

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

I hope you all are looking forward to the spring season! On February 6, 2015 the AGA held its first Bowling Social (Happy) Hour at Slocum's Bowl-O-Drome in Ewing. The event was a success and the chapter was represented well. Keep your eyes open for future AGA social events.

Our Next Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, March 11th, 5:30PM, at Tessara's Restaurant in Hamilton. Robert (Bob) Conger Deputy Director Audit, NJ Division of Taxation will be discussing Fraud Protection Programs utilized by his division.

Our next Web Conference will be on Wednesday, March 18th, 2:00 pm, at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 13th floor conference room. The topic will be "Internal Controls".

Finally, planning for the 2015 Spring Symposium is moving along. "Save This Date" for the 2015 Spring Symposium: May 1, 2015 - "Strategies and Solutions for New Jersey's Fiscal Future" at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Trenton. 7 CPEs. Don't forget to register to attend this event!

*Sincerely,
Guy Tassi
Trenton Chapter President*

**TRENTON
CHAPTER**

AGA

Association of Government Accountants



MEET THE SPEAKER: MARCH 11, 2015 MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Robert Conger

Deputy Director Audit, NJ Division of Taxation

Robert (Bob) Conger graduated from Rider University in 1979 with a major of accounting and finance.

His entire government career has been with the Division of Taxation starting in 1980 as an Auditor in the Office Audit Branch. In 2005, as the result of a promotion to Supervising Auditor of a field team, Bob moved over to the Excise Tax Branch. In 2007, Bob became a part of the Office of Criminal Investigation (OCI) family as the Assistant Chief - Audit.

In December 2014, Bob received his most recent promotion as the Deputy Director – Audit Activity.

Bob will be speaking about the “Fraud Protection” programs currently being utilized within the division.

IMPORTANT Save this Date for the 2015 Spring Symposium:

May 1, 2015 - “Strategies and Solutions for New Jersey’s Fiscal Future” at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Trenton. 7 CPEs.



AGA Trenton Award & Scholarship Nominations



The Trenton Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants annually recognizes outstanding individuals with meritorious achievement in the field of financial management. We are pleased to announce the awards committee is currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

- **The James J. Dolan Award** - Established in honor of the Chapter's founding president, conferred on a member of eminent service to the Chapter. (Any member of AGA, except an individual serving as a Chapter Officer, is eligible for this award.)
- **Distinguished Leadership Award** - Conferred on individuals in government service who have provided sustained outstanding leadership in financial management over a period of years, resulting in notable contributions to financial management. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA.)
- **Achievement of the Year Award** - Accords recognition for leadership or outstanding achievement in developing, implementing, or improving financial management in government. (Nominees need not be a member of AGA but must have been employed in government service at the time the work being recognized was performed.)
- **Education and Training Award** - Conferred on individuals who have made significant contributions to the education and training of government financial managers. (Nominee need not be a member of AGA.)
- **Special Achievement Award** - Accords recognition for notable contributions toward improving government financial management early in a professional career. (Any member of AGA who was under age thirty-five at the end of the preceding calendar year is eligible for this award.)
- **Chapter Service Award** - Conferred on individuals who are active members of the Association for consistently important contributions to the development and enhancement of the Chapter over long periods of time or for distinguished or spectacular contributions to the Chapter during the year of nomination.
- **Thomas J. Kaschak Memorial Scholarship** - Established as a memorial to Thomas J. Kaschak, a member of the Trenton Chapter of the AGA and First Vice President at the time of his death in 1982. A \$1,000 award is presented to an individual who is demonstrating sound scholastic achievement, in addition to participation in extracurricular and/or civic activities. (Nominees must be enrolled in an institution of higher learning in the pursuit of a degree. First priority for scholarship will be given the dependents of Chapter members.)

If you would like to nominate someone, please fill out the attached applications. The application deadline is Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

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

2015 AGA TRENTON CHAPTER AWARDS

Date: _____

I would like to nominate the following individual for a 2015 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, 2015 ◆

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

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 2015-2016: 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 2015-2016

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, 2015

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

AGA Important Dates

Meeting Date	Event Name	Location	CPEs
03/11/2015	<u>Dinner Meeting @ 5:30 pm</u> Topic: "Fraud Protection Programs" Speaker: Robert (Bob) Conger	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	7
05/20/2015	<u>Awards Dinner</u>	Wyndham Garden Hotel 1 W. Lafayette St. Trenton, NJ 08608	

IMPORTANT Save this Date for the 2015 Spring Symposium:

May 1, 2015 - "Strategies and Solutions for New Jersey's Fiscal Future" at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Trenton. 7 CPEs.




For more information: <http://www.agatrenton.com/events-edu.cfm>



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




- **Wednesday, March 11th** - Dinner Meeting at 5:30 pm, Topic: Fraud Portection, 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)

**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 Dinner Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18 Audio Conference 	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- **NO MONTHLY MEETING**
- **Wednesday, April 29th** - Audio Conference 2:00 to 3:50 pm,
Topic: Fraud Prevention, Location: NJ Depart of Labor
(Auditorium), 1 John Fitch Plaza, Trenton, NJ 08625 (2 CPEs)

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Good Friday 	4
5 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29  Audio Conference	30		

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Initial Certification Requirements

To earn the CGFM, candidates 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.

Learn more about the process of earning the CGFM designation.

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 <https://www.agacgfm.org/CGFM-Certification/overview.aspx>

AGA—Trenton Chapter Balance Sheet as of 2/28/15

ASSETS:	
Cash - Savings	\$2,175.46
Cash - Checking	18,994.98
Accts Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	90.00
PrePaid Expenses	<u>1,600.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$22,860.44

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:	
Accounts Payable	\$701.00
Deferred Income	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>22,159.44</u>
TOTAL L&E	\$22,860.44

AGA Bowling Event



Thanks to everyone who came out for our networking event! We were happy to see AGA members, professionals, and college students from Rider & TCNJ! We were also able to raise money for our Paul Vidunas Charity Fund! Please be sure to visit our website for more information about our association and how to become a member-www.agatrenton.com! More pictures from our event can be seen on our Facebook page-www.facebook.com/agatrentonchapter!

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 leadingedge. 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.



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

Visit our website: <http://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

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!