

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

I am writing to you just a few days after AGA hosted its' 2014 Fall Seminar. Based upon the comments of some of the attendees, it appears we were successful in presenting another strong program. Additionally, attendees were very generous with food donations for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) and with cash donations for Operation Sunshine (over \$300 collected). Thanks to all who assisted with making the Seminar such a success.

November will continue to be a busy time for our chapter. November 11th, Veteran's Day, the Trenton Chapter has volunteered as wait staff for the TASK lunch serving. You can contact me if you are interested in participating. On November 12th, we will be having a Dinner Meeting at Tessara's Restaurant, in Hamilton, starting with a social hour beginning at 5:30PM. Our guest speaker will be Ben Dworkin, Director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics.

Also, on November 19th, the chapter will be host an audio conference, "Fraud Risk Management", at the Office of the State Comptroller. I hope you will be able to attend one of the events.

Finally, on a sad note, I make mention of the passing of Catherine (Kitty) Romeo. Kitty worked for 43 years with the NJ Department of the Treasury - Office of Management and Budget. She was a regular at the monthly AGA Dinner Meetings at Mastoris and was one of the nicest persons you could meet. She will be missed.

*Sincerely,
Guy Tassi
Trenton Chapter President*

**TRENTON
CHAPTER**

AGA

Association of Government Accountants



MEET THE SPEAKER: NOVEMBER 12, 2014 MONTHLY DINNER MEETING



Ben Dworkin, Director

Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics

Ben Dworkin was named the Director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rider University in July 2008. The Institute's name honors its founder, the late Dr. David Rebovich (1949–2007).

As Director, Professor Dworkin oversees the Institute's day-to-day operations, organizes programming, provides internship, academic and professional guidance to students, and has built a reputation as one of New Jersey's most insightful political analysts. He has appeared on numerous network and cable news shows, and is frequently quoted by all of New Jersey's major newspapers, as well as The New York Times, Wall Street Journal and USA Today.

In his position, he brings together experience in academia, public relations, government, and political parties and campaigns. When announcing his appointment, Rider University cited Professor Dworkin's "combination of political savvy, media knowledge and student-centered focus."

Professor Dworkin is currently completing his Ph.D. in political science at Rutgers University, where he has taught classes in "Political Campaigning" and "New Jersey Politics." At Rider, he continues to teach "New Jersey Politics" along with "Interest Groups and Lobbying," "Public Administration" and Honors courses to undergraduates. In addition, he has presented his research and analysis at several academic conferences across the country.

Prior to academia, Professor Dworkin spent several years in the private sector. He served as President & CEO of Dworkin Strategic Communications, and before then, as vice president at Robinson Lerer & Montgomery, a leading New York-based corporate public relations firm. His clients have included several leading Fortune 500 companies, such as WebMD, Time-Warner, Texaco, Maidenform and Hollywood Video. His primary areas were media relations, strategic communications development and crisis management.

Before his work in New York, Professor Dworkin was deputy research director for the New Jersey Assembly Minority office in Trenton. He helped oversee a staff of several other policy analysts and developed expertise in insurance, law, health care, public safety and veterans' issues. In this position, he wrote and edited legislation, policy analyses, floor speeches, talking points for use in debates and media interviews, as well as overall strategy.

Professor Dworkin has also worked as Legislative Aide to the late state Senator Matthew Feldman (D-Teaneck), chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee. He had primary responsibility for speechwriting, constituent relations, and legislative monitoring.

Through much of his career, Professor Dworkin worked on political campaigns, focusing on message development, press relations, advertising development, debate preparation and field operations.

An award-winning journalist for his work with the New Jersey Jewish Standard, New Jersey's oldest Anglo-Jewish newspaper, Professor Dworkin has also been published in local newspapers throughout the state and is recognized as a leading political observer and freelance film critic. Miramax featured Professor Dworkin on the DVD of the Oscar-winning film *Life is Beautiful*.

Professor Dworkin is a graduate of Princeton University and received his master's degree from Rutgers University, where he is currently pursuing his doctorate.

He lives with his wife and daughter in East Brunswick, N.J.

AGA Important Dates

Meeting Date	Event Name	Location	CPEs
11/11/2014	<u>Community Service @ T.A.S.K.</u>	Trenton Area Soup Kitchen 72 Escher St, Trenton, NJ 08609	
11/12/2014	<u>Dinner Meeting @ 5:30 pm</u> Misc: Speaker - Ben Dworkin	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	
01/14/2015	<u>Dinner Meeting @ 5:30 pm</u> Misc: Proposed Speaker - Mercadieu Tax Update	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	
03/11/2015	<u>Dinner Meeting @ 5:30 pm</u>	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	
05/01/2015	<u>Spring Symposium</u>	Wyndham Garden Hotel 1 W. Lafayette St. Trenton, NJ 08608	
05/20/2015	<u>Awards Dinner</u>	Wyndham Garden Hotel 1 W. Lafayette St. Trenton, NJ 08608	

IMPORTANT! NJ Law and Ethics (2012/2014)

Instructor: Anthony Glebocki, CPA

DATES: NOVEMBER 17, 20, 25 and DECEMBER 2, 3, 8, 9

TIME: 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
125 SOUTH WARREN STREET
3RD FLOOR TRAINING ROOM

COST: Free to AGA members

To register contact Robert Malone at rmalone@njleg.org

THIS EVENT AWARDS 4 CPEs in PROFESSIONAL ETHICS



Get Social! AGA Trenton Chapter is on Facebook! Come join us in this cyber community, "Like" us now! <https://www.facebook.com/aga.trentonchapter>



November 2014

ADVANCING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

- **November 11th** - Community Service Event, Veteran's Day Volunteer
Wait service at T.A.S.K.
- **Wednesday, November 12th** - Dinner Meeting, Social Hour @ 5:30 pm
Tessara Restaurant, Hamilton, NJ (1 CPE)
- **Wednesday, November 19th** - Audio Conference 2:00 to 3:50 pm
Location: 20 West State Street, 12th Floor, Trenton (2 CPEs)

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12 Dinner Meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Audio  Conference	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30						


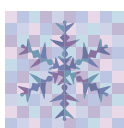



December 2014

ADVANCING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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

- **Wednesday, December 10th** - Audio Conference 2:00 to 3:50 pm
Location: 20 West State Street, 12th Floor, Trenton, NJ (2 CPEs)
- **NO MONTHLY MEETING**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Audio  Conference	11	12	13
14	15	16 	17	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25 	26 	27
28	29	30	31			

CGFM Corner - Benefits and Costs

CGFM Benefits

- Increased knowledge of government financial management
- Greater confidence on the job
- Better understanding of “big picture” of government
- Portable and tangible indicator of experience and knowledge
- Enhanced marketability throughout government levels
- Encourages employer incentives and continuing education
- Enhanced credibility, public confidence and employee value



CGFM Costs

- Earning the certification
 - **Application fee** – \$85
 - **Examination fees** – \$109 per exam
- Maintaining the certification
 - **Annual renewal fee** – \$30 for AGA members or \$65 for nonmembers



Questions about CGFM?

If you are interested in pursuing the CGFM please contact Margarita Stanislavskaya at mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org

For more information about the CGFM, please visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/>

**AGA—Trenton Chapter
Balance Sheet as of 9/30/14**

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:	
Cash - Savings	\$2,175.27	Accounts Payable	\$77.00
Cash - Checking	13,243.01	Deferred Income	0.00
Accts Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	60.00		
PrePaid Expenses	<u>1,600.00</u>	Fund Balance	<u>17,001.28</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,078.28	TOTAL L&E	\$17,078.28

**AGA Community Service
Trenton Area Soup Kitchen**

**On November 11th, Veteran's Day, the
AGA Trenton Chapter has volunteered as
wait staff for the TASK lunch serving.**

**Contact Guy Tassi, Trenton Chapter Presi-
dent, if you are interested in participating!**

www.trentonsoupkitchen.org/

Upcoming Audio Conferences
Calendar Year 2014-15

All audio conferences are in Trenton, NJ from 2:00pm to 3:50pm.

Upcoming Web Conferences:

2014

Nov. 19 Fraud Risk Management (OSC Conference Room)

Dec. 10 How Do You Spell Success? E-T-H-I-C-S! (OSC Conference Room)

2015

Feb. 4 Performance Management (Labor Auditorium) **

Mar. 18 Internal Controls (Labor Auditorium) **

Apr. 29 Fraud Prevention (Labor Auditorium) **

** - Due to new security measures at the Department of Labor's complex, please make every attempt to register by the Monday proceeding the course



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 leading-edge. 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 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.



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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

By mail: AGA-Trenton
PO Box 536
Trenton, NJ 08604

Via e-mail: AGATRENTONINFO@AGATRENTON.COM

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AGA.TRENTONCHAPTER](HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AGA.TRENTONCHAPTER)

Visit our website: <WWW.AGATRENTON.COM>

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

Read our first ever Report to our Members
(**Member-Centric Report**) at www.agatrenton.com

NEWSLETTER SUGGESTIONS

We are in the process of updating the format for our newsletter.
As such, please feel free to offer any comments or suggestions for
the newsletter's design, format, or style.

We look forward to hearing from you!