

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. We will be starting 2015 with our annual Tax Update Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, January 14th, 5:30PM, at Tessara's Restaurant in Hamilton. Holly Sabo, of Mercadien, will once again be presenting the Tax Update..

Attendees will be brought up to date on the tax benefits that have expired and those that have been extended. Holly will also discuss the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including the penalty for not carrying Health Coverage. Changes to the standard deduction and personal exemption amounts will also be discussed.

Our next Web Conference will be on February 4th, 2Pm, at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The topic will be "Performance Management".

Finally, planning meetings for the 2015 Spring Symposium will begin shortly and the Chapter is always looking for volunteers to assist with the planning and organizing of this educational event. Please contact me if you would like to participate.

*Sincerely,
Guy Tassi
Trenton Chapter President*

**TRENTON
CHAPTER**

AGGA

Association of Government Accountants



MEET THE SPEAKER: JANUARY 14, 2015 MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Holly L. Sabo, Manager

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)

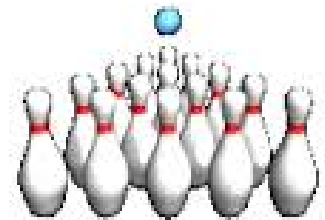
Bio Source: LinkedIn public profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hollysabo>

AGA Important Dates

Meeting Date	Event Name	Location	CPEs
01/14/2015	<u>Dinner Meeting @ 5:30 pm</u> Topic: Tax Update (Mercadien) Speaker: Holly Sabo, CPA MST	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	1
02/4/2015	<u>Audio Conference (2:00 - 3:50 pm)</u> Topic: Performance Management	NJ Dept of Labor, Auditorium 1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625	2
03/11/2015	<u>Dinner Meeting @ 5:30 pm</u> Topic: TBD Speaker:	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	1
03/18/2015	<u>Audio Conference (2:00 - 3:50 pm)</u> Topic: Internal Controls	NJ Dept of Labor, Auditorium 1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625	2
04/29/2015	<u>Audio Conference (2:00 - 3:50 pm)</u> Topic: Fraud Prevention	NJ Dept of Labor, Auditorium 1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625	2
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	

AGA SOCIAL EVENT - Bowling Happy Hour!

- Friday, Feb. 6 at Slocum's Bowling Alley from 4:30pm to 6:30pm
- Includes bowling, shoe rental, & appetizers
- Free to students and potential new members
- \$6 for AGA members



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




January 2015

ADVANCING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY




- Wednesday, January 14th** - Dinner Meeting at 5:30 pm
 Location: Tessara Restaurant, Hamilton, NJ,
 Topic: Tax Update (Mercadien),
 Speaker: Holly Sabo, CPA MST (1 CPE)

**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	13	14 Dinner Meeting	15	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- **Wednesday, February 4th** - Audio Conference 2:00 to 3:50 pm, Topic: Performance Management, Location: NJ Depart of Labor (Auditorium), 1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625 (2 CPEs)
- **Friday, February 6th** - AGA Bowling Happy Hour, Friday, February 6th at Slocum's Bowling Alley from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, Free to students and potential new members \$6 for AGA members

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






March 2015

ADVANCING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Wednesday, March 11th** - Dinner Meeting at 5:30 pm, Topic: TBD, Location: Tessara Restaurant, 812 Rt.33, Hamilton, NJ 08619 (1 CPE)
- **Wednesday, March 18th** - Audio Conference 2:00 to 3:50 pm, Topic: Internal Controls, Location: NJ Depart of Labor (Auditorium), 1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625 (2 CPEs)

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Dinner Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18 Audio Conference 	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 11/30/14

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:	
Cash - Savings	\$2,175.35	Accounts Payable	\$488.00
Cash - Checking	19,511.98	Deferred Income	0.00
Accts Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	510.00	Fund Balance	<u>23,309.33</u>
PrePaid Expenses	<u>1,600.00</u>		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$23,797.33	TOTAL L&E	\$23,797.33

Upcoming Audio Conferences Calendar Year 2014-15

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

Upcoming Web Conferences (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

What's New on the AGA Website:

- Event Presentation Archives: You can now access presentations from previous events under the menu tab "Archives/Event Presentations". We've moved the original archives under "General Documents".
- Community Services: Still located under the menu tab "Chapter News", we are now also listing the past Services AGA-Trenton Chapter has sponsored.

Register now for AGA Educational Events: <http://www.agatrenton.com/events-edu.cfm>

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 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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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!