

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members & Friends:

I hope everyone is feeling okay—it's been a nasty cold season and we're due for a break from sniffing and sneezing! Hopefully the Luck of the Irish is with us coming into March. If green is not your color we have some good news for you. In honor of March being CGFM month, we will be wearing **red** on Friday, March 3rd to show our support for those pursuing the CGFM certification. Good luck to those taking the exams and please reach out to us if you're interested in starting the process.

Our next dinner meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8th at Tessara's in Hamilton. Daniel G. Napoleon, CRP Director of Environmental Programs at the Mercer County Improvement Authority will be giving a presentation regarding the economic impact of recycling in New Jersey.

I'd like to thank everyone who attended our bowling event last month. Pictures from our event are posted to our Facebook page. Also, thanks to those who crafted Valentine's Day cards. They were delivered to the Mercerville Center in Hamilton the weekend before Valentine's Day and were well received!

Ever thought about serving on our Executive Board? Here's your chance—we're accepting nominations until March 21st! If interested send an email to Audrey Hoyle at Audrey.Tyndall-Hoyle@treas.nj.gov .

Don't forget to renew your membership! The annual renewal period continues until March 31st!

Check it out our website for updates & "like" us on Facebook!

Sincerely,

Kiersten Kokotajlo
Trenton Chapter President

TRENTON
CHAPTER

 **AGA**

Association of Government Accountants





Save the Date!

The AGA Spring Symposium will be held on Friday, April 21st, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the College of New Jersey's Education Building. This year's theme is "The Fiscal Impact of Technology on State and Local Government". More details, including a full roster of speakers, to follow shortly.

The College of New Jersey is located at:

2000 Pennington Road

Ewing, NJ 08618

For all questions regarding the Symposium please contact us at:

agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com

[Click here for the latest updates for this year's Spring Symposium!](#)



SAVE THIS DATE

Date: March 8, 2017 @ 5:30 pm

Event: Dinner Meeting (Topic - \$\$ Impact of Recycling in NJ)

**Speaker : Daniel G. Napoleon, CRP Director of Environmental Programs at
the Mercer County Improvement Authority**

Location: Tessara Restaurant, 812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619

[Click here to register now for the next Dinner Meeting](#)



Get Social! AGA Trenton Chapter is on Facebook! Come join us in this cyber community, "Like" us now!

[Click here to connect with us!](#)

Great Time at the AGA's Annual Bowling/Networking Event!

Thank you to all those who attended this fun evening!

Total Attendees: 25 (Total Non-members & Students: 8)

**Members paid \$6 each to set off costs of the event!
Chapter funds went to the cost of bowling, appetizers, and prizes.**

Prizes Awarded (Dunkin' Donuts and WaWa Gift Cards):

Highest Bowling: Kyle Rice

**Participation Awards: Doug Talbot, Nicole Mikitskiy, London Morse, Dave Illuminate,
Kurt Zadworney, Spring Rae Jones**

<https://www.agacgm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Home.aspx>

(Friday, February 3, 2017 from 4:30 – 6:30pm at Slocum's Bowling Center)



THOMAS J. KASCHAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Association of Government Accountants

Trenton Chapter

NOTE: Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of College/University: _____

Year Beginning College/University: _____ Year in 2017-2018: FR SO JR SR OTHER: _____

College Major: _____

Scholastic Standing (Grade Point Average) * _____

Membership In - Out of School Organizations ** _____ Office Held: _____

School Activities Participated In ** _____ Office Held: _____

Honors or Awards Received * _____

Other Family Members Attending College 2017-2018

NAME	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	YEAR
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Nominator Information:

Member of AGA? (Please Circle) **YES** **NO** How Long? _____

Printed Name of Nominator: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number () _____ E-Mail _____

Employer: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____ Signature of Nominator: _____

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION is March 31, 2017

Mail Nomination Form to:

Christopher Schwartz

**NJ Div of Mental Health Services, Office of Fiscal & Mgmt Operations (5th floor)
222 S. Warren Street, P.O. Box 700, Trenton, New Jersey 08625**

*Attach High School and College (if any) Transcripts

** Attach Additional Sheets if Necessary

PREVIOUS AWARDEES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

2017 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER AWARDS

Date: _____

I would like to nominate the following individual for a 2017 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

- The James Dolan Award
- Distinguished Leadership Award
- Achievement of the Year Award
- Education and Training Award
- Special Achievement Award
- Chapter Service 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 31, 2017** ◆

Mail Nomination Forms to:

Christopher Schwartz, NJ Div of Mental Health Services, Office of Fiscal & Mgmt Operations (5th floor)
222 S. Warren Street, P.O. Box 700, Trenton, New Jersey 08625



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 2017. 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 31, 2017

(please see application on next page)

We look forward to hearing from you,
Kiersten Kokotajlo, President



**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) _____



Membership

Young Professionals PDT Scholarship

The [Young Professionals Focus Group \(YPFG\)](#) annually selects five young professionals to attend AGA's [Professional Development Training \(PDT\)](#) in July. The participants in this program will act as ambassadors for attendees and assist at the AGA exhibit hall booth and other activities throughout the training event.

Requirements:

Must be an AGA member in good standing

A first-time attendee at this annual event

Working directly for government or nonprofit (federal, state, local or tribal)

Under the age of 30

Available Saturday afternoon prior to the start of the PDT and assist at the AGA booth throughout the event

Willingness to provide feedback on their PDT experience prior to departure

Participants Receive:

Five-night hotel scholarship at the PDT host hotel

Complimentary registration for the entire event

CPEs to help you advance your career (number of CPEs may vary depending on assignments)

Opportunities to meet and network with AGA leaders

More Information on PDT Scholarships:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Awards-Recognition/Young-Professionals-PDT-Scholarship.aspx>

apply now



National Collegiate Leadership Program

This program, sponsored by the [Young Professionals Focus Group \(YPMG\)](#), provides up to 10 full-time undergraduate students with an opportunity to engage with and learn from leaders in government financial management at [National Leadership Training \(NLT\)](#).

Participants of the program will:

Have an onsite mentor to guide them around the NLT event

Attend NLT sessions

Sit at reserved tables for an exclusive lunch with corporate partner members and government officials

Receive recognition at the event, including a certificate of participation and commemorative photo

Earn CPEs for sessions they attend

Receive complimentary e-membership in AGA for one year

The 2016 program participants were:

Joseph Cihak, Catholic University of America

Florejine Dela Cruz, University of Guam

Brett Dixon, Oklahoma City University

Krizia Fajarito, North Carolina State University

[Lindsay Miller, Auburn University at Montgomery](#)

Charles Moka, Bowie State University

Kornravee (Pat) Sintavanon, North Carolina State University

[Peter Thomason, Mississippi College](#)

For more information on the NLT Scholarship

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Membership/Connect/Awards-Recognition/National-Collegiate-Leadership-Program.aspx>

apply now



Celebrate CGFM Month in March!

[Click](#) for a list of some ideas to help you celebrate. Have additional ideas? [Email us!](#) Want to see a list of state and local governments celebrating CGFM Month with us? [The list](#) is growing every day in March!

CGFM month
proclamations

LinkedIn: Position Yourself as an Expert and Attract Opportunities

March 16 | 2-3 p.m. ET | 1 CPE | FOS: PD

Are you maximizing LinkedIn? It's so much more than just an online resume and rolodex. As the largest online professional network in the world, with over 467 million members, it affords you an unprecedented ability to position yourself as a subject matter expert and thought leader, and attract exciting opportunities whether you're in government, private industry or a student, and regardless of your field!

With the new website design rollout and the acquisition by Microsoft for \$26.2 billion, it's more important than ever that you leverage your profile and presence to brand yourself effectively for the increased visibility that's ahead. Your optimized LinkedIn presence will save you time and energy by presenting you as a legitimate, credible professional, and will represent you 24/7, worldwide. You will learn exactly, step-by-step, how to use your profile, updates, posts and groups to easily and quickly position yourself as a subject matter expert and thought leader, and attract opportunities.

Learning Objective: This webinar will present a brief overview of LinkedIn with specific examples and instructions for how you can quickly and easily maximize it and improve your results.

Speaker: Christine Hueber, LinkedIn Jedi Master, ChristineHueber.com

Program Level: Overview

Field of Study: Professional Development (PD)

individual
registration

Member benefit: Exclusive discount on CGFM application fee

The CGFM application fee is only \$35 for members — this offer ends March 31. This offer is only available to members — [renew today!](#)

[learn more](#)**Award season is underway!**

Nominate an individual or chapter for AGA's Awards of Distinction by March 31. Winners will be recognized at PDT 2017 in Boston.

[learn more](#)**By the Number****128**

NLT 2017 photos now in an album on AGA's Flickr page.

[learn more](#)**Upcoming Events**

View AGA's calendar for national and chapter events.

[learn more](#)**Chapter Spotlight**

Washington DC
For its Twitter campaign: #AGAppreciates.

[learn more](#)**A Little Déjà Vu? For You and AGA, Too!**

CEO Ann M. Ebberts notices similarities between headlines of today and of the past — and showcases how AGA's resources can help.

[learn more](#)**Top 10 leadership lessons from 2017 National Leadership Training**

Our speakers shared amazing insights. Did your favorite make our list?

[learn more](#)

[Click here for more AGA Topics Information](#)



2016 - 17 AGA Webinars

- Avoiding Surprises and Assessing Risks: Building on Today's Internal Controls | Sept. 14, 2016 | LWD - 2:00 to 3:50 pm
- Cyber/Big Data | Oct. 12, 2016 | LWD - 2:00 to 3:50 pm
- Fraud Toolkit Case Studies | Nov. 16, 2016 | OSC - 2:00 to 3:50 pm
- Fraud/Risk | Feb. 22, 2017 | OSC - 2:00 to 3:50 pm
- Ethics | April 12, 2017 | OSC - 2:00 to 3:50 pm
- Fraud/Data Analytics | June 14, 2017 | OSC - 2:00 to 3:50 pm



Your local AGA chapter is getting greener!

We now offer more paperless options for our services:

- 1) Online purchasing feature providing convenience and paperless option to pay for events and dinner meetings;
- 2) Electronic surveys are now available. The AGA Trenton Chapter is now using Survey Monkey for course and event evaluations. Convenient, easy and less paper;
- 3) E-mail blasts and downloadable Newsletters keeping members up to date on important events;
- 4) Improved website offering more features and downloadable content;
- 5) Webinars offering free CFE and downloadable content;.
- 6) E-meetings (via email) availing board members to vote on important chapter matters with out leaving the office or home.

We are continuing to seek more green options while continuing to better serve our members.

Click on the link below for some easy Ways to Live Greener: An eco-friendly lifestyle doesn't need to be difficult or expensive. Try these tips and tricks (plus over 65 more) from throughout Good Housekeeping's 125 years to create a home that'll make you — and the earth — proud:

<http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/a18573/ways-to-go-green/>

AGA Citizen Centric Report (CCR) Turns 10!

In 2007, AGA launched the Citizen Centric Reporting (CCR) Initiative. Former AGA CEO Relmond P. Van Daniker brought together AGA members representing federal, state and local governments to develop criteria for a 4 page report designed to communicate to citizens the business of government.

The AGA Winter Journal for 2016-2017 featured an article of the CCR turning 10! The CCR offers transparency and accountability for public-sector entities. Read what AGA has to say about the CCR hitting this great milestone. Click on the link below:

[https://www.agacgm.org/aga/chaptersites/Trenton/files/CCR%20from%20AGAJournal Winter2016 17 F LR.PDF](https://www.agacgm.org/aga/chaptersites/Trenton/files/CCR%20from%20AGAJournal%20Winter2016%2017%20F%20LR.PDF)

AGA looked at ways to improve financial performance reporting more than 10 years ago, and, following an extensive study and examination of the public-sector financial and performance reporting outputs and surveys of citizens by AGA members and staff, the AGA Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) was conceived.

In extolling the platform for CCR, AGA's former executive director, Relmond Van Daniker was often quoted as saying, "Citizens are

drowning in data but starving for information." Ann Ebberts, AGA's CEO, said CCR can be viewed as an early adopter in providing transparency and information in context in a way all Americans should be able to understand. "The CCR can be used in so many ways and can quickly get the public, staff, and new leaders current on the agency mission, demographics, accomplishments and priorities for the future. It's come a long way in 10 short years, and we look forward to the next 10!"



AGA—Trenton Chapter Balance Sheet as of 12/31/16

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:	
Cash - Savings (BOA)	\$12,179.44	Accounts Payable	\$954.00
Cash - Checking (BOA)	9,760.15	Deferred Income	110.00
Accts Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	0.00	Fund Balance	<u>24,419.47</u>
PrePaid Expenses	<u>3,543.88</u>	TOTAL L&E	\$25,483.47
TOTAL ASSETS	\$25,483.47		



Become a CGFM!

March 15 | 2–3 p.m. ET | 0 CPE | FREE

Learn how the Certified Government Financial Manager® (CGFM®) designation can benefit you and your career. We'll also cover the process and requirements to become a CGFM. Questions? [Email us!](#)




individual
registration

EXCLUSIVE OFFER for AGA members

Now through March 31, the CGFM application is only \$35 for AGA members — that's a 50% savings!

50%
SAVINGS

March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8  Dinner Meeting at 5:15 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20  Spring Begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



1) Dinner Meeting Location - Tessara Restaurant, Hamilton NJ

April 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	 Webinar (2:00-3:50 pm)	13		15
	17	18	19	20	Spring Symposium	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	1) Webinar Location - Office of State Comptroller, 20 W. State St, 12th Fl, Trenton NJ 2) Spring Symposium - https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Home.aspx				

Attention all CGFM applicants!

The Trenton AGA Chapter will be offering the CGFM Achievement Scholarship, an award for CGFM applicants that will reimburse the scholarship winner for the cost of study materials and exam fees for CGFM exams (maximum of \$250). Requirements for this scholarship are as follows:

- Must be an AGA Trenton Chapter member in good standing
- Must be a government employee
- Must have passed 2 of 3 parts prior to applying
- Must fill out application before taking the final exam in order to establish commitment from the Chapter for the scholarship
- Scholarship will be paid only if all 3 exams are passed within the timeline established by the AGA to achieve the certification

Please, see the next page for the application.

If you would like more information about this scholarship, please contact Margarita Stanislavskaya at mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org.

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





CGFM Achievement Award Application

Name _____

Member ID # _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone # _____

Email address _____

Current Employer: _____

Position/Title: _____

Did you pass 2 of 3 exams for the CGFM certification?
(Attach Proof)

Yes

No

I certify that the information provided on this application is true and correct.

Applicant _____
(Signature)

Date _____

For AGA Trenton Use Only

AGA-Trenton Board

Approval _____
(Authorized representative name and
signature)

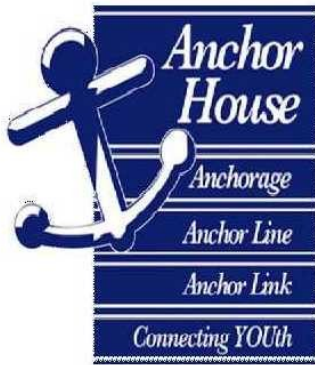
Date _____

Please, complete this form and email to:

Margarita Stanislavskaya

mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org

About the Paul Vidunas Memorial Fund



ANCHOR HOUSE
The Houses Where Healing Begins

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 collected throughout the Chapter's program year. The local area charity for this year's Paul Vidunas fund is Anchor House. The agency's mission is to work with abused, homeless, runaway, at risk and aging out youth to utilize their strengths and the support of their families and communities in order to ensure a stable and successful home. For information about the charity: <http://anchorhousenj.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 <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Home.aspx>

Thank you to all our 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.



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. \$100 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. \$160 + \$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:

This class of membership is available to AGA members who have permanently retired and are not working. \$35 + \$5 local/year.

Membership Link:

<https://www.agacfm.org/Membership/overview.aspx>

2016-2017 Chapter Officers and Directors

President: Kiersten Kokotajlo

President-Elect, Education: Andy Bishop

Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee Chair:

Audrey Hoyle

Vice President of Admin/Programs: Christopher Schwartz

Vice President of Membership: Robert Rizzo

Treasurer: Dave Kaschak

Secretary: Michelle Blatt

Accountability Outreach Chair: Nikki Farrell

Communications: Nikki Farrell

Sponsorship: Michael Hoyle

Audio Conferences: Michelle Blatt

Fall Seminar: Audrey Hoyle/Rene Gervasoni/Jessica Lippincott

Spring Symposium: Guy Tassi/Brian Larkin

Chapter Recognition: Brian Larkin

CGFM Chairperson (Trenton Chapter): Margarita Stanislavskaya

Regional Vice President: Joe Connolly

Community Service: Robert Olsen, Christopher Fucello

Awards: Christopher Schwartz

Regional & Chapter Early Career: Meghan Ellis

Budget/Finance: Tyler Frounfelker

Newsletter: Andrew Bishop

Meeting Chair: Rene Gervasoni

Paul Vidunas Coordinator: Audrey Hoyle

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

Like us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AGA-Trenton-Chapter/531861283584888>

Website: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Home.aspx>

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

Check out our Citizen Centric Report:
<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Our-Chapter/Chapter-News/2016-Citizen-Centric-Report.aspx>

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!