

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Members and Friends:*

*Welcome to the AGA Trenton Chapter 2014-2015 Year. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve again as Chapter President. I would like to thank last years' President, Ann Marie Spagnola for her outstanding service and leadership. I look forward to working with the Chapter Board, consisting of many longtime friends and a few new faces, to continue to meet the challenge of providing you with high quality educational events and the opportunity to participate in community service activities.*

*The Chapter has begun the process of confirming speakers for our Fall Seminar (October 31st, at Mercer County College Conference Center) and will be hosting the first of four dinner meetings, on September 17th, at Tessara's, in Hamilton. Our guest speaker will be Ronald Marino, Assistant Commissioner of Income Security with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.*

*Additionally, the Chapter will be hosting the first of six audio conferences ("Wow! She Stole That Much?"), on October 8th (locations to listed on page 11 of this news letter). I hope to see you at one of these events.*

*Sincerely,  
Guy Tassi  
Trenton Chapter President*

**TRENTON  
CHAPTER**

**AGA**

*Association of Government Accountants*



## MEET THE SPEAKER: SEPTEMBER 2014 MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

**AGA Dinner Meeting at Tessara's, in Hamilton, NJ on September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Speaker and Bio:**



**Ronald L. Marino**

**Ron is the Assistant Commissioner of Income Security with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Ron oversees the operations of five divisions: Unemployment Insurance, Fraud Prevention and Risk Management, Employer Accounts, Temporary Disability Insurance and Disability Determination Services. He has been involved with all facets of Unemployment Insurance for over 40 years, serving in a senior management capacity in various Unemployment and Disability programs for the past 17 years. Ron has extensive knowledge and experience in both claimant and employer related operations. He lives with his wife and daughter in East Brunswick, NJ.**

# AGA Important Dates

Meeting Date	Event Name	Location	CPEs
09/17/2014	<b><u>Dinner Meeting</u></b>	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	
10/31/2014	<b><u>Fall Seminar</u></b>	The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ 08550	
11/12/2014	<b><u>Dinner Meeting</u></b> Misc: Proposed Speaker - Ben Dworkin	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	
01/14/2015	<b><u>Dinner Meeting</u></b> Misc: Proposed Speaker - Mercadi- en Tax Update	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	
03/11/2015	<b><u>Dinner Meeting</u></b>	Tessara Restaurant 812 Rt.33 Hamilton, NJ 08619	
05/01/2015	<b><u>Spring Symposium</u></b>	Wyndham Garden Hotel 1 W. Lafayette St. Trenton, NJ 08608	
05/20/2015	<b><u>Awards Dinner</u></b>	Wyndham Garden Hotel 1 W. Lafayette St. Trenton, NJ 08608	

The **FALL SEMINAR** is an all-day (7 CPE event)

Location: Mercer County Community College  
1200 Old Trenton Road  
West Windsor, NJ 08550

<http://conferencecenteratmercer.mccc.edu/index.shtml>

Breakfast & lunch are provided

If you are interested in pursuing the CGFM please contact Margarita Stanislavskaya at [mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org](mailto:mstanislavskaya@mercercounty.org).

For more information about the CGFM, please visit <http://www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/>

## National Events



### Using a Stat System to Manage State or Local Government Programs

September 24, 2014



### Government Finance Case Challenge

September 30, 2014



### Wow! She Stole That Much?

October 8, 2014



### Are You Prepared for DATA Act Challenges?

November 5, 2014

### Federal Financial Systems Summit

January 8, 2015



Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

For more information: <http://www.agacgfm.org/>

## AGA—Trenton Chapter Balance Sheet as of 8/31/14

<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Cash (BOA)-Savings	\$2,175.23
Cash(BOA) Checking Accts.	14,696.37
Rec. Symp/mtg/Sem	0.00
PrePaid Expenses	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$18,371.60</b>

<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Deferred Income	0.00
Fund Balance	<u>18,371.60</u>
<b>TOTAL L&amp;E</b>	<b>\$18,371.60</b>

### ATTENTION:

December is CFGM promotion month. Use “CGFM-dec” promo code to take \$20 off your exam fee(s) when you schedule any CGFM Examination for a date in December.

For more information visit: [www.agacqfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Cetrification-Process/Examination-Proceduresfor](http://www.agacqfm.org/CGFM-Certification/Cetrification-Process/Examination-Proceduresfor)

Good luck to all candidates!

Margarita Stanislavskaya, CGFM coordinator

North-Atlantic and Trenton Chapter

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JILL ANN MURPHY  
FROM MERCADIEN FOR RECENTLY PASSING  
THE CGFM EXAM**

## 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 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.



[business.rutgers.edu/govmaccy](http://business.rutgers.edu/govmaccy)

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Upcoming Audio Conferences  
Calendar Year 2014-15

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

**Upcoming Web Conferences:**

**2014**

- Oct. 8      Wow! She Stole That Much? (Labor Auditorium) \*\*
- Nov. 19     Fraud Risk Management (OSC Conference Room)
- Dec. 10     How Do You Spell Success? E-T-H-I-C-S! (OSC Conference Room)

**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 preceding the course





## 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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                          PO Box 536  
                          Trenton, NJ 08604

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*Visit our website:* [WWW.AGATRENTON.COM](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](http://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!