

PROGRAM YEAR

2025 - 2026

FEBRUARY & MARCH EDITION

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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SCAN ME



SPRING AHEAD - LETTER FROM ERIC (PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE)

Dear AGA Members & Friends,

As we welcome the month of March, we begin to see early signs of spring & get a certain sense of renewal that comes with the changing of seasons. With longer days & warmer weather ahead (hopefully), this time of year reminds us of new opportunities for growth & fresh beginnings

The AGA Trenton Chapter continues to build on momentum from the start of the year thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, members, sponsors, & supporters. We look forward to providing new & valuable opportunities through webinars, professional development, scholarships, campus outreach, community service, & other events that bring our chapter & community together.

In closing, I would like to end with a poem. Spring has sprung, days grow bright, spreadsheets glow in warmer light. Coffee is strong, meetings are long, but AGA keeps marching on. On behalf of our chapter, thank you for your continued support.

Wishing everyone a wonderful start to the New Year & spring season.

Sincerely,
Eric G. Fonseca

NEWSLETTER NOTICES

Mentorships
build a trustworthy,
collaborative, safe
and open
relationship.



AGA Mentoring Program

The program is open to AGA members only.

We all have a responsibility to leave this world better than we found it and to have a positive impact on the next generation of government leaders. Mentoring is important, not only because of the knowledge and skills young professionals can learn from mentors, but also because mentoring provides professional socialization and personal support.



AGA Trenton Chapter is currently soliciting and accepting thoughtful articles on a wide range of government financial topics, and may also publish articles relating to Tax, Practice Management, Financial Reporting, Audit, and Accounting. Chosen articles will be featured in the next newsletter and may qualify for CPE credits. For additional information, please contact: agatrenton@gmail.com.

TOP
TIPS



Email AGA or contact a board member with any personal news you would like to share to the Chapter in future newsletters.

Members' Milestones

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS

Anthony L. Manno
Terence P. Sharkey
Rose M. Todaro
Anthony J. Glebocki
Robert J. Alu
Janet E. Gregorovic
Betty Jane Eddowes
Richard Grahovac
Steven J. Csogi
Michael L. Einhorn
Paul R. Baron
Thomas Troutman
Michael P. Fabian
William G. Shannon
David J. Kaschak
Michael Rinaldi
Edward P. Haag
Elliot Gorman
Richard Nicomini
David Josey
Martin J. Lenhard
Albert E. Giacchetti
Peter W. Kornutick
Thomas F. Pezanowski

AGA Trenton Chapter congratulates the following members celebrating 20 or more years of membership:

20 Years

Rajaram S. Vasan
Christopher D. Soleau
Margarita Stanislavskaya
Warren Alan Broudy
Nicole J. Kane
James C. Reimel
Nat L. Jackson
Peter R. Wozniak
Louis D. Leigh, Jr.

25 Years

Irfan A. Bora
Jack H. Fein
Karl e. dALHBERG
Barbara E. Galager
Robert H. Davidson
Claudine W. Zellman
Gerald J. Miller
Mark E. Talbot
Susan Ward

30 Years

Anthony Abbaleo
Mark E. Talbot
Guy L. Tassi
Claudine W. Zellman

35 Years

Connie M. Mason
James M. King
Richard F. Keevey
Gwendolyn Jackson
Andrew C. Bishop
David Gotlib

AGATM

Trenton Chapter

Upcoming Events

National Leadership Training 2026

REGISTER NOW!

	AGA Members	Nonmembers
Early Bird (before Jan. 30)	\$575	\$750
Standard	\$675	\$850

Designed for current and future leaders, NLT offers practical strategies, expert perspectives and CPE opportunities. Financial management professionals in government come together to share ideas, build skills and strengthen leadership across all levels of government.

AGA Government Members	Government Non-members	Private Sector
Free	\$70	Via Sponsorship

Performance Counts brings together public sector professionals to share tools and strategies that link performance data to financial management. Designed for performance management, evaluation, and finance professionals, the event brings together experts to discuss best practices, success stories, and innovations in public sector performance and accountability.

Date - February 18, 2026

Location - Washington, D.C.

AGA NATIONAL EVENTS

AGA Webinars

GASB Update

Date - February 4, 2026
Location - Live/Virtual

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT

Date - March 17, 2026
Location - Washington, D.C.

CGFM Webinar

Strategies for Success for CGFM Candidates

Date - March 26, 2026
Location - Live/Virtual

AGA Webinars

Ethics

Date - April 15, 2026
Location - Live/Virtual

Live Virtual

Date - April 20, 2026
Location - Live/Virtual

CGFM COURSE 3

Governmental Financial Management and Control

AGA Webinars

Fraud/Data Analytics

Date - April 22, 2026
Location - Live/Virtual

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER NOTICES

Renew Your Membership!
You can also give the gift of Membership

Join us!



Get your CGFM Certification!

Check our our Job Board for opportunities!



Trenton Chapter



Paul Vidunas Charity For The 2025–2026 Year



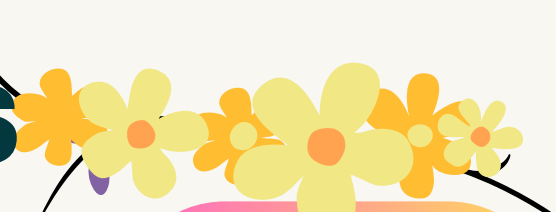
MISSION, VALUES & IMPACT

NAMI Mercer is a robust, independently-operating affiliate of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Located in Hamilton, NJ, NAMI Mercer serves New Jersey's Capital region. NAMI Mercer listens, leads, educates, and advocates, empowering families and individuals affected by mental illness to build lives of quality and respect, free of stigma and discrimination.

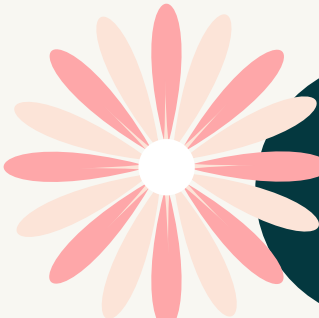
NAMI Mercer is a qualified 501(c)3 organization.



SPRING EVENTS SCHEDULE



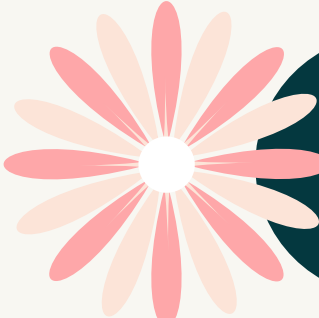
2026



HAPPY HOUR AT BLEND BAR!

Date - March 26, 2026

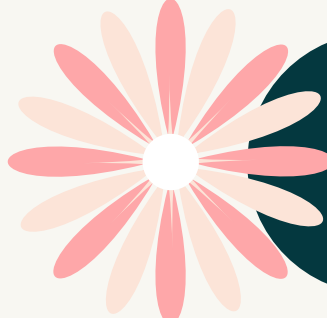
Location - Blend Bar, Hamilton, NJ



AGA TRENTON 2026 SPRING PDT

Date - TBA

Location - TBA



AGA TRENTON ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Date - May 7, 2026

Location - Villa Mannino



Save the date



Trenton Chapter

Happy Hour

Thursday, March 26th

at Blend Bar & Bistro

4:30pm – 6:30pm



Appetizers and Happy Hour beverages will be provided.

FREE to potential new members and current AGA members.

\$15 for guests of AGA members.

Registration now open on the AGA website.



YOU'RE INVITED TO...

AGA Trenton's
2026 Annual
Awards Dinner

May 7 | 5:30 pm

VILLA MANNINO
73 ROUTE 130, BORDENTOWN, NJ
08620

Rsvp

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER



DESCRIPTION OF 2026 AWARDS

The Trenton AGA annually recognizes outstanding individuals with meritorious achievement in the field of financial management. This is a great opportunity to recognize your staff. We are pleased to announce that the awards committee is currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

Distinguished Leadership Award

Conferred on individuals in government service who have provided sustained outstanding leadership in government management (financial, IT, human resources, etc.) over a period of years, resulting in notable contributions to government management. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA).

Achievement of the Year Award

Accords recognition for leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, or improving management in government. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA but must have been employed in government service at the time the work being recognized as performed).

Education and Training Award

Conferred on individuals who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government employees. (Nominee need not be a member of AGA).

Special Achievement Award

Accords recognition for notable contributions toward improving government management (financial, IT, human resources, etc.) early in a professional career. (Nominee must be under the age of thirty-five at the end of the preceding calendar year to be eligible for this award).

Thomas J. Kaschak Memorial Scholarship

Established as a memorial to Thomas J. Kaschak, a member of the Trenton Chapter of the AGA and First Vice President at the time of his death in 1982. A scholarship is presented, together with a plaque at the Chapter's Annual Awards Meeting, to an individual who is demonstrating sound scholastic achievement, in addition to participation in extracurricular and/or civic activities. (Nominees must be enrolled in an institution of higher learning in the pursuit of a degree. First priority for scholarship will be given to the dependents of Chapter members.).

*****NOTE: To nominate someone for this scholarship, you must fill out and complete the attached "2026 TJK Scholarship Application" and attach any High School or College Transcripts*****

AWARDS COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER CANDIDATES OUTSIDE OF THE STATED PARAMETERS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS

If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the following steps no later than
March 20th, 2026:

**Please complete and submit the nomination form and return back via email
(agatrenton@gmail.com)**

2026 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER AWARDS

Date: _____

I would like to nominate the following individual for a 2026 AGA Trenton Chapter Award:

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City/State/Zip) _____

(Telephone Number) _____

Please check the designation of the award for which you nominate this individual.

CHECK ONE ONLY

- ☐ Distinguished Leadership Award
- ☐ Achievement of the Year Award
- ☐ Education and Training Award
- ☐ Special Achievement Award
- ☐ Thomas J. Kaschak Memorial Scholarship*

** Note: This award requires submission of the "Scholarship Application"*

Additional supporting information may accompany this nomination form. Please be concise as possible. We may contact you for additional information, if necessary.

Biographical Sketch of Nominee (position, title, education, other pertinent background information, etc.)

Description of Accomplishments/Achievements

Citation (For use as the formal award citation. Succinctly describe accomplishments, particularly their impact or results).

Signature of Nominator _____

Printed Name of Nominator _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

◆ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is March 20, 2026** ◆

E-Mail Nomination Forms to:
agatrenton@gmail.com

Membership-Scholarship Program

In order to promote the AGA-Trenton Chapter and its membership, the AGA-Trenton's "Membership-scholarship" program (the Program) was launched in January 2011. For one year, the Program sponsors National and Trenton's Chapter AGA membership dues, CPE awarding monthly meetings, Annual Fall Seminar and Annual Spring Symposium for the individuals (one or more) who meet the following selected criteria.

The qualified individual is the one who:

- * Works for Federal, State, or Local Government
- * Performs accounting, auditing, or IT related duties
- * Has not previously been a member of AGA-Trenton
- * Regularly attends (commits to attend) AGA-Trenton Chapter's functions (e.g. monthly meetings, Seminar and Symposium, etc.)
- * Agrees to serve as a Board member (at the position available or assigned by the Board)
- * Committed to actively promote the AGA-Trenton Chapter, its membership, and events

Evaluation criteria and scholarship's term:

At the end of the first year the Program's Committee will evaluate the scholarship recipient's performance based on the criteria specified above, and, if satisfied, this member may be awarded one more year of the sponsorship for full membership (Dues-National and Trenton Chapter-only).

The application for the Program will be placed on AGA-Trenton website shortly. The scholarship recipient will be announced and introduced at AGA-Trenton's annual Award Dinner in May 2026. Please, forward this information to your colleagues, clients, and friends. Please, nominate your colleagues, clients, and friends who are not yet members of AGA-Trenton.

The due date for the application/nomination is March 20, 2026.

Or you may fill out the application on the next page and return via email agatrenton@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you,
Tanja Fessler, Director of Awards



**AGA-Trenton Chapter
Membership-Scholarship Program
Application**

Name _____

Place of work _____

Position _____

Contact Info _____

Experience _____

Candidate Statement (why interested in joining AGA) _____

Comments/References (optional) _____



AGA created the Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM) program in 1994 to fill a need in the government financial management community. Through preparation and exams encompassing governmental accounting, auditing, internal controls, budgeting, and financial reporting at all levels of government, CGFMs become well versed in the knowledge and skills needed for the rigors and complexities of their duties. Furthermore, coverage of federal, state and local government financial management allows CGFMs to expand their career opportunities throughout the United States.



Certified Government Financial Manager

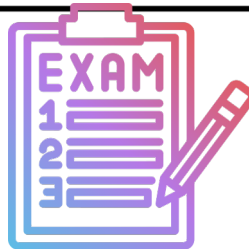
WHAT IS CGFM?

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.

CGFM is a respected credential that recognizes the specialized knowledge and experience needed to be an effective government financial manager. Being a CGFM allows you to expand your career opportunities and distinguishes you from others in your field.

WHAT IS THE CGFM CERTIFICATION PROCESS?

- Step 1 — Read AGA's Code of Ethics
- Step 2 — Apply for the CGFM Program
- Step 3 — Submit Required Degree Documentation
- Step 4 — Receive an Eligibility Letter
- Step 5 — Prepare for the CGFM Examinations
- Step 6 — Schedule the CGFM Examinations
- Step 7 — Take the CGFM Examinations
- Step 8 — Submit a Work Verification Form
- Step 9 — Receive CGFM Award Letter
- Step 10 — Receive Your CGFM Certificate and Maintain Your Certification



HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE EXAMS?

- Take AGA's Live, Virtual Courses
- AGA's CGFM Online Training Portal
- In-person: Individuals looking for scheduled classroom training can register for CGFM course 1, course 2 and course 3 held through Management Concepts.

SAMPLE AGA CGFM EXAM QUESTION

AGA CGFM Exam Sample Question

1. According to the AGA Code of Ethics, a vendor using an agency contract monitor as a personal reference on a resume, would constitute
 - a. Fraud.
 - b. Professional Incompetence.
 - c. A Conflict of Interest.
 - d. Nepotism.

CGFM Examinations Requirement

The three comprehensive examinations that make up the core requirement of the CGFM program are:

- Examination 1: Governmental Environment (GE)
- Examination 2: Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting (GAFRB)
- Examination 3: Governmental Financial Management and Control (GFMC)

AGA's CGFM Online Training Portal

Online preparation for CGFM examinations with AGA's self-paced courses

[Learn more »](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ADDITIONAL CGFM REFERENCES](#)





2026 POGO Promotion: Pass one, get one!

Pass any CGFM exam between January and March 2026 and receive a voucher for a FREE CGFM exam!

How it works:

1. Pass one of your CGFM exams between Jan. 1 and March 31.
2. Receive the voucher code via email within 7 days.
3. Schedule and take your CGFM exam using the voucher code before June 30.

Terms and conditions:

- Passing a CGFM exam prior to Jan. 1, 2026, or after March 31, 2026, will not qualify for this promotion.
- Voucher codes will only be issued to current CGFM candidates who have passed a CGFM exam between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2026, and who still need to pass at least one CGFM exam.
- Vouchers will be issued automatically via email and distributed on Monday (or the next business day) after you pass your exam.
- Candidates who pass two exams during the Jan.-March 2026 period are eligible to receive two exam vouchers if they still need to pass another CGFM exam.
- All exam voucher codes will expire on **June 30, 2026**, and this deadline will not be extended for any reason. Testing appointments may fill up — candidates are encouraged to schedule their appointment as soon as possible.



Prepare with Confidence for the CGFM Certification

AGA's **Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®)** study guides are designed to help candidates succeed on the CGFM exams. The **2024 edition** is the latest and most up-to-date version, available in two convenient formats: **print** and **online access**.

Online access is provided through the [VitalSource bookstore](#), which offers a six-month subscription. Study guides can also be accessed online or offline via the

Thank You To Our Sponsors!



AGA TRENTON CHAPTER'S FEBRUARY 2026 BALANCE SHEET

AGA TRENTON CHAPTER FEBRUARY 2026

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
CASH - SAVINGS	\$24,825.51	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$304.00
CASH - CHECKING	\$20,448.65	DEFERRED INCOME	\$0.00
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$250.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$304.00
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$766.78		
OTHER ASSETS	\$100.50	FUND BALANCE	\$46,087.44
TOTAL ASSETS	\$46,391.44	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$46,391.44

Hello. Nice to Meet You!



2025-2026 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
CHAPTER PRESIDENT-ELECT
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
TREASURER-ELECT
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS REPRESENTATIVE

ERIC FONSECA
AMANDA IRELAND
DOUGLASS MACARTHUR
JOSEPH PICA
ERIC CARTER
ABEEDA RAZACK
MEGHAN ELLIS

DIRECTORS

ACCOUNTABILITY
ACE REPORTING
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
BYLAWS & PROCEDURES
CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMUNITY SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE
EARLY CAREERS
EDUCATION
HISTORIAN
MEETINGS & EVENTS
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
PROGRAMS
PROGRAMS
SOCIAL MEDIA
SPONSORSHIPS
WEBMASTER
WEBMASTER
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

KIERSTEN ZADWORNEY
AMANDA IRELAND
TANJA FESSLER
DAVID KASCHAK
MORGAN STEC
NAT JACKSON
STEPHANIE RYBAK
ABEEDA RAZACK
CHRISTOPHER FUCCELLO
ANDREW SILVA
AMANDA IRELAND
ROSE TODARO
ERIC FONSECA
MORGAN STEC
MARIE SAMSON
RENE GERVASONI
ROBERT RIZZO
MEGHAN ELLIS
NIKKI FARRELL
MICHELLE BLATT
MEGHAN ELLIS
ANDREW SILVA

Additional Resources



CONTACT US

<https://www.facebook.com/AGATrentonNJ>
 agatrenton@gmail.com
 <https://www.agacgfm.org/trenton>