

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Members and Friends:*

*It's hard to believe, but, we are heading into the final few weeks of my year as President. However, we do have a lot of activities scheduled to close out the fiscal year. Our last Audio Conference of the year will be on April 29th (2PM-3:50PM), at the NJ Department of Labor, Auditorium. The topic will be "Fraud Prevention."*

*Just two days later, May 1st, we will be hosting our Spring Symposium "Strategies and Solutions for New Jersey's Fiscal Future" at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Trenton. I'm certain that Symposium Chair, Christine Muller, has put together another outstanding program.*

*Finally, on May 12th, we have our Awards Dinner at Villa Mannino Ristorante, in Bordentown, to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. I hope to see you at one or more of these events.*

*Sincerely,  
Guy Tassi  
Trenton Chapter President*

**TRENTON  
CHAPTER**

**AGGA**

*Association of Government Accountants*



# **AGA Trenton Chapter-Spring Symposium: May 1, 2015**

## **Strategies and Solutions for New Jersey's Fiscal Future**

**Opening Session:** 8:30am - 10:30am Grand Ballroom

Trenton Central High School Junior ROTC presenting the colors Paul Reilly performing The National Anthem

**Keynote Presentation:** Robert Peden, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget

### **Plenary Session: Trenton's Revitalization**

Eric Jackson - Mayor, City of Trenton; Monique King-Viehland - Dir. of Housing & Urban Dev. - City of Trenton; David Henderson - HHG Development Associates, LLC and Claudio Oliveira - General Manager, Sun National Bank Center

**Concurrent Workshops:** 10:45am - 12:00pm

Track 1: Fiscal Issues - Salon A: Technology Audits

Track 2: Public Policy Issues - Salon C: Procurement Update

**Lunch 12:00pm - 1:30pm Grand Ballroom**

**Luncheon Speaker** - Bill Dressel - Executive Director, NJ State League of Municipalities

**Concurrent Workshops:** 1:45pm - 3:00pm

Track 1: Fiscal Issues - Salon A: GASB 67 and 68 Update

Track 2: Public Policy Issues - Salon C: Size Might Not Matter - A look at consolidation of municipalities

**Concurrent Workshops:** 3:15pm - 4:30pm

Track 1: Fiscal Issues - Salon A: Moody's Bond Ratings

Track 2: Public Policy Issues - Salon C: Technology Risk Management

### **Credit for Continuing Education**

**7 credits in the subject area of "Accounting/Government Environment".**

**\*\*\*CPE certificates will be available at the conclusion of the symposium. In the event of your early departure, the certificate will be adjusted accordingly and mailed.\*\*\***



**Free CGFM® Exam for AGA Members!** AGA members can now take a CGFM examination for free. Enroll in the CGFM program in April or May and save \$125!

To qualify for this promotion, an individual must:

1. Be a [current member of AGA](#) for the 2015-2016 membership year, and
2. Complete the CGFM application requirements between 4/1/15 and 5/31/15 (Note: this includes submitting the online CGFM application form, paying the \$85 application fee and submitting the [required official college transcript](#) to the AGA Office of Professional Certification).

Individuals who have met the above criteria and are enrolled in the CGFM program will be issued an exam voucher that can be used in lieu of payment for the Governmental Environment examination taken at a Pearson VUE testing center. The testing appointment must be scheduled and the exam must be taken by November 30, 2015.

#### **FAQs:**

##### **Q: What qualifies me as a current member of AGA?**

**A:** Current members of AGA are individuals who have either renewed their AGA membership for 2015-2016 membership year or joined AGA no later than May 31, 2015.

##### **Q: I submitted my online CGFM application before April 1, 2015, but not the college transcript. Do I qualify for the promotion?**

**A:** Yes, provided you submit the required official transcript to the AGA certification department in April or May 2015 and your online CGFM application was submitted within the six-month period preceding receipt of your transcript.

##### **Q: I am currently a CGFM candidate (enrolled prior to April 1, 2015). If I join AGA in April or May, can I qualify for this promotion?**

**A:** This promotion is for AGA members who enroll as CGFM candidates during April and May 2015. Nonmembers and those who enrolled in the CGFM program prior to 4/1/15 do not qualify for this promotion.

##### **Q: When will I receive my exam voucher?**

**A:** Once your CGFM online application form, application fee payment and required transcript are received and approved by the Office of Certification, AGA will enroll you in the CGFM program and email you an eligibility letter. The letter is sent out within 5 business days of AGA receiving your application and transcript. The Exam 1 vouchers will be emailed to newly enrolled CGFM candidates who qualified for the promotion on 4/15, 4/30, 5/15, 6/1, and 6/15.

##### **Q: Do I have to take CGFM Examination 1 by May 31, 2015?**

**A:** No, all exam appointments using these vouchers must take place by November 30, 2015.

##### **Q: When does the voucher expire and can the expiration be extended?**

**A:** All exam vouchers expire on November 30, 2015. All exam appointments using these vouchers must take place by November 30, 2015. The voucher expiration date will not be extended for any reason.

##### **Q: Can I exchange the voucher for another exam or product?**

**A:** No. This offer is not transferable or exchangeable for other products, services or cash. The voucher is valid through November 30, 2015 and is only for CGFM Exam 1: Governmental Environment.

**Questions?** Any questions regarding this promotion should be directed to the Office of Professional Certification at [agacgfm@agacgfm.org](mailto:agacgfm@agacgfm.org) or 703.684.6931.

## AGA Important Dates

Meeting Date	Event Name	Location	CPEs
04/29/2015	<b><u>Audio Conference (2:00 - 3:50 pm)</u></b> Topic: Fraud Prevention	NJ Dept of Labor, Auditorium 1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625	2
05/01/2015	<b><u>Spring Symposium</u></b>	Wyndham Garden Hotel 1 W. Lafayette St. Trenton, NJ 08608	7
05/12/2015	<b><u>Awards Dinner @ 5:30 pm</u></b>	Villa Mannino Ristorante 73 Route 130 North Bordentown, New Jersey	



### **The Association of Government Accountants - Trenton Chapter presents:**

**"Strategies and Solutions for New Jersey's Fiscal Future"**

**Friday, May 1, 2015**

**Wyndham Lafayette Trenton**

**7 CPE's**

For more information: <http://www.agatrenton.com/events-edu.cfm>






**Get Social!** AGA Trenton Chapter is on Facebook! Connect with colleagues and friends. Like us!

<https://www.facebook.com/aga.trentonchapter>

- **NO MONTHLY MEETING**
- **Wednesday, April 29th** - Audio Conference 2:00 to 3:50 pm,  
Topic: Fraud Prevention, Location: NJ Depart of Labor  
(Auditorium), 1 John Fitch Plaza, Trenton, NJ 08625 (2 CPEs)



**Trenton Chapter Association of  
Government Accountants**  
PO Box 536  
Trenton, NJ 08603

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Good Friday 	4
5 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29  Audio Conference	30		

**Friday, May 1st** - AGA Trenton Chapter Spring Symposium; “Strategies & Solutions for New Jersey’s Fiscal Future”, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Location: Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1 W. Lafayette St., Trenton, NJ (7 CPEs)

**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** - Awards Dinner @ 5:30 pm; Location: Villa Mannino Ristorante, 73 Route 130 North, Bordentown, NJ

**Trenton Chapter Association of  
Government Accountants  
PO Box 536  
Trenton, NJ 08603**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 SPRING SYMPOSIUM	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12 <b>Awards Dinner</b>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 	26	27	28	29	30

# Expand Your Career Options

with *CGFM*<sup>®</sup> certification



## The Mark of Excellence for Government Financial Professionals

CGFM is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers. It covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls and budgeting at the federal, state and local levels.

### Initial Certification Requirements

To earn the CGFM, candidates must apply for the CGFM Program and meet the following requirements:

- **Ethics**—read and agree to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics.
- **Education**—have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- **Examinations**— pass three comprehensive CGFM Examinations.
- **Experience**— have at least two years of professional-level experience in government financial management.

Learn more about the process of earning the CGFM designation.

## Questions about CGFM?

If you are interested in pursuing the CGFM please contact Margarita Stanislavskaya at [mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org](mailto:mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org)

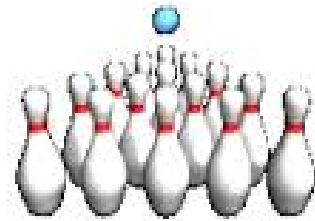
For more information about the CGFM, please visit <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/overview.aspx>

## AGA—Trenton Chapter Balance Sheet as of 2/28/15

<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Cash - Savings	\$2,175.50
Cash - Checking	18,884.98
Accts Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	0.00
PrePaid Expenses	<u>1,800.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$22,860.48</b>

<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$701.00
Deferred Income	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>22,159.48</u>
<b>TOTAL L&amp;E</b>	<b>\$22,860.44</b>

### AGA Bowling Event



Thanks to everyone who came out for our networking event! We were happy to see AGA members, professionals, and college students from Rider & TCNJ! We were also able to raise money for our Paul Vidunas Charity Fund! Please be sure to visit our website for more information about our association and how to become a member-[www.agatrenton.com](http://www.agatrenton.com)! More pictures from our event can be seen on our Facebook page-[www.facebook.com/agatrentonchapter](http://www.facebook.com/agatrentonchapter)!



## CGFM Celebrates 20 Years!



*Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA, an AGA Past National*

**By: Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CGMA** As the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program celebrates its 20th anniversary, everyone in AGA should be proud of the profound impact we have had in raising the bar and recognizing the special knowledge, skills and abilities of government financial managers at all levels of government, academia and the private sector. We advance government accountability in some of the world's largest, most complex organizations. Nothing compares to what our members tackle day-in and day-out in service to our great Nation.

The CGFM certification specifically addresses this important role of serving the public, recognizing the unique aspects of and reflecting the diversity of government financial management at all levels of government. The designation offers benefits to the CGFMs, their employers and the public, recognizing professionals with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of government financial management. CGFM has become an important part of AGA's mission and, as we see the number of CGFMs grow and celebrate March as CGFM month, it is hard to imagine this program is now 20-years old.

It seems like just yesterday, when I was excitedly readying to assume the mantle as AGA's National President. I planned, and then planned some more, formulating an agenda for what would be a year that passed in a blur. CGFM was absolutely not on my radar screen nor was it part of my original vision for my presidency presented to the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the National Board of Directors (NBD) at PDC 1993 in Orlando. But, then, two things happened that changed my plans and put CGFM center stage.

First, while testifying before a Senate Committee in 1993, the Chairmen and committee members emphasized I was a CPA in setting the stage on why my testimony was important and should be taken seriously. Certainly I am proud to be a CPA; but it struck me that being a CPA was not nearly as relevant to the issues being discussed at the hearing as were the knowledge, skills and abilities gained as a member of the government financial management community and AGA. That started the thought process for me about how to recognize government financial managers and what we do in the public sector that sets us apart from the private sector. The second thing was then National Treasurer Tom Sadowski's long-range fiscal projection. Tom concluded AGA would be financially successful during my presidency and the following year, but would begin experiencing problems with declining membership and limited revenue sources.

These two elements came together – recognition of the special knowledge, skills and abilities of government financial managers through a certification program could also be a springboard for expanding AGA's reach and solidifying our purpose and membership base. So, the wheels went in motion on

what was launched in 1994 as my term as National President was ending. It took a lot of hard work, and support from many people willing to take a chance and move forward into a new world. The stars aligned, and through the knowledge, skills and abilities the CGFM program symbolizes, the AGA team was able to take it from a concept to a highly successful reality.

Two decades later, we are proud to have 9,600 CGFMs in our ranks. Our examinations are rigorous, and our processes for maintaining examinations and program integrity are leadingedge. The CGFM Board, chaired by Gerry Boaz, continues its outstanding work. We are ably supported by a superlative staff led by Katya Silver, Director of Professional Certification, who continues to be the driving force in moving us to greater heights. The CGFM program attracted – and continues to attract – many new members to AGA, under the exceptional leadership of our Executive Directors, Charlie Culkin and Relmond Van Daniker, and our National Presidents.

Special thanks go to the first CGFM Board, which it was my privilege to chair for the first four years – Charles Harrison, Virginia Robinson, Bill Broadus, Sam McCall, Marty Ives and Pete Rose – and Hal Steinberg, for providing his technical expertise at every step. They made everything happen for this ‘start-up’ venture, dedicating countless volunteer hours to a labor of love. Thanks go to many volunteers behind the scenes, led by Bill Anderson, and Eva Williams, who flawlessly processed thousands of applications, and to our chapter CGFM coordinators. Thanks also go to the NEC and the NBD for having the courage to take a chance and move forward with a new concept.

Now, what is the challenge to each of you today as the CGFM program embarks on its next 20 years? First, if you are not already a CGFM, join the proud ranks through our examination process. You will learn a lot as you study for the three examinations. AGA offers excellent study guides and training. If you are already among those honored to be a CGFM, be an ambassador for the program. Encourage others, both in your chapters and at work, to expand their horizon and become a CGFM. There is strength in numbers, and the value of being a CGFM will only grow as the number of CGFMs grows. We have a lot to be proud of from the past two decades, but the best years are ahead as the CGFM program continues its impressive journey.

*Jeffrey C. Steinhoff (Biography)*

*President and a member of AGA’s Washington, DC and Northern Virginia chapters, is the executive director of the KPMG Government Institute and Managing Director in KPMG’s Federal Advisory Services Practice. During a 40-year federal career, where he was assistant comptroller general of the United States for Accounting and Information Management and GAO’s managing director for Financial Management and Assurance, he served on the staff of the Senate Government Affairs Committee and was a principal architect of the CFO Act and the range of companion financial management reform legislation. He helped to found AGA’s CGFM Program, and served as the first chair of the Professional Certification Board. In 2010, he was elected a fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Public Administration.*

## About the Paul Vidunas Memorial Fund



***The Paul Vidunas Memorial Fund*** was established in 1998 shortly after the death of then Trenton Chapter President Paul Vidunas. During his lifetime, Paul was very involved in community service as an enthusiastic volunteer for various community based organizations. The establishment of a fund that would support a variety of community service groups seemed a fitting tribute to this memory.

Each year a different recipient is selected to receive funds collect throughout the Chapter's program year. The charity for this year's Paul Vidunas fund is the Sunshine Foundation. For information about the charity: <http://sunshinefoundation.org/>

The Trenton Chapter AGA holds drawings at monthly meetings and educational events to raise funds for the Paul Vidunas Memorial Fund. For more information on how you can contribute to this worthy cause contact the AGA Trenton local chapter now at <http://www.agatrenton.com/contact.cfm>

*Thank you to all our 2014-2015 season newsletter sponsors!*



The mission of the Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) is to serve the needs of Mercer County improving the quality of life for the residents by providing programs and services for the County, Municipalities, school and fire districts, and not-for-profits in the areas of financing, project management, redevelopment, solid waste and recycling.



KPMG LLP, the U.S. audit, tax and advisory services firm, operates from 87 offices with more than 23,000 employees and partners throughout the U.S. Our purpose is to turn knowledge into value for the benefit of our clients, our people, and the capital markets.



Today's Mercadien focuses on team work and effectively allocating resources to be responsive to each client's needs. The Mercadien Group is a family of distinct companies created to serve the diverse and sophisticated needs of our clients in a capacity far greater than any single organization can offer. The group is comprised of six individual companies situated in one location, providing accounting, auditing, tax planning and compliance, management consulting, technology, wealth management, outsourcing, and investment banking services. We are a group of trusted advisors working in one place, sharing a broad knowledge base, and creating seamless solutions to meet your personal and business objectives.



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## Membership

AGA members form a diverse group of individuals--from students to entry-level employees to senior executives and elected officials--working for local and state governments, school districts and retirement systems, colleges and universities, federal agencies and public accounting firms.

Whatever your role in government financial management, AGA offers a membership package tailored to meet your professional needs and interests.

## AGA Member Types:

### **Full Government Member**

This class of membership requires three or more years of government experience, involving the professional performance of financial management activities in an operational, administrative and/or supervisory capacity. This class is also available to individuals with similar experience outside the government who are engaged in educational activities having the same objectives as the Association, or who have made a contribution toward the improvement of government financial management. \$90 national + 5 local/year

### **Private Sector Member**

This class of membership is available to individuals working for commercial activities/ventures that are actively engaged in and support AGA's purpose and objectives. \$150 + \$5 local/year

### **Early Career Member**

This class of membership is available to government employees with less than three years experience. \$45 + \$5 local/year

### **Student Member Student:**

This class of membership is available to college/university students. \$30 + \$5 local/year

### **Retired**

Call the AGA Customer Satisfaction Center at 800.AGA.7211 to find out about our retired membership category.

## **2014-2015 Chapter Officers and Directors**

**President:** Guy Tassi

**President-Elect, Education:** Audrey Hoyle

**Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee Chair:**

Ann Marie Spagnola

**Vice President of Admin/Finance/Program**

William Challice

**Vice President of Membership:** Robert Rizzo

**Treasurer:** Dave Kaschak

**Secretary:** Kiersten Kokotajlo

**Accountability Outreach Chair:** T.B.D.

**Communications:** Nikki Pennacchio

**Sponsorship:** John Ng

**Audio Conferences:** Michelle Blatt & Susan Davis

**Fall Seminar:** Audrey Hoyle

**Spring Symposium:** Christine Muller

**Chapter Recognition:** William Challice & David Greenblatt

**CGFM-Regional Coordinator:** Margarita Stanislavskaya

**CGFM Chairperson (Trenton Chapter):** Margarita Stanislavskaya

**Regional Vice-President:** David Greenblatt

**Community Service:** By Committee

**Awards:** Christopher Schwartz

**Regional & Chapter Early Career:** Kiersten Kokotajlo

**Budget/Finance:** Dave Kaschak

**Newsletter:** Andrew Bishop

**Historian:** Rose Todaro

**By-Laws:** Michael Hoyle

## CONTACT US

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Please note that we are a **GREEN** Chapter

Read our first ever Report to our Members  
(**Member-Centric Report**) at [www.agatrenton.com](http://www.agatrenton.com)

## NEWSLETTER SUGGESTIONS

### FEEDBACK WANTED!

Please feel free to offer any comments or suggestions for the newsletter's design, format, or style. We look forward to hearing from you!