



# Newsletter

VOLUME 2018, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 2018

## President's Message

Andrew Bishop, CPA / CGMA

Dear Members & Friends:

Happy New Year! Now that the Holidays are over, it's time to focus on the second half of our program year. We're excited about what is instore for 2018 and we hope you are as excited as we are! Come join us at one of our upcoming events to see what AGA – Trenton Chapter is all about:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Training-Events/Event-Calendar.aspx>

In 2018, our chapter will continue to host interesting and educational events. Our first event this year was our January Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at Tessara's in Hamilton. Jill Ann Murphy and Holly Sabo both from Mercadien gave us a valuable Tax Update! This year's update was especially critical since the topic was about the first major Federal tax overhoul since 1986! With "Tax Season" just around the corner, this update couldn't have come at a better time. Thank you Jill Ann and Holly for the exceptional update presentation. Also, I'd like to thank all of our dinner attendees as we raised over \$90 for our annual Paul Vidunas Fund Drive!

Our Spring Symposium team is gearing up for their first meeting to begin planning our Spring Symposium which will be held at The College of NJ's (TCNJ's) campus. Last year we received rave reviews about the new TCNJ facility! Come join us! If you're interested in joining the

committee that helps plan this event or have any suggestions for speakers, email us at

[agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)

Spread the word, if you know someone interested in joining AGA let them know about our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Bowling-Networking event at Slocum's Bowling Alley on Friday, February 2nd. All Students and potential new members attend for free! Members are welcome to attend too! Register online NOW!

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Training-Events/Event-Calendar/4th-Annual-Bowling-Networking-Event.aspx>

Be sure to check our events page for the latest schedule of events. You can register for these events online:

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Training-Events/Event-Calendar.aspx>

Don't forget to visit our website for the latest information as well as current and past emails. Also check us out on social media: "like" us on Facebook and "connect" with us on LinkedIN!

Sincerely,

Andrew (Andy) Bishop  
Trenton Chapter President

**AGA—Trenton Chapter  
Balance Sheet as of 12/31/17**

<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:</b>	
Cash (BOA)-Savings	12,181.69	Accounts Payable	998.00
Cash(BOA) Checking	12,738.77	Deferred Income	0.00
Accts. Rec.			
Symp/Mtg/Sem	0.00		
PrePaid Expenses	<u>3,784.62</u>	Fund Balance	<u>27,707.08</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u><u>28,705.08</u></u></b>	<b>TOTAL L&amp;E</b>	<b><u><u>28,705.08</u></u></b>

## Security Alert!

Be vigilant about email scams. There has been a recent surge in phishing scams where perpetrators are using my name (Andy Bishop) and spoofing my email as president of the chapter. Here's a link documenting prevention tips from National:

<https://aga.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9NzIwNDMxNSZzdWJzY3JpYmVyaWQ9MTA2NjE3MDkyNg>

## Special News:

Congratulations to Louise Burnette, MPA our Chapter Services Manager. She and her husband are expecting another baby girl this Spring (April 2018)!

# JANUARY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10 Dinner Meeting 5:30pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



**1)** Dinner Meeting (Happy Hour starts at 5:30PM) Tessara Restaurant 812  
NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619

# FEBRUARY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>01</b>	<b>02</b> Bowling/ Networking Event 4:30pm	<b>03</b>
<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b> Webinar 2:00pm	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>			



- 1)** Bowling/Networking Event (4:30pm to 6:30pm) Slocum's Bowling Alley  
1675 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ
- 2)** Webinar (from 2:00 to 3:50PM) Office of the State Comptroller, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Conference Room – 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625  
GASB Update

# CGFM® Certification

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## Do your CGFMs use their digital badge?



The CGFM digital badge is an online representation of the CGFM certification. It provides employers and peers concrete evidence of the certification status and requirements to earn it. The badge also offers labor market insights, based on CGFM-related skills.

[learn more](#)

## 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.

## What are the initial requirements?

To earn the CGFM, individuals 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

[benefits](#)

[certification  
process](#)

[requirements  
to maintain](#)

# SAVE THE DATE!

Association of Government Accountants  
Bowling & Networking Event  
Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

**Slocum's Bowling Alley**

1675 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ

**FREE for STUDENTS & Potential New Members!**

**\$6 for AGA Members**

**Join us for bowling, appetizers, & networking  
opportunities!**

**[AGAtrenton.com](http://AGAtrenton.com) ~ [Facebook.com/agatrentonchapter](https://www.facebook.com/agatrentonchapter)**



## AGA Young Professionals PDT Scholarship

AGA annually selects up to 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](#)



## Dinner Meetings (2017-2018)

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### March 2018 Dinner Meeting

**March 7, 2018 (Happy Hour starts at 5:30 PM)**

Tessara Restaurant

812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619

**Contact:** AGA Trenton Chapter

**Email:** [agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)



## Nominating Committee announces 2018–21 slate of national officers

Selections include President-Elect Ernest A. Almonte, CGFM, CPA, CFE, CFF, and Treasurer-Elect Andrew C. Lewis, CGFM, CPA, CIPP/G, PMP. Independent nominations are being accepted now.

[learn more](#)

## Norquist recently named 2018 PDT co-chair

The Honorable David L. Norquist, CGFM, joins Sherrill F. Norman, CPA, and Antoine (Tony) Elachkar, CGFM, CPA, CGMA, as technical committee co-chair for [Professional Development Training](#), July 22–25 in Orlando, Florida.

[learn more](#)

## Fall 2017 Case Challenge Winners Announced

North Carolina State University produced the [winning CCR](#) and [video](#) presentation, focusing on the City of Fairfax, Virginia. Congratulations!

[learn more](#)

## FASAB seeks your comments

The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board wants your input on *Classified Activities*, the proposed Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards.

[learn more](#)



### Upcoming Events

View AGA's calendar for national and chapter events.

[learn more](#)



### BRAIN TEASER

[test yourself](#)



### Chapter Spotlight

#### Central Arkansas Chapter

40th anniversary on Jan. 4

[learn more](#)

### Sneak peek: NLT 2018 agenda

Get your first look at the schedule for [National Leadership Training](#), Feb. 27–28 in Washington, D.C., or virtual.

[learn more](#)

### Meet your fellow members!

Tell us what you like about your AGA membership or share a perspective on an issue, and you could be featured in the next *Topics* or earn a spot on the AGA website!

[learn more](#)

NOTABLE *and* quotable



While I love being able to attend events that provide CPE for my professional designations, AGA has provided a great opportunity for me to develop leadership skills within the chapter, and meet others that I might not have had a professional relationship with otherwise.

Will Kays, CPA, CMA  
Accountant, Defense Finance & Accounting Service;  
AGA Greater Columbus Chapter



**Webinar: Grants Management**  
Jan. 10 | 2–3:50 p.m. ET | 2 CPEs

Learn about the complexities and risks associated with federal funding and gain resources to assist in managing grants.

[learn more](#)



**Looking to take your career to the next level in 2018?**

Explore the AGA online Job Board for your next job opportunity in government finance.

[learn more](#)

**Train your staff at your location!**

[Ethics and Conduct Requirements for Accounting and Auditing Professionals](#)

Auditors, accountants and CPAs gain critical guidance and updated information on the current standards.

[email us](#)

# 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 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 program year. The local area charity for this year's Paul Vidunas fund is City of Angels. City of Angels NJ, Inc. offers many different services to the addiction community, all at no charge. Services include interventions, recovery support, Family Program, counseling services and more. COA is a non-denominational, independent organization and all services are open to everyone needing assistance. For information about the charity: <http://www.cityofangelsnj.org/about-coa/>

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.

*Thank you to all our newsletter sponsors!*

**RUTGERS**

Rutgers Business School  
Newark and New Brunswick  
MACCY Program

DelosTheBurg DelosTheBurg DelosTheBurg

8919 New Falls Road  
Levitown PA  
215-943-2605  
215-943-2837

Mon: CLOSED  
Tue - Thurs: 11 AM - 9:30 PM  
Fri & Sat: 11 AM - 11 PM  
Sun: 12 PM - 9 PM

DelosTheBurg@gmail.com • DelosTheBurg.com



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Certified Public Accountants & Litigation Consultants



# Chapter Officers

2017-2018 Program Year

## Chapter President

**Andrew C. Bishop**

Bishop and Bishop PC

[abishop@BishopandBishoppc.com](mailto:abishop@BishopandBishoppc.com)

## Chapter President-Elect

**Robert Rizzo**

NJ Legislative Services - Office of the  
State Auditor

[rrizzo@njleg.org](mailto:rrizzo@njleg.org)

## Immediate Past President

**Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo, CFE, CICA**

NJ Office of the State Auditor

[kkokotajlo@njleg.org](mailto:kkokotajlo@njleg.org)

## Secretary

**Michelle C. Blatt**

New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller

[michelle.blatt@outlook.com](mailto:michelle.blatt@outlook.com)

## Chapter Treasurer

**David J. Kaschak, CGFM**

NJ Office of the State Auditor

[dkaschak@njleg.org](mailto:dkaschak@njleg.org)

## Education

**Robert Rizzo**

NJ Legislative Services - Office of the State  
Auditor

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## Membership

**Nikki Farrell, CICA**

New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

[nfarrell@njleg.org](mailto:nfarrell@njleg.org)

## Programs

**Christopher John Schwartz**

NJ Dept of Health - Division of Mental  
Health Services

[christopher.schwartz@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:christopher.schwartz@dhs.state.nj.us)

## Administration

**Christopher John Schwartz**

NJ Dept of Health - Division of Mental  
Health Services

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## Nominations

**Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo, CFE, CICA**

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[kkokotajlo@njleg.org](mailto:kkokotajlo@njleg.org)

## Webmaster

**Nikki Farrell, CICA**

New Jersey Office of the State Auditor

[nfarrell@njleg.org](mailto:nfarrell@njleg.org)



# Chapter Directors

2017-2018 Program Year

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Fall Seminar: Andy Bishop / Rob Rizzo

Spring Symposium: Brian Larkin

Audio Conferences: Michelle Blatt / Thalia Treby

Sponsorship: Guy Tassi / Michael Hoyle

Chapter Recognition: Brian Larkin

CGFM Chairperson (Trenton Chapter): Margarita Stanislavskaya

Community Service: Robert Olsen, Christopher Fucello

Awards: Christopher Schwartz

Chapter Early Career: Meghan Ellis

Budget/Finance: Tyler Frounfelker

Newsletter: Andrew Glodowski

Meeting Chair: Rene Gervasoni

Paul Vidunas Coordinator: Taylor Leavy

Historian: Rose Todaro

By-Laws: Guy Tassi/Michael Hoyle

Accountability Outreach Chair: Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo

Webmaster/Communications: Nikki Farrell

Regional Vice President: Joe Connolly





## CONTACT US

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*Facebook:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/AGA-Trenton-Chapter/531861283584888>

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



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