



Boston Chapter

Boston's Beacon

October Edition 2022

Volume 2022 - 2023, Issue 2



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

AGA Boston Chapter President's Message

Greetings everyone! I want to thank everyone who contributed to our Fall Fraud Seminar. I found it exceptionally good. Our speakers were fantastic. And if you missed it, it's not too late to sign up for a replay.

I'm very proud to report our Chapter's Executive Committee has been working diligently to do even more for you. We have a commitment to help new members advance, grow, and accelerate their careers and we will have future young professional, networking, and CGFM events, while delivering quality training for a good value.

I believe our December 1st Holiday Luncheon will be a lot of fun. This will be our first live in-person event since the pandemic. I look forward to seeing everyone who may attend. Our next community service event is Wreaths Across America. Our members donated 59 wreaths last year and I hope that we beat that record this year.

And lastly, please check out our new website. I believe our communications team has made our site much more interactive and informative.

Thank you,

George Anastos

AGA Boston Chapter President 2022-2023



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 began 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 George Anastos at George.C.Anastos@Mass.gov.

For a list of the chapter's current committees, see our website: <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 October and plans to meet again in November.

Interested in participating in the Boston Chapter? Please contact our Chapter President George Anastos at George.C.Anastos@Mass.gov.

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, 2022, is posted on the Boston AGA Chapter website.



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Chapter Announcements

Successful Virtual Fall Fraud Seminar Event

The Boston Chapter would like to thank the more than 150 people who participated in its October Virtual Fall Fraud Seminar, including the 12 wonderful speakers who provided valuable information on fraud-related topics including procurement fraud, reputational risk of fraud, and fraud and federal pandemic audit readiness.

The speakers and sessions for this event included:

- Glenn Cunha, Massachusetts Inspector General (retired) and Special Prosecutor for the Suffolk County District Attorney, *Reflections on a Career Fighting Fraud*
- Anthony Trapasso, Managing Director, Risk & Compliance, KPMG, Tom Stanton, Managing Director, Forensic Practice, KPMG, Andy Neville, Data Scientist, KPMG, and Bobby Gorantla, Director, Data & Analytics Group, KPMG, *Federal Pandemic Audit Readiness and Fraud*
- Ivy Williams, Senior Assurance Consultant, Government Assurance Practice, BerryDunn, *Procurement Fraud*
- David Churbuck, Senior Executive, Sitrick & Company, *Reputational Risk of Fraud and How to Stop the Damage from It*
- *Panel on Fraud and Cybercrime Prevention and Best Practices*, including panelists Neil Cohen, Director, Regulatory and Compliance, Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General, Jim Kreiser, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), Tyler Will, Data Analytics Senior Fraud Examiner, Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor, and moderator Jenny Hedderman, Esq., Risk Counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Missed the event? Register for one of the November Fall Fraud Seminar replays!

November 3: <https://agaboston.ce21.com/item/aga-boston-fall-fraud-seminar-replay-490953>

November 10: <https://agaboston.ce21.com/item/aga-boston-fall-fraud-seminar-replay-490954>



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Chapter Announcements

AGA Boston Recruitment Month November 2022

AGA helps new members advance, grow, and accelerate their careers!

AGA National has challenged the Boston Chapter to work together to see if everyone in our chapter can recruit one new member this year. So this year, we are upping the offer by throwing in prizes to our supporting members!

Recruitment Prizes

To the Boston Chapter member who recruits the most members for us in the month of November, we are awarding your efforts with prizes such as AGA swag (AGA branded bag and notebook), as well as an Amazon gift card!

AGA membership has its benefits!

With the AGA, you **advance**. You **grow**. You **accelerate**.

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.

Visit the AGA Boston website for more information on how to join AGA!



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Chapter Announcements

SAVE THE DATE! AGA Boston Chapter Holiday Luncheon Earn 1 CPE!

Stephen Anzalone; Assistant Director, Bureau of Special Investigations for the Office of the State Auditor, will present "**Public Benefits Fraud.**"



When: Thursday, December 1, 2022

Where: Maggiano's Little Italy, 4 Columbus Ave, Park Square, Boston. Parking available next door. Please visit their [website](#) for more info.

Time: Registration begins at 11:30 AM and family style lunch starts at 12:00 PM, guest speaker session from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM (1 CPE)

Registration: Please check the Chapter's website for information on how to register for this event.

Donations: Please consider bringing an unwrapped child's toy to the lunch! Toys will be donated to a non-profit organization. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please call the Chapter's Director for Community Service Marcia Luciano at 508-558-3199



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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 the AGA Boston Chapter Website.

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

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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Member Spotlight

Young Professional Perspective: Serving with AGA Boston

by Sara Baruffaldi

I have been serving with AGA's Boston Chapter as the Young Professional (YP) Advisor for about two years. I had started a new job with the State Auditor's office in March of 2020, my first day being the first day of working from home due to the pandemic. Little did I know that I wouldn't meet my co-workers in person for another two years. My manager at the time recommended that I sign up for an AGA membership, even if it was only for CPE trainings. Nine months later, the then president of the local chapter emailed me asking if I wanted to join the executive committee as the YP Advisor.



I believe the (virtual) networking opportunities this position has provided has been one of the biggest perks for me. I have made connections with others from my office, as well as around the country! I was given the opportunity to virtually attend and volunteer at a national professional development conference, connect with a mentor, and help create a series of YP/Women in Leadership events between my office and the chapter.

Looking back to when I was first asked to be a part of the team, I didn't know just how much of an opportunity it would turn out to be.

News From AGA 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/Resources/intergov.aspx>

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Community Service News

Remembering and Paying Tribute on 9/11

In remembrance of the 21st anniversary of 9/11, the AGA Boston Chapter's Community Service Committee challenged our members to perform an act of kindness and giving. The committee suggested these acts of kindness could include leaving a kind server a generous tip, complimenting someone, or providing an elderly person a ride.

Many of the Chapter's members accepted the challenge and performed the following acts of kindness on September 11, 2022:

- In the spirit of paying it forward, George Anastos reported buying the coffee and munchkins for the car behind him.
- Shana Doiron reported volunteering for the parent group in her town as the treasurer and spent some time putting together the budget.
- Elaine Silva reported when the elderly woman in front of me at the grocery store realized she was short \$17.56, and was going to put food back, she paid for it instead.
- William Muench reported volunteering to drive a friend to the hospital for a doctor's appointment. He also attended a meeting to help plan a town family day.
- Ben Howe reported picking up trash at a local sports field.



Chapter member and Community Service chair Marcia Luciano providing cookies to an acquaintance during a past tribute challenge for 9/11

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Community Service News

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The AGA Boston Chapter would like to encourage our members and friends to sponsor a wreath for the Holiday Season through **Wreaths Across America**, a 501(c)(3) organization. Their mission is to place a wreath on every veteran's grave throughout the United States each December. You can sponsor a wreath in honor of a living veteran, in memory of those family/friends that have passed, or in memory of a non-veteran, too. **This is a great way to honor a family member or a friend!**

The Boston Chapter selected the Massachusetts National Cemetery at Bourne to place our wreaths. In 2021, the Chapter donated **59 WREATHS!**

The last day to order a wreath is November 28, 2022. When ordering a wreath please use our Chapter code—MA0119. All wreaths will be placed on graves on Saturday, December 17, 2022, during ceremonies at over 1,200 cemeteries, throughout the United States. It is only \$15 to sponsor a wreath.

Please visit the website at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MA0119> to order wreaths and use our Chapter code--**MA0119**. When your logged in website above, if you wish to honor a relative/friend, go to Options - In Honor and Memory Of... You can also call 1-877-385-9504 to order wreaths.

The AGA Boston Chapter thanks you!



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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/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Membership/Membership.aspx>

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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 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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Corporate Partners

RSM

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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.

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CLA (CliftonLarsenAllen LLP)

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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](#).

BerryDunn

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BerryDunn is a nationally recognized firm providing assurance, tax, and consulting services. Our team of auditors, consultants, IT security experts, attorneys, actuaries, cost analysts, and statisticians has years of experience working with public sector clients.

We help manage risk, maintain fiscal integrity and compliance, strengthen cybersecurity, and optimize operations. We can work independently or integrate seamlessly with your project team.

Learn more at berrydunn.com

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

2022–2023 Officers and Directors

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| Chapter President George Anastos | Chapter President-Elect Sarah Mongeau, CGFM |
| Immediate Past President Shana Doiron | Chapter Treasurer Male Kamyra |
| National Council of Chapters Representative Patrick M. Sullivan | Strategies and Planning Peter Scavotto |
| Accountability Outreach Parris Sophia Kyriakakis | Community Service Marcia Luciano |
| Programs and Education Aprel McCabe | Membership and Early Career Programs Elaine Silva, CFS |
| Bylaws and Procedures William Bell | Mentorships Benjamin Howe, CFE |
| CGFM/Professional Certification Yoko McCarthy, CGFM | Registrations Robert Birmingham |
| Sponsorships William Muench, CGFM, CPA, CFE | Communications Jon Dearborn |
| Webmaster Jon Dearborn | Assistant Director to the Webmaster David LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS |
| Senior Advisor Benjamin Howe, CFE | Young Professionals Advisor Sara A. Baruffaldi |
| Municipal Advisor Alex Mireku | Federal Advisor Matthew Twomey |



Boston Chapter

