



# Newsletter

VOLUME 2018, NUMBER 3      MARCH, 2018

## President's Message Andrew Bishop, CPA / CGMA

Happy St. Patrick's Day Members & Friends:

Well, it seems that February has been the lamb and March the lion this winter! I do not know about all of you, but I am ready for the "real" spring to show up!

There is still a lot in store in the coming months for the Trenton Chapter! Check our website regularly for dates and times!

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

Congratulations to Tyler and Meghan, they will be representing our chapter and attending the upcoming AGA's Annual Sectional Leadership Meeting (SLM) in Baltimore, MD, May 3-5, 2018.

Congratulations to member David Illuminate and his wife, Ginger, who had a baby girl on March 10th! Sienna Mae joined their family weighing 6lbs, 15oz, and measuring 19 inches.

Ever thought about serving on our Executive Board? Here's your chance – we're accepting nominations until the end of March! If interested send your email nominations to Kiersten Kokotajlo at [KKokotajlo@njleg.org](mailto:KKokotajlo@njleg.org)

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

**Spring Symposium** - The spring symposium is moving ahead as planned. The 2018 Spring Symposium which will take place on April 20, 2018 at The College of New Jersey. Please check our website periodically for the latest.

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Training-Events/Event-Calendar/2018-Spring-Symposium.aspx>

**Webinars** - the next Chapter organized Webinar is scheduled on April 11, 2018 at 2 pm. The location is at the Office of the State Comptroller, 12th Floor Conference Room - 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625. This webinar is free for members. For more information and to register go to our website: [https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Training-Events/Event-Calendar/Webinar-\(4\).aspx](https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Training-Events/Event-Calendar/Webinar-(4).aspx)

**Annual Awards Dinner** - Each year, the Trenton Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) annually recognizes outstanding individuals with meritorious achievements in the field of financial management. Join us on May 16, 2018 at Villa Mannino, 73 Route 130, Bordentown, NJ to celebrate with these outstanding individuals and their achievements! For more info: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Chapters/Trenton/Training-Events/Event-Calendar/Annual-Awards-Dinner.aspx>

**June Tri-Chapter Event** - Our Tri-Chapter (with NNJ and Philadelphia) pay as you go event will take place on June 2, 2018 at a Lakewood Blueclaws game. Game time is 7:05 pm. The cost per person is \$10. Contact me at [abishop61@yahoo.com](mailto:abishop61@yahoo.com) if you are interested in the event. HURRY, seats are limited! More Blueclaws information: <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t427>

Don't forget to get social with AGA - Trenton Chapter! Check it out our website for updates as well as our Facebook and LinkedIN pages!

Sincerely,

Andy Bishop  
Trenton Chapter President

**AGA—Trenton Chapter  
Balance Sheet as of 2/28/18**

| <b>ASSETS:</b>      |                                | <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:</b> |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cash (BOA)-Savings  | 12,182.09                      | Accounts Payable               | 1,226.47                       |
| Cash(BOA) Checking  | 10,628.77                      | Deferred Income                | 0.00                           |
| Accts. Rec.         |                                |                                |                                |
| Symp/Mtg/Sem        | 0.00                           |                                |                                |
| PrePaid Expenses    | <u>3,524.62</u>                | Fund Balance                   | <u>25,109.01</u>               |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> | <b><u><u>26,335.48</u></u></b> | <b>TOTAL L&amp;E</b>           | <b><u><u>26,335.48</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 Jessica Lippincott and Brian Larkin. They recently presented at the 2018 Spring Training Event, on the topic of Predictive Modeling in Financial Statement Fraud, for the Central Kentucky Association of Government Accountants in Frankfort, Kentucky! Way to represent the Trenton AGA Chapter!

# MARCH 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI               | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|
|     |     |     |     | 01  | 02                | 03  |
| 04  | 05  | 06  | 07  | 08  | 09                | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16<br>CGFM<br>DAY | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23                | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30                | 31  |



- 1) Dinner Meeting TBD (Happy Hour starts at 5:30PM) Tessara Restaurant  
812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619
- 2) CFGM Day, Wear the color red to work to represent Certified Government  
Financial Managers everywhere!

# APRIL 2018

| SUN   | MON | TUE  | WED                     | THU | FRI   | SAT |
|---|-----|--|-------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| 01<br>   | 02  | 03   | 04                      | 05  | 06  | 07  |
| 08  | 09  | 10   | 11<br>Webinar<br>2:00pm | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17<br> | 18                      | 19  | 20<br>AGA<br>Spring<br>Symposium  | 21  |
| 22<br> | 23  | 24   | 25                      | 26  | 27<br> | 28  |
| 29  | 30  |  |                         |     |   |     |



- 1) Webinar (from 2:00 to 3:50PM) Office of the State Comptroller, 12th Floor Conference Room – 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625 Ethics
- 2) Spring Symposium – April 20, 2018 (Times and Agenda TBD) TCNJ 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing Township, NJ 08628



# Registration is open for the 2018 Spring Training Event

By kcyaga@gmail.com in News on February 7, 2018.

## Quicklinks

[Citizen Centric Reports](#)

[CGFM](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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[History Reports](#)

[Meeting Info](#)

[News](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Photos](#)



*Photo by Nik MacMillan on Unsplash*

### **2018 Spring Training Event**

**Monday, March 12, 2018**

**8:00 AM—4:30 PM**

**Fraud** (4 Hours), Daniel Porter, CFE

**Fraud** (2 Hours), Jessica Lippincott, AGA

**Fraud** (2 hours), Ben McKown, KYTC

Central Kentucky Association of Government Accountants  
<http://kcyaga.com/registration-is-open-for-the-2018-spring-training-event/>

# 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](#)

# Congratulations!

To David Illuminate and his wife for the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Sienna Mae!

From everyone here at AGA,  
we wish you both the best!



# Annual Awards Diner

The Trenton Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) annually recognizes outstanding individuals with meritorious achievements in the field of financial management. Join us in celebrating these individuals and their achievements!

Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Event Starts at 5:15PM

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Fee:        |      |
| Members     | \$35 |
| Non-Members | \$40 |

Please register ahead of time to reserve your spot!

[register](#)





## **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

**TBD RainDate, 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)



# topics

## What's your favorite membership benefit?

Discounted event registration? Networking opportunities? Thought provoking articles in the Journal? Free CPEs? Don't risk missing out!!

[renew today](#)

## FREE CPEs!

Your membership includes four complimentary webinars. Next up is March 15th – [Owning My Future: Having an Enriching Career in Changing Times](#). **Earn 2 CPEs!**

[register](#)

## Are you Notable and Quotable?

What is the value of your AGA membership? Your answer can earn you a spotlight in Topics or the AGA website. Email [Julia Robinson](#) for more information.

[be recognized](#)

## Volunteers needed for National boards/committees

Interested in the Journal, certification, federal management standards, ethics, governance or bylaws? Positions are open on all!

[learn more](#)

**acl** Live Webinar: Finding Fraud in a Haystack of Government Data [Register here >>](#)

## March is CGFM Month!

Whether you're a CGFM, pursuing your certification, employ a CGFM, or supporting the CGFMs in your chapter, learn how you can celebrate excellence in government financial management this CGFM Month.

[learn more](#)



### Upcoming events

View AGA's calendar for national and chapter events.

[learn more](#)



**BRAIN  
TEASER**

[test yourself](#)



### Chapter spotlight

**Richmond Chapter**  
45th anniversary on  
March 1.

**Congratulations!**

## Stop Struggling

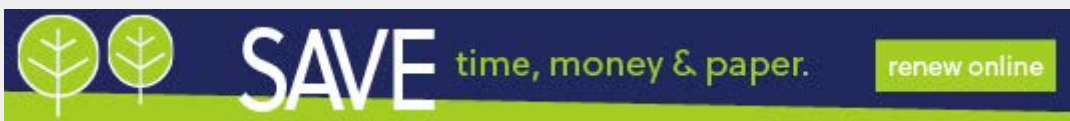
Cooperative Audit Resolution - many are still trying to figure this out. Fortunately AGA has a playbook to help!

[learn more](#)

## Train your staff at your location

**Budget Development and Execution** – the various types of budgets, including performance, line-item and program budgets will be examined, with particular attention paid to budget preparation, execution and reporting.

[schedule course](#)



## Go for the Gold!

We all loved watching the Olympics and admired the dedication and talent of the athletes. However, there are many individuals who are dedicated in their volunteer work with AGA. They share their time, their talents, and deserve a gold medal of their own.

Do you know a dedicated AGA volunteer who deserves to be recognized? Nominate them for a [PDT Award of Distinction](#)! Hurry, nominations are due March 31.

[nominate](#)

## Last call — March 7 webinar

### [Infrastructure Financing with State and Local Government](#)

Register today to engage in discussion on some of the challenges of financing state and local public infrastructure, learn new and creative ways to finance public infrastructure and identify new financial arrangements such as public-private partnerships.

[learn more](#)



## By the numbers

NLT 2018 was one of the largest NLTs ever! Mark your calendar for NLT 2019, to be held February 27-28, 2019.



[Contact Us](#) | [Membership](#) | [Training & Events](#) | [CGFM Certification](#) | [Resources](#)

AGA is the member organization for government financial management professionals. We lead and encourage change that benefits our field and all citizens. Our networking events, professional certification, publications and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers.

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# 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!*

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# 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

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

## 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

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

## Nominations

**Kiersten Marie Kokotajlo, CFE, CICA**

NJ Office of the State Auditor

[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!](#)