



## 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 the 2020-2021 program year is over! Congratulations to the new Boston Chapter Executive Committee members for the upcoming program year. We are excited to have some new faces on the committee. The committee is getting ready for a great year!

Also, a huge thanks goes out to those committee members moving on this year. We very much appreciate all your efforts!

Interested in seeing some new or different events hosted by the Boston Chapter? Volunteer and share your ideas! We would love to hear what ideas you have to make the Boston Chapter the best that it can be! Come join us to find out more - your opinions and thoughts count!

Contact Benjamin Howe at [benjaminrhowe@yahoo.com](mailto:benjaminrhowe@yahoo.com) for more information.

\*Please note most photos used in this newsletter and the other newsletters published during the 2020-2021 program year 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 Announcements

## Congratulations to the Following Chapter Members!

AGA Boston Chapter would like to congratulate the following individuals who were voted by the membership to serve as our Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) for the upcoming 2021-2022 program year:

Chapter President - Shana Doiron

President-Elect - Stetson Marshall

Treasurer - Male Kamyra

Secretary - Jane Gustowski

Programs and Education Vice President - Corrine Steller

Strategies and Planning Vice President - George Anastos

In addition to the voted members, the following individuals will also serve the CEC:

Immediate Past President	Benjamin Howe, CFE
National Council of Chapters Representative	Daniel Bonnette, CPA
CGFM/Professional Certification Director	April McCabe
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
Communications Director	Stacy L. Hoag
Webmaster	David A. LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS
Young Professionals Advisor	Sara A. Baruffaldi
Municipal Advisor	Alex A. Mireku
Advisory Task Force - Past Presidents	Joseph N. Valchuis, CGFM
Federal (Military) Advisor	CDR Patrick M. Sullivan

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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](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.

## Boston Chapter Volunteer of the Year!

Congratulations Karen Payne!

Karen has made a tremendous impact on the AGA Boston Chapter during the 2020-2021 program year. As the chapter's current Director of Registrations, Karen is responsible for tracking and reporting on enrollment for all chapter events in a timely manner. Karen has also made important contributions to the missions of the chapter's education and community service committees; for example, she has contributed to planning for the AGA Boston Chapter's 2021 Winter Seminar. Karen has also volunteered to assist the Director of CGFM/Professional Certification implement certification programs. Additionally, Karen supported past AGA National Professional Development Trainings. Karen's diligence and dedication creates opportunities for the AGA Boston Chapter to offer valuable educational opportunities to members and nonmembers alike.

Karen is a Senior Auditor with the Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor and she is well appreciated by all of us here!

## 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](mailto:elaine.silva@comcast.net).**



## Chapter Training Events

### Virtual Regional Professional Training Event

AGA Boston would like to thank the 160 members and nonmembers who participated in the Boston Chapter's Regional Professional Development

Training held on May 20, 2021. Speakers for this event included Ernie Almonte, a past AGA National President, Eric Berman, Eide Bailly LLP, and Ronald Meldonian and Steven Tremblay, EY. Participants were issued seven continuing professional education credits for attending the event. The Chapter donated to local charity Birthday Wishes on behalf of the speakers.



### Elevating Your Career Virtual Career Panel

On July 15, 2021, the Chapter hosted a diverse group of female accountability professionals, moderated by AGA National President Wendy Morton-Huddleston, on topics ranging from how to nurture your professional growth and overcome obstacles to tips on how to set your professional goals and achieve them. Their reflections and advice helped to inform participants and left them feeling empowered and energized to take on a new project, reach out to a mentor or embark on a new professional certification.

Panelists for this event included:

- Rosalin Acosta, Secretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Sandra Richtermeyer, Ph.D., Dean of the Manning School of Business, UMASS Lowell
- Kimberly Jones, CGFM/Education Programs Manager, AGA

Thanks to everyone who came out for a Chapter event this program year! We hope to see you at a future event. For more information about Chapter events, visit

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

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.

# Community Service

## AGA Boston Community Service Event!

The Boston Chapter supported a Red Cross blood drive at St. Ann's Church in Raynham, MA on May 14, 2021. The event was a success! The Red Cross collected 29 pints of blood. The Chapter would like to thank everyone who participated in this event.

For more information about the Red Cross, visit <https://www.redcross.org/>.



The Chapter's Community Service Committee will continue collections and volunteering in the upcoming program 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).

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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 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.

Last year, the Chapter hosted the first ever instructor led face-to-face training to ensure those interested in taking the CGFM exams were on a path to success. As COVID-19 became more intense, the Chapter recognized the need to shift gears, and moved the last portion of the training onto a virtual platform. The inaugural class was conducted with 30 participants from across the Commonwealth and provided an opportunity for real-time interaction with a CGFM instructor and to gain real world, on the job insight as shared by the instructor and colleagues.

**What's happening in the world of Boston AGA - CGFM?** The inaugural training class was a success, and we are doing it again! The Chapter is in the process of scheduling the second instructor led program for Spring 2021. The format of this training will be virtual and provide the same experience as the 2020 training. Details for registration will be coming late March, CGFM month. Act fast! Spaces will be limited to 30 participants so that we can ensure a class size that provides the optimal learning and engagement experience.

Current CGFMs - we have not forgotten about you! There are currently 68 active CGFMs in the Boston Chapter and we are continuously seeking ways to provide support and ways for you to pay it forward. In the pipeline we have a CGFM round table and panel discussions.

For more information about the CGFM certification, visit

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

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# Welcome New Members

The Boston Chapter would like to welcome the following to the group:

Corrine Steller

Ann M. Ring

Brian D. Johnson

Adam C. Genga

Isabella M. Faught

Alexis Kupis

**Questions about joining AGA**

**and the Boston Chapter?**

**Contact Elaine Silva,**

**Membership and Early Career Programs,**

**at [elaine.silva@comcast.net](mailto:elaine.silva@comcast.net) or visit**

**<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/>**

**[Boston-Chapter/Membership.aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Boston-Chapter/Membership.aspx).**



## 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](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.

# Colleagues in Our Area

## National Council of Chapters Representatives near us

*Benton W. Cash*  
Aroostook County Chapter  
Benton.w.cash.civ@mail.mil

*Dan Bonnette, CPA*  
Boston Chapter  
Dan.bonnette@rsmus.com

*Brian E. Gee*  
New York Capital Chapter  
brian.gee@opwdd.ny.gov

*Melissa Jones*  
New York Chapter  
melissa.jones@oig.hhs.gov

*Joseph H. Connolly, CFE, CICA,*  
Northern New Jersey Chapter  
Joco1121@yahoo.com

*Kiersten Kokotajlo, CFE, CICA*  
Trenton Chapter  
kkokotajlo@njleg.org

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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)



## 2020–2021 Officers and Directors

Chapter President Benjamin R. Howe, CFE	Chapter President-Elect (nominated) Shana C. Doiron
Immediate Past President Craig C. Hall, MPA	Secretary Jane Gustowski, CPA
National Council of Chapters Representative Daniel Bonnette, CPA	Chapter Treasurer Jeffrey A. Benbenek, CGAP
Accountability Outreach Christina M. Lento	Community Service Marcia R. Luciano
Programs and Education Joseph N. Valchuis, CGFM	Membership and Early Career Programs Elaine M. Silva, CFS
Audit Shana C. Doiron	Scholarships and Awards Jonathan L. Markowski
Bylaws and Procedures William J. Bell	Mentorships Sarah B. Mongeau, CGFM
CGFM/Professional Certification Stetson Marshall	Registrations Karen L. Payne
Sponsorships William A. Muench, CGFM, CPA, CFE	Strategies and Planning Male' Kamyra
Webmaster David A. LeBlanc, CGFM, CFS	Newsletter Editor George C. Anastos
Social Media Stacy Hoag	Advisors to the President Sara A. Baruffaldi, Brandon J. Lacy, Alex Mireku, and Patrick M. Sullivan

