budgeting, and Government Financial Management and Control. The Boston Chapter is committed to supporting CGFM candidates and those that have attained the CGFM designation.

For more information about the CGFM certification, visit

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/CGFM-Certification.aspx>.



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# AGA Boston Chapter Corporate Partners



## RSM

### Gold Sponsor

RSM's purpose is to deliver the power of being understood to our clients, colleagues and communities through world-class audit, tax and consulting services focused on middle market businesses. The clients we serve are the engine of global commerce and economic growth, and we are focused on developing leading professionals and services to meet their evolving needs in today's ever-changing business environment.

RSM US LLP is the U.S. member of RSM International, a global network of independent, audit, tax, and consulting firms with more than 43,000 people in over 120 countries. For more information, visit [rsmus.com](http://rsmus.com), like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and/or connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).



## CLA (CliftonLarsenAllen LLP)

### Gold Sponsor

CLA exists to create opportunities for our clients, our people, and our communities through industry-focused wealth advisory, outsourcing, audit, tax, and consulting services. With more than 6,200 people, 120 U.S. locations, and a global affiliation, we promise to know you and help you.

We are dedicated to building an inclusive culture that thrives on different beliefs and perspectives. By welcoming and respecting our clients and each other, we can all experience success. For more information visit [CLAconnect.com](http://CLAconnect.com) and/or connect with [CLA on LinkedIn](#).



## Corporate Sponsorship Program – THANKS to RSM & CLA

Our Boston Chapter would like to THANK RSM and CLA (CliftonLarsenAllen) for their partnerships as Gold Sponsors this past year. We greatly appreciate their patronage to aid our Chapter in serving professionals in the government financial management community by helping us provide quality education, foster professional development, and participate in local community projects for the enhancement of everyone in the New England area. Their staff has done a marvelous job in supporting our education program by providing speakers for our events. In addition, RSM and CLA have provided staff to assist our Chapter Executive Committee to better serve its members. The program goal is to have both the Chapter and the for-profit entity benefit from the partnership by working together to ensure each other's success. The firm gets visibility and access, branding with a respected organization, such as the Boston Chapter, and the opportunity to showcase their subject matter expertise. As we move forward to enhance our Corporate Sponsorship Program, we are always looking for new ideas to expand and improve the program. An enhanced program will help us to continue offering great educational programs and services by increasing non-dues revenue, increase and diversify our membership roster, attract new speakers, and enlist additional volunteers.

Please contact Bill Muench at [william.muench@comcast.net](mailto:william.muench@comcast.net) or (508) 259-3382 to discuss any ideas you may have, or for more information about corporate partnership sponsor opportunities with the AGA Boston Chapter.

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Intergov features AGA tools *by you, for you!* They are designed to help government financial management professionals do their jobs better. Intergov features tools that officials from any level of government can use to improve program performance and enhance accountability. These tools can be used to prevent fraud, reduce improper payments, improve outcomes, mitigate risk, and enhance collaboration. They can be used by auditors, accountants, grants managers, IT professionals, program managers, and others.

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Tools-Resources/intergov.aspx>

AGA has launched the **AGA COVID-19 Resource Exchange** as a resource for our community, featuring thought leadership, training, tools, events, and more to help you and your organization navigate this crisis. Please check back often, as the site will be updated as new information becomes available.

### The Exchange Features:

- Government Resources
- AGA Corporate Partner Resources/Events
- AGA Chapter Resources/Events
- For First Responders
- Useful Articles
- AGA Session Videos to Inspire You
- AGA Session Videos to Increase Productivity
- And More!

[AGA COVID-19 Resource Exchange](#)

### Online Store is Open!

The AGA Boston Chapter [online store](#) for purchasing goods and supplies with our logo is open.

[Visit the Store Today!](#)



[Renew AGA Membership Today!](#)

[AGA Event Calendar](#)

[AGA Virtual Training](#)

[AGA Online Training Resources](#)

## Chapter Online Training Opportunities

The AGA Boston Chapter is continuing its partnership with the Accounting Continuing Professional Education Network (ACPEN) to offer CPA-specific online training. The Chapter initiated this relationship because ACPEN is the largest provider of streaming video webinars for continuing education for CPAs in the U.S. ACPEN's CPA training sessions are now available for purchase on the Chapter's online library at <https://agaboston.ce21.com/>.

ACPEN webcasts are sponsored by the Business Professionals' Network, Inc. This network, which produces ACPEN programming, is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors.

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## Citizen-Centric Reporting

The Association of Government Accountants, the thought leader for the government accountability profession, evaluates reports for the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting award.

AGA determines award recipients based on content, visual appeal, readability, distribution, and timeliness of reporting.

Interested in learning more? Visit [www.agacgfm.org/ccr](http://www.agacgfm.org/ccr)

