



Boston Chapter

Boston's Beacon

May Edition 2022

Volume 2021 - 2022, Issue 4



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

It is hard to believe that May is here and we are busy planning for end of the 2021-2022 program year. As we continue to navigate through the new normal of a post-pandemic environment, we look forward to being able to offer a hybrid model of events for the coming year. We hope to “see” you at our final event of the year, the Chapter’s Regional Professional Development Training. This event will be held virtually on Thursday, June 2nd. More information on registering for the event is included in this newsletter.

I would like to thank all the Chapter’s volunteers for their contributions this year - your help is the key to our success!

If you are interested in volunteering with the Chapter, please contact me at shana.doiron@claconnect.com. Volunteering with the Chapter is a great way to find out more about what is going on with the profession locally in New England!

I hope you all enjoy the beautiful spring weather, and thank you again for all your support this year.

-Shana Doiron, AGA Boston Chapter President

*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 [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

Volunteer Opportunities - 2022-2023 Program Year!

The AGA Boston Chapter is looking for individuals to serve on its committees for the 2022-2023 program year, which begins in July 2022. AGA Boston Chapter's committee positions offer an opportunity to members to participate in the organization.

If you are a member and would like to learn more about these opportunities, please contact our Chapter President-Elect George Anastos at George.C.Anastos@Mass.gov.

For a list of the chapter's current committees, see <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Home.aspx>.

We work together!

Chapter Executive Committee Meetings

The AGA Boston Chapter's Executive Committee met in March, April, and May and plans to meet again in June. Interested in participating in the Boston Chapter? Please contact Chapter President Shana Doiron at shana.doiron@claconnect.com.

AGA Boston Chapter Citizen Centric Report Now Available

Chapter reporting for the past program year issued! The Boston Chapter's latest Citizen Centric Report for the year ending June 30, 2021, is posted at:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Chapter-Resources/Citizen-Centric-Reporting.aspx>



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Chapter Announcements

AGA Boston Chapter Upcoming Event

Virtual Regional Professional Development Training

June 2, 2022

6 CPEs

LEARN ABOUT:

- LEADERSHIP
- FRAUD
- ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

FROM GOVERNMENT, SPEAKING, AND PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERTS!

AGA Members - \$75 and Non-Members - \$125

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022 8:50 AM to 4:00 PM

To register for this event, please visit:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Training-Events/Event-Calendar.aspx>

Check back at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Our-Chapter.aspx> for more information.



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Chapter Announcements

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.

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.



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Value in 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>

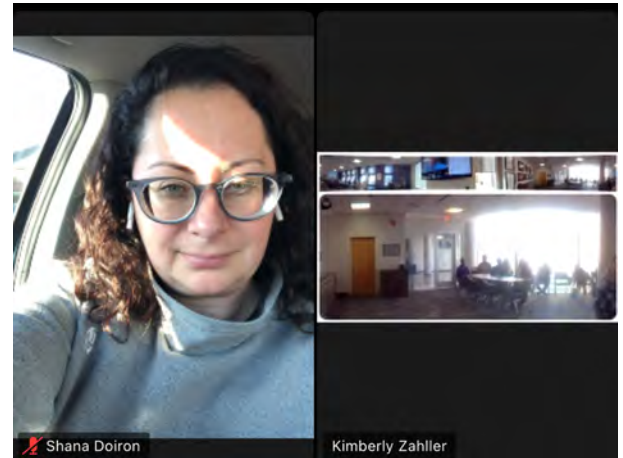
Questions? Contact Elaine Silva, Membership and Early Career Programs, at elaine.silva@comcast.net.



Chapter Events

AGA Boston Participates in Student Panel

AGA Boston Chapter President Shana Doiron, Chapter President-Elect George Anastos, and Immediate Past President Benjamin Howe participated in a Careers in Government Accounting panel organized by AGA on March 14, 2022. The chapter leadership team was invited to participate in this panel to discuss the various opportunities available in a government finance career. This virtual event was hosted by Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.



AGA Boston Virtual CGFM Panel

The AGA Boston Chapter would like to thank the 20 people who attended the virtual CGFM panel featuring experienced AGA Boston Chapter members and guests from AGA National who spoke about the value of the CGFM designation. Speakers included Suzanne Bump, State Auditor, Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor; Howard Merkowitz, Former Deputy Comptroller, Office of the Massachusetts State Comptroller; Tony Scardino, CGFM, Managing Principal, Grant Thornton; and Kimberly Jones, Senior CGFM and Education Program Manager, AGA National. Speakers shared how their organizations valued the CGFM designation. In addition, AGA Boston Chapter members who recently obtained their CGFM answered questions on how being a CGFM helped their career and shared study tips. The panel was held on March 17, 2022.



Check back at <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Our-Chapter.aspx> for more information.

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Chapter Events

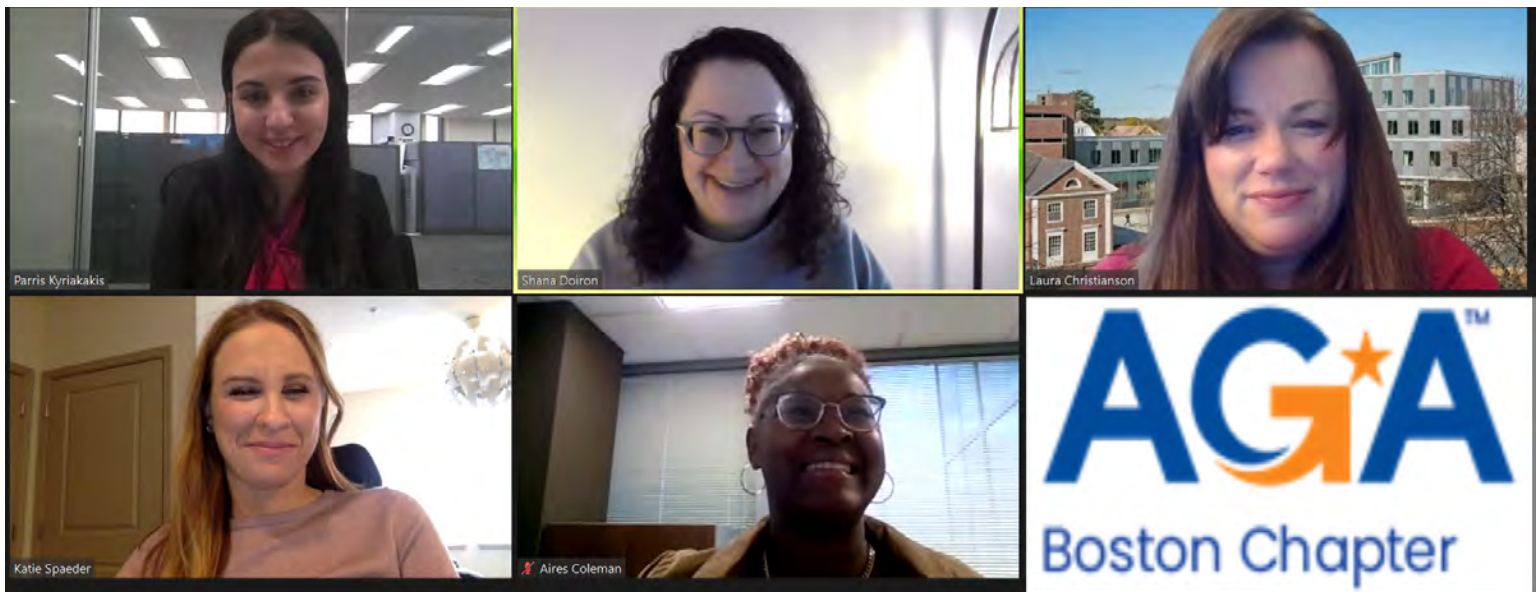
AGA Boston Virtual Moving From the Middle Virtual Panel

In celebration of International Women's Day 2022 in March, the AGA Boston Chapter hosted a free, virtual panel of inspiring, accomplished, empowered women leaders from government and private financial sectors who offered participants leadership tools, insights, and perspectives from their career journeys to help them advance in their career. Panelists for this event included Aires Coleman, Signing Director, CLA; Laura Christianson, CPA, Associate Teaching Professor, UMass Lowell; Katie Spaeder, CPA, CFE, Project Director, Department of Defense; and Parris Kyriakakis, Assistant General Counsel at the Office of the Comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Panelists discussed how to nurture your professional growth and overcome obstacles to tips on how to set your professional goals and achieve them. This discussion left the 64 participants with the feeling of empowerment and energized to take on a new project.

Interested in learning about the Boston Chapter's resources in support of the advancement of women in the profession? Please visit

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



Interested in learning more about future Boston Chapter events? Check back at

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

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 CGFG designation.

For more information about the CGFM certification, visit

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



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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](#)

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, 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 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 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.

2021–2022 Officers and Directors

Chapter President Shana Doiron	Chapter President-Elect George Anastos
Immediate Past President Benjamin R. Howe, CFE	Secretary Jane Gustowski, CPA
National Council of Chapters Representative Daniel Bonnette, CPA	Chapter Treasurer Male Kamyra
Accountability Outreach Christina Lento	Community Service Marcia Luciano
Programs and Education Aprel McCabe	Membership and Early Career Programs Elaine Silva, CFS
Audit Katherine White	Scholarships and Awards Kayla Mosesso
Bylaws and Procedures William Bell	Mentorships Sarah Mongeau, CGFM
CGFM/Professional Certification Yoko McCarthy, CGFM	Registrations Karen Payne
Sponsorships William Muench, CGFM, CPA, CFE	Strategies and Planning George Anastos
Webmaster David LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS	Assistant Director to the Webmaster Jon Dearborn
Newsletter Jon Dearborn	Advisors to the President Sara A. Baruffaldi, Alex Mireku, and Patrick M. Sullivan



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