

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members & Friends:

Happy New Year! We're excited for what 2017 has in store for us and we hope you are as well! We hope to shake things up a bit with some new offerings this year as well as our continued traditions that we can benefit from & look forward to!

As always, our chapter will continue to host interesting and educational events. Our first event this year will be our Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at Tessara's in Hamilton. Holly Sabo from Mercadien will be giving us a valuable Tax Update since Tax season is right around the corner!

Our Spring Symposium team is gearing up for their first meeting to begin planning our Spring Symposium which will be held at a new location on TCNJ's campus. If you're interested in joining the committee that helps plan this wonderful event or have any suggestions for speakers, please email us at agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com

Do you know someone interested in joining AGA? Grab them, get your bowling shoes on, and join us for our annual Bowling-Networking event at Slocum's Bowling Alley on Friday, February 3rd. Students and potential new members attend for free and prizes will be awarded!

We want to know how we're doing! Keep an eye out for a survey we'll be sending to get your feedback. It'll only take a few minutes and we'd really love to hear from you. Thank you for your responses in advance!

If you haven't noticed our website has a new look! Check it out for updates as well as pictures from our events & "like" us on Facebook!

Sincerely,

Kiersten Kokotajlo
Trenton Chapter President

**TRENTON
CHAPTER**

AGA

Association of Government Accountants





MEET THE SPEAKER: Holly L. Sabo

JAN 11, 2017 DINNER MEETING @ 5:15 PM

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

Practice Areas: Tax Planning & Compliance Mercadien, P.C., CPAs

Holly L. Sabo, CPA, MST, CGMA is a manager in the tax department of the Princeton office of Mercadien, P.C. During her tenure with the firm, she has worked extensively with businesses, individuals, nonprofit organizations and governmental authorities.

As a member of the firm's tax department, she is involved in the firm's quality control group for tax compliance and return preparation. In addition to these activities, Holly also performs tax review services and is a specialist in budgeting, forecasting, and financial and estate planning. As such, she works closely with business owners and CFOs in helping them operate their businesses more efficiently. Holly has in-depth experience with multistate corporate and individual income tax planning and preparation. She assists with in-house training of all professionals and has been instrumental in the development of continuing professional education programs. Furthermore, Holly is a frequent author in a nationally syndicated newsletter and has performed various special projects in management consulting and accounting services.

Honors & Awards

Outstanding MS Tax Student Philadelphia University (May 2010)

The MS Taxation professors have selected this year's winner for her combination of academic excellence and applied professional knowledge. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with an accounting degree from the College of New Jersey and started our tax program in the Fall of 2006. This busy working mom has also become a CPA and is currently a manager with the Mercadien Group in Princeton, NJ. She wows both her professors and me with her ability to do all that she does and maintain a 3.96 GPA. Please help me congratulate this year's recipient of the Outstanding Tax student award, Holly Sabo.

MarySheila E. McDonald, Esq.

Assistant Dean, Graduate Business Programs

Philadelphia University

Education

Philadelphia University - MST, Taxation (2006 – 2010)

The College of New Jersey - BS, Accounting (1989 – 1993)



AGA's Annual Bowling/Networking Event!

Join us for bowling, appetizers, & networking opportunities!

Friday, February 3th, 2017

4:30-6:30pm

Slocum's Bowling, Bar, & Grille

1675 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ 08618

FREE for students & potential new members! \$6 for members

Prizes will be awarded and a drawing will occur for a participation prize!

Casual attire & cash bar for those 21+

Registration is not required but encouraged:

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





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

[apply now](#)

More Information on PDT Scholarships:

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



Membership

National Collegiate Leadership Program

This program, sponsored by the [Young Professionals Focus Group \(YPFG\)](#), 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

apply now

The 2016 program participants were:

Joseph Cihak, Catholic University of America

Florephine 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

Kornavee (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>

WEBSITE UPDATE



Contact Us | My AGA

[Our Chapter](#) [Membership](#) [Training & Events](#) [CGFM Certification](#) [Community](#) [AGA National](#)

Chapter News

[2016 Citizen Centric Report](#)

[History Report - Fiscal 2016](#)

[Career Search](#)

Chapter Newsletter



[View the latest Newsletter](#)



Welcome to the AGA Trenton Chapter official website.

This chapter serves the professional interest of financial managers responsible for effectively using billions of dollars of resources at all levels of the government. Through a comprehensive series of educational and professional development programs, a broad-based

network of chapters, and the publication of newsletters and professional journals, AGA supports those professionals responsible for the fiscal business of government.

The membership represents New Jersey State government as well as financial managers from Federal, County and local levels of government and the private sector.

Mission of the Trenton Government Accountants:

The Trenton Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a leading advocate for improving the quality and effectiveness of Governmental fiscal management. To this end, our goal is to carry forward the purpose of the AGA itself - to promote continuing education, development and professionalism in the areas of government financial management and to promote opportunities for community service.

Upcoming Events

Dinner Meeting

812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Location: Tessara Restaurant

Date: January 11, 2017

3rd Annual Bowling/Networking Event

1675 Pennington Rd, Ewing Township, NJ 08618

Location: Slocum's Bar and Grille

Date: February 3, 2017

Audio Conference

Topic: Fraud/Risk

Location: Office of the State Comptroller, 12th Floor Conference Room - 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

Date: February 22, 2017

Dinner Meeting

812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Location: Tessara Restaurant

Date: March 8, 2017

Audio Conference

Topic: Ethics

Location: Office of the State Comptroller.

New Look, Same Content

Dear Members & Friends,

The Association of Government Accountants is working towards creating a seamless environment between all of the chapters. Our website will appear differently but will continue to hold the same content. Registration for events will work in the same fashion and we will also continue to accept online payments via PayPal.

Our original web address, www.agatrenton.com, still works but if you feel like trying something fresh and new; our new web address is www.agacgfm.org/trenton

The Trenton Chapter is excited to be working closely with National on this project. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please send us an email at agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com



WHAT'S NEW

For Events/Seminars we now offer the convenience of online payments!!



Here's how to complete your registration, just follow these easy steps:

- 1) Go to [Events Page](#) to view the upcoming events.
- 2) Scroll down to complete the Online Registration Form.
- 3) Print your Online Registration Form for your records.
- 4) Submit the form.
- 5) The [Online Payment Page](#) appears where you can process your payment.

Note: If you elect to pay via check on the Registration Form then decide to pay via Credit Card, you can simply go back and access the [Online Payment Page](#) and process your payment separately as the Registration Form and Payment Page work independently of each other.

If you happen to have any issues, please [Contact Us](#).



SAVE THIS DATE

Date: January 11, 2017 @ 5:15 pm

Event: Dinner Meeting

Featuring: Annual tax update presented by Holly Sabo

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



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

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



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



Chapter & Regional Events

Professional Development Training with the Northern Nevada Chapter

January 12 – 13, 2017

Atlantis Resort - Reno

A variety of topics with great speakers. More to follow.

Contact: Eric Scheetz

Email: nnvaga@gmail.com

Lunch 'n' Learn and Webinar -- Des Moines

Lunch 'n' Learn and Webinar -- Des Moines

January 18, 2017

Grimes Building, 400 E 14th St, Des Moines, Room B50

Lunch 'n' Learn speaker is TBA. Webinar is Getting Your Dollars to Work Harder: Blended and Braided Funding

Contact: Denise Ragias

Email: denise.ragias@iowa.gov

Telephone Inquiries: 515-281-4741

6th Annual Advancing Government Accountability Seminar

January 24, 2017

Radisson Hotel, 205 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY

Experts on Cooperative Audit Resolution, Why Data Act Matters, Future of Financial Reporting in State and Local Governments and Assessing an Agency's ERM Readiness and Maturity.

Contact: Raymond Harris

Email: rharris12@nycap.rr.com

Telephone Inquiries: 518-280-6317

For more information regarding national, regional, and chapter events, please visit:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Event-Calendar/national-events.aspx>

AGA—Trenton Chapter Balance Sheet as of 11/30/16

ASSETS:	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:
Cash - Savings (BOA) \$12,179.02	Accounts Payable \$854.00
Cash - Checking (BOA) 9,688.68	Deferred Income 110.00
Accts Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem 700.00	Fund Balance <u>25,083.70</u>
PrePaid Expenses <u>3,480.00</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS \$26,047.70	TOTAL L&E \$26,047.70



Save this Date!

Friday, February 3, 2017 @ 4:30 to 6:30 pm

**Join us for the 3rd Annual Bowling/Networking Event at
Slocum's Bar and Grille**





Member price: \$6.00 (cash or check only)

Non-member price: FREE

For more information go to AGA website:

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

January 2017

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



- 1) Dinner Meeting Location - Tessara Restaurant, Hamilton NJ
- 2) Board Meeting Location - Villa Maria's Restaurant, Hamilton NJ

February 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3  Bowling Social (4:30 - 6:30 pm)	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13  President's Day	14  Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22  Webinar (2:00-3:50 pm)	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4



1) Webinar Location - Office of State Comptroller, 20 W. State St, 12th Fl, Trenton NJ
 2) Bowling Event Location - Slocum's Bowling Center, Ewing NJ
 Check website: <https://www.agacgm.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)

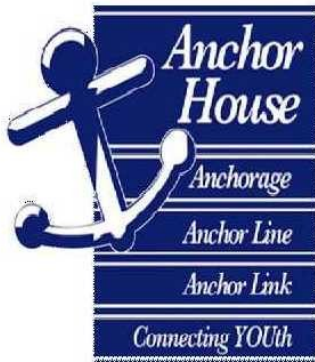
Date _____

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 & Susan Davis

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!