

# **ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS**

**TRENTON CHAPTER**

**HISTORY REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018**

**ROSE M. TODARO  
HISTORIAN**

## **CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Trenton Chapter holds annual elections in April for the following Chapter Officers (see Attachment A for 2017-2018 Officers):

President  
President-elect-First Vice President  
Vice Presidents (2)  
Treasurer  
Secretary

During program year 2017-2018, eighteen directors, appointed by the President, were active within the Chapter (see Attachment A for 2017-2018 Officers and Directors).

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>PROGRAM</u></b>
September 7, 2017	The Chapter's 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was attended by 45 members and 7 non-members. Two of the attending members were from the Philadelphia Chapter, who sponsored Trenton Chapter at the time of its formation.
September 19, 2017	Kenneth Kamen, President of Mercadient Asset Management and Mercadient Securities. The topic of discussion was "Safeguarding your Nest Egg". He provided strategies for investing for the future, while minimizing risk and loss. One CPE was offered to the 23 attendees.
November 15, 2017	Carole Hedinger, CPA, CGMA Executive Director, New Jersey Lottery. The topic of her discussion highlighted the challenges and changes that have occurred in the sales, administration, and the airing of the daily lottery pick-it games. One CPE was offered to the 26 attendees
January 10, 2018	Jill Ann Murphy, CPA, CGMA Director, Mercadient P.C. and Holly Sabo, Manager, Mercadian Group, P.C. The topic of their discussion was 2017 tax update and insight to the tax changes for 2018. One CPE was offered to the 32 attendees.
April 11, 2018	Joseph Simon, CGFM, MPA, MAIR Senior Associate with Grant Thornton. The topic of his presentation was "Disaster Recovery – Integrity Oversight Monitoring for Performance and Compliance" with regard to Hurricane Sandy. One CPE was offered to the 22 attendees.
May 16, 2018	Annual Awards Dinner

Four of the six monthly meetings offered one CPE to those attending.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DATES**

The full Executive Board met twice during the 2017-2018 program year. The Board held a reorganization meeting on July 26, 2017. An additional mid-year Board meeting was held on January 24, 2018.

## **EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

### **WEBINARS HELD**

- September 13, 2017      Webinar conference topic was *Managing 90% of Your Job* - 15 individuals attended. The session offered 2 CPE credits.
- November 15, 2017      Webinar conference topic was *Spotting Fraud in Your Organization* - 19 individuals attended this session. The session offered 2 CPE credits.
- December 6, 2017      Webinar conference topic was *Accounting & Financial Auditing Challenges/Best Practices* - 19 individuals attended this session. The session offered 2 CPE credits.
- February 7, 2018      Webinar conference topic was *Understanding GASB's New Standards on Leases and Fiduciary Activities* - 16 individuals attended. This session offered 2 CPE credits.
- April 11, 2018      Webinar conference topic was *Beyond the Code: Ethics in the Real World* - 18 individuals attended. This session offered 2 CPE credits.
- May 16, 2018      Webinar conference topic was *Leveraging Data Mining to Uncover Fraud* - 10 individuals attended. This session offered 2 CPE credits.

These training sessions were offered to AGA members free. Non-members were charged a small fee.

### **FULL DAY TRAINING EVENTS**

- October 27, 2017      Annual Fall Seminar titled “**Addiction Epidemic: Fiscal to Fraud – The Far Reaching Impacts**”. Seminar offered 8 CPE credits to the 90 individuals who attended. Presentations related to the following topics; Medicaid Audits; Behavioral Health Care; NJ Treatment Incentive Program; Governor’s Task Force on Drug Abuse Control; Addiction Programs – Implementation Strategies; and Pills to Heroin Abuse.
- April 20, 2018      Annual Spring Symposium titled “**Changes in Government: Preparing for the Future**”. The symposium was divided into two tracks as follows and offered 7 CPE credits to the 127 individuals who attended. The day started with:

**Keynote Presentation:** Ben Dworken, Director, the Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship, Rowan University. The topic of his presentation focused on *what to expect from the Murphy Administration*.

**Plenary Session** was a discussion on *Governor Murphy's Transition* presented by an Editor for the NJ Spotlight, the former New Jersey State Treasurer, and the Board Chair for NJ Spotlight.

**Luncheon speaker** was Director of City of Angels, the recipient of the 2018 Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial donation.

**Concurrent Workshops:**

**Track 1 Fiscal Issues**

Session 1 *IRS Criminal Investigations*

Session 2 *Pension Portfolio Issues and Alternative Investments*

**Track 2 Technology Issues**

Session 1 *Establishing Resiliency in Today's Cyber-Ecosystem*

Session 2 *Blockchain Technology*

**COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS**

October 28, 2017 & April 21, 2018 Collection of canned goods and donations was held for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen during each of the events held on these dates.

May 23, 2018 Ten members and one non-member participated in a program to honor our veterans by assisting the Mercer County Veterans' Service Office with placing flags on veterans' grave sites at a local cemetery.

September 2017 to May 2018 Various projects were undertaken to raise funds for the Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial. Paul passed away during his term as Chapter President and the Chapter established the fund to recognize Paul's dedication to community service. Annually the Chapter selects a community service entity to receive this award. The 2017-2018 recipient selected was "City of Angels". The 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. City of Angels is a non-denominational, independent organization and all services are open to everyone needing assistance.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

The Chapter issued nine newsletters between September 2017 and June 2018 containing our President's letter, minutes of the board of directors meetings, financial status of the Chapter, articles written by Chapter members and non-members, CGFM information, meeting announcements, speaker's biographies, etc. (Attachment B).

During the year the Chapter prepared the 2016-2017 Citizen Centric Report which highlighted the demographics the Chapter's membership by employer and professional certification; educational events offered during the program year; community service activities; the Chapter's financial activities for the 2016 and the 2017 program years; as well as, discussing the Chapter's efforts to enhance its communications with current members; and efforts to expand its membership. (Attachment C)

## **EARLY CAREER EVENT**

On February 2, 2018 the Chapter held a meet and greet bowling night in order to introduce college students and early career government employees to the Chapter and all that it has to offer future and current governmental employees. The event was attended by 12 Chapter board members, 3 Chapter members, one visiting member from the Northern New Jersey Chapter, 4 students from a nearby area college and 6 professional non-members. The event was free to students and young professionals. Members and professional non-members paid \$6 to attend, and these monies went to the Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial Fund.

## **CHAPTER HONORARIUMS AND AWARDS**

The Annual Awards Dinner was held on May 16, 2018 and the following awards were presented to members and non-members:

### **Achievement of the Year**

Pamela Robertori, NJ Department of Transportation

### **Special Achievement Award**

Nick Hansen, NJ Department of Transportation

### **Chapter Service Award**

Andrew Glowdowski, NJ Department of Transportation

Brian Larkin, NJ Office of the State Auditor

Jessica Lippincott, NJ Department of Transportation

### **Distinguished Leadership Award**

Joseph Guider, NJ Department of Human Services

### **Education and Training Award**

Michael Morgese, NJ Office of the State Comptroller

**Membership Scholarship Recipients**

Stephanie Rybak, NJ Office of the State Auditor  
Marie Samson, NJ Department of Transportation  
Jennifer Suchan, NJ Office of the State Auditor

**Thomas J. Kaschak Scholarship (\$1,500)**

Justine Maher

**Trenton Chapter Scholarship (\$750)**

Ross Talbot

**Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial (\$1,750)**

City of Angels

**Special Assistants Award**

Robyn Boyer, NJ Office of the State Auditor

**President's Award**

Rene Gervasoni, NJ Office of the State Auditor

**Past President's Award**

Andrew Bishop, Bishop & Bishop, CPA's and Litigation Consultants

**CHAPTER TO CHAPTER SERVICE**

Two of the Chapter's up-and-coming board members were invited to be presenters at the Central Kentucky Association of Government Accountants 2018 Spring Training Event. The topic of their presentation was *Predictive Modeling in Financial Statement Fraud*.

**NATIONAL LEVEL SERVICE and RECOGNITION**

The Chapter's In-Coming President, Vice President of Membership, the Chapter's Secretary, the Out-Going 2016-2017 President, the Regional/Chapter CGFM Coordinator and one Chapter member attended the July 2017 Professional Development Training (PDT) held in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Chapter's CGFM Representative continued to be part of the National CGFM Certification Board. The second year of their three-year term. This nine member Board is responsible for establishing and/or changing the CGFM certification and/or exam rules, regulations, and qualifications; handle candidate's complaints, questions or concerns; review exam questions and other issues regarding the administration of the CGFM certification process.

The Chapter was recognized in National's August 16, 2017 Newsletter Leadership Matters. The article was written by the Chapter's CGFM Representative, and it described the Chapter's initiative to attract young professionals, diversify the Chapter's board, and demonstrating the value of being an AGA member through involvement in the Chapter's activities. (Attachment D)

The Chapter's Board Secretary received a Young Professional Group (YPG) grant to attend the July 2017 Professional Development Training (PDT) held in Boston, Massachusetts.

The success of National's annual Professional Development Training (PDT) is not only dependent on offering high quality educational sessions and being well attended, but also having the support and services of volunteers. The Chapter's Vice President of Membership answered National's request for volunteers and served on the Welcoming Committee for the 2017 PDT held in Boston, Massachusetts.

Two of the Chapter's up-and-coming Directors attended the AGA Sectional Leadership Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland in April 2018.

### **NATIONAL AWARD and CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENACE**

The Trenton Chapter earned the Platinum Award from National for 2017–2018 program year. The Chapter earned over 19,501 credits. Credits are awarded by the National Association for fulfilling all the various goals set by the National office.

The Chapter was awarded the Certificate of Excellence for its 2016–2017 Citizen Centric Report. (Attachment E)

## Attachment A

### CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2017-2018

#### OFFICERS

President	Andrew Bishop, CPA, CGMA
President-Elect and Vice President of Education	Robert Rizzo, CPA
Vice President of Finance/Administration/Programs	Christopher Schwartz
Vice President of Membership	Nikki Farrell, CICA
Treasurer	David Kaschak, CGFM, CPA
Secretary	Michelle Blatt
Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee Chair	Kiersten M. Kokotajlo, CFE, CICA

#### DIRECTORS

Fall Seminar	Rene Gervasoni, Jessica Lippincott, Audrey Hoyle
Spring Symposium	Brian Larkin
Audio Conferences	Michelle Blatt, Thalia Treby
Emerging Issues	Michael Salberta
Newsletter	Andrew Glowdowski
Awards	Christopher Schwartz
Budget-Finance	Tyler Frounfelker, CPA
Programs	Christopher Schwartz
Meetings	Rene Gervasoni, David Illuminate
Historian	Rose M. Todaro, CGFM, Ret.
Community Service	Robert Olsen, Christopher Fucello
Chapter Recognition	Brian Larkin
Bylaws and Procedures	Michael Hoyle, Esq., Guy Tassi, CPA
Sponsorship	Michael Hoyle, Esq., Guy Tassi, CPA
Chapter Early Career	Meghan Ellis
Membership/Sponsorship	Robert Rizzo, CPA
Regional and Chapter CGFM Coordinator	Margarita Stanislavskaya, CGFM, CPA, CIA
Accountability Outreach Chair	Kiersten M. Kokotajlo, CFE, CICA
Webmaster/Communications	Nikki Farrell, CICA
Paul Viduas Coordinator	Taylor Leavy





# Newsletter

VOLUME 2017, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER, 2017

## President's Message

Andrew Bishop, CPA / CGMA

Dear Members and Friends:

Welcome to the AGA Trenton Chapter 2017-2018 Program Year. I am honored to be selected to serve as Chapter President. First, I would like to thank all past presidents for their tireless efforts in making our chapter what it is today. Special thanks goes to last year's President, Kiersten Kokotajlo for her outstanding service and leadership. Kiersten, with the help of all of you, our members, has catapulted our chapter to platinum status recognition by National.

I look forward to working with the Chapter Board, consisting of many longtime friends and many 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.

Our new program year kicks off with our chapter's 40th Anniversary Celebration on September 7, 2017 at Tavern on the Lake from 5:00 - 9:00 pm.

The chapter has begun the process of preparing for our Fall Seminar. This year's Fall Seminar will be Friday, October 27, 2017 at Mercer County Community College (MCCC). More details to follow.

We will be hosting the first of four dinner meetings, on Tuesday, September 19th, at Tessara's, in Hamilton. Our guest speaker will be Ken Kamen author of "Safeguarding Your Nest Egg". Happy Hour begins at 5:30 pm.

The chapter will continue to host the six audio conferences this upcoming program year. The first is scheduled on 09/13/2017 from 2:00 to 3:50 pm at the Office of the State Comptroller, 12th Floor Conference Room - 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625.

For the latest information regarding AGA Events please visit and register online:

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

Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook for updates as well as pictures from our events!

I am looking forward to a successful program year and seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Andrew (Andy) Bishop  
Trenton Chapter President

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY! AGA – TRENTON CHAPTER CELEBRATES IT'S 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

A flyer for the AGA Trenton Chapter's 40th anniversary. The background is a textured brown paper with scattered yellow, white, and grey confetti. The text is centered and reads: "AGA Trenton Chapter is celebrating 40 years of service. Join us to celebrate Thursday, September 7th." Below this, it lists the venue "Tavern on the Lake" with its address and hours, and provides registration details: "Early-bird Registration by 8/24" with rates for Trenton AGA Members & Past Presidents (FREE), other AGA Members (\$40), and Non-Members (\$60). A registration link is provided at the bottom.

**AGA Trenton Chapter**  
*is celebrating*  
**40**  
*years of service*  
Join us to celebrate  
**Thursday, September 7th**

*Tavern on the Lake*  
101 N. Main Street  
Hightstown, NJ 08520  
5:00 - 9:00 PM

*Early-bird Registration by 8/24*  
Trenton AGA Members & Past Presidents - FREE  
AGA Members (other chapters) - \$40  
Non-Members - \$60

Register online at: [www.agacgfm.org/trenton](http://www.agacgfm.org/trenton)

**Thank you to all of our board members and members  
for making our chapter what it is today!...Looking  
forward to the next 40 years!**



# Celebrating 40 Years!

## Thank You!

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary we'd like to thank all our past presidents!!

<b>Program Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Program Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Program Year</b>	<b>Name</b>
2016-2017	Kiersten Kokotailo	2001-2002	Rose Todaro	1986-1987	Jean Mount
2015-2016	Audrey Hoyle	2000-2001	Carol Ann Marty	1985-1986	Stephen Krol
2014-2015	Guy Tassi	1999-2000	Joseph D. Guider	1984-1985	Richard L. Fair
2013-2014	Ann Marie Spagnola	1998-1999	Gilbert L. Johnson	1983-1984	Nuzio Masone Anthony
2012-2013	William Challice Margarita	1997-1998	Paul M. Vidunas	1982-1983	Sant'Angelo
2011-2012	Stanislayskaya	1996-1997	Donald S. Ryba	1981-1982	James Bedenko
2010-2011	Christine Muller	1995-1996	Francis C Gatti, Jr	1980-1981	Robert Alu
2009-2010	Audrey Hoyle	1994-1995	Diane M. Zompa	1979-1980	Paul Kurisko
2008-2009	Frank Defeo	1993-1994	Jane Coult	1978-1979	Scott Phillips
2007-2008	Andy Pantelides	1992-1993	Charles Muller	1977-1978	James J. Dolan
2006-2007	Jackie Shelly	1991-1992	Maria Salamandra		
2005-2006	Rose Todaro	1990-1991	Anthony J Moran		
2004-2005	Guy Tassi	1989-1990	Elwood Fell		
2003-2004	David J. Kaschak	1988-1989	Harry J. Collis		
2002-2003	Guy Tassi	1987-1988	Michael Mayo		



## **SAVE THIS DATE**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 @ 5:30 pm

**Event:** Dinner Meeting (Topic - “Safeguarding Your Nest Egg”)

**Speaker:** Ken Kamen

**Location:** Tessara Restaurant, 812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619

**[Click here to register now for this Dinner Meeting](#)**

# Introducing: Kenneth Kamen

## September 19<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting Speaker



Kenneth Kamen is president of Mercadien Asset Management and Mercadien Securities, as well as the author of the highly-acclaimed book from Bloomberg Press, *Reclaim Your Nest Egg: Take Control of your Financial Future*. Mercadien Asset Management provides personal and business financial planning and asset management services to assist clients in reaching their wealth objectives. Mercadien Securities provides investment banking and consulting services to small and mid-sized businesses.

With nearly three decades of experience working in the securities and personal finance industries, Mr. Kamen is a nationally-recognized financial expert and advisor. He has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Finance and consulted on matters in his area of expertise with members of the U.S. House of Representatives Commerce and Ways and Means Committees.

Mr. Kamen has served as the chairman of a business advisory group to the U.S. House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee Oversight and Investigations Sub-Committee. The business advisory group's mission was to provide recommendations on possible accounting, auditing and financial practice reforms for congressional consideration in the wake of corporate governance and accounting abuses.

Ken is frequently called upon by the print and broadcast media as the go-to financial expert for comment on a wide range of financial topics. He is a frequent guest on Reuters Business News, CNBC, the Fox Business Channel, and Bloomberg TV, as well as many national radio and television programs. He is often quoted in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's*, and is a regular contributor to Forbes.com. He has been a guest lecturer at colleges, universities and many investment-banking and related forums.

Mr. Kamen was the founder and president of Princeton Securities Corporation, an NASD-licensed broker-dealer, purchased by Kirlin Holding Corporation in March 2000. He is a past chairman of the National Investment Banking Association, the preeminent national association of regional independent broker dealers and investment banking firms. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance from Hofstra University and resides in Yardley, PA.

**AGA—Trenton Chapter  
Balance Sheet as of 8/30/17**

<b>ASSETS:</b>		<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:</b>	
Cash (BOA)-Savings	12,180.87	Accounts Payable	-
Cash(BOA) Checking	8,649.63	Deferred Income	110.00
Accts. Rec. Symp/Mtg/Sem	115.00		
PrePaid Expenses	<u>4,314.62</u>	Fund Balance	<u>25,150.12</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>25,260.12</u></u>	<b>TOTAL L&amp;E</b>	<u><u>25,260.12</u></u>



**IMPORTANT!!**

**Save this Date for the 2017 AGA Fall Conference:**

***October 27, 2017*** - Located at The Conference Center at Mercer (Mercer County Community College)

**Address: 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, NJ 08550**

Earn up to 7 CPEs!

**For information: <http://www.agatrenton.com/events.html>**

# Congratulations!

to Anthony Glebocki for achieving  
Lifetime Membership with the  
Trenton Chapter of the Association of  
Government Accountants!

Anthony is the fourth person to join the  
prestigious rank of Lifetime Member.

Thank you for all you have done throughout the years and we are  
looking forward to you enjoying many more with AGA!!





## CGFM® Certification

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### CGFM Intensive Review Course & Exams

AGA's Intensive Review Course (IRC) with CGFM examinations *included* is a great opportunity to review the course material with a knowledgeable instructor and complete your CGFM!

The next IRC, offering up to 18 CPEs, will be held in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 9-10, 2017. The class will run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days. The cost of the course for qualified participants is as follows:

- \$375 for AGA members
- \$425 for non-AGA members

**SPECIAL BONUS: The CGFM examinations are offered at no additional cost to course attendees — a \$375 savings!**

The CGFM examinations can be taken by appointment only at Pearson Professional Testing Centers from **Nov. 11, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018**, using vouchers provided by AGA.

- ***What is the Intensive Review Course?*** It is a special, limited enrollment opportunity for those individuals who have already been studying for the CGFM examinations and want extra reinforcement of the material. It is a review of the main topics covered on the CGFM examinations, led by a knowledgeable instructor.
- ***What it's NOT:*** It is not a shortcut. It is not an exam prep course with strategies on how to pass the exams. The Intensive Review Course is not a substitute for the three AGA instructor-led training courses. It is usually not enough, by itself, to prepare for the CGFM examinations – advance preparation is strongly recommended.

#### Registration

To participate in this event, individuals must:

1. Apply and be accepted into the CGFM program (see CGFM Process for more information)
2. Pre-register for this event

register

<https://www.agacgfm.org/Training-and-Events/Event-Registration.aspx?ID=251>



# SEPTEMBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>04</b> 	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b> AGA 40 <sup>th</sup> Celebration	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Webinar 2:00pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Dinner Meeting 5:30pm	<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>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



- 1)** Trenton's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (from 5:00 to 9:00 PM)  
Tavern on the Lake 101 N Main Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520
- 2)** Webinar (from 2:00 to 3:50PM) Office of the State Comptroller, 12th  
Floor Conference Room - 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625  
Communication/Leadership Skills
- 3)** Dinner Meeting (Happy Hour starts at 5:30) Tessara Restaurant  
812 NJ-33, Hamilton, NJ 08619 Author Ken Kamen Speaking on the financial  
impact of recycling in NJ

# OCTOBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09  Happy Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Fall Seminar	28
29	30	31 				

**1)** Fall Seminar - October 27, 2017 (Times and Agenda TBD) Mercer County Community College 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor Township, NJ 08550





## Webinars (Fall 2017)

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**WEBINAR: Communications/Leadership Skills**  
**September 13, 2017 (from 2:00 to 3:50 PM)**

[Register Online](#)

Office of the State Comptroller, 12th Floor Conference Room - 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

**Contact:** AGA Trenton Chapter  
**Email:** [agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)

**WEBINAR: Ethics Relating to Fraud**  
**November 15, 2017 (from 2:00 to 3:50 PM)**

[Register Online](#)

Office of the State Comptroller, 12th Floor Conference Room - 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

**Contact:** AGA Trenton Chapter  
**Email:** [agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)

**WEBINAR: Best Practices for Auditing & Quality Assurance**  
**December 6, 2017 (from 2:00 to 3:50 PM)**

[Register Online](#)

Office of the State Comptroller, 12th Floor Conference Room - 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

**Contact:** AGA Trenton Chapter  
**Email:** [agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)



## Dinner Meetings (2017-2018)

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### **September 2017 Dinner Meeting**

**September 19, 2017 (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)

### **November 2017 Dinner Meeting**

**November 15, 2017 (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)

### **January 2018 Dinner Meeting**

**January 10, 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)

### **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)



## AGA Trenton Chapter in the National Spotlight!



### PDT 2017 pics are ready to download

Want to relive the experience? Share with friends or your employer? View and download photos from educational sessions, the exhibit hall and more.

[learn more](#)



### Chapter Spotlight

**Trenton Chapter** celebrated its 40th anniversary Sept. 1.

[learn more](#)

## Chapter best practice: Trenton’s Membership Scholarship Program

Margarita Stanislavskaya initiated the Membership Scholarship Program to diversify the chapter’s board and attract new members. Through activity board, scholarship recipients work with other board members on projects integral to the chapter’s success. Being an active board member keeps these scholarship recipients in AGA by showing them the value of their membership.



[learn more](#)

# 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.



# 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

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## Webmaster

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# Chapter Directors

2017-2018 Program Year

---

Fall Seminar: Rene Gervasoni / Jessica Lippincott

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 Fuccello

Awards: Christopher Schwartz

Chapter Early Career: Meghan Ellis

Budget/ Finance: Tyler Frounfelker

Newsletter: Andrew Glowdowski

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: Douglas A. Scantlebury, CICA



## 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>



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# A Report to Our Members

*Citizen Centric Report 2016-2017*



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## Our Mission

The Trenton Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a leading advocate for improving the quality and effectiveness of Governmental fiscal management. To this end, our goal is to carry forward the purpose of the AGA itself - to promote continuing education, development and professionalism in the areas of government financial management and to promote opportunities for community service.

## Total Members by Employer

	2016	2017
State	99	92
Federal	8	13
Local	3	4
Private Sector	11	13
Retired	17	19
Academia	0	7
Student	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>148</b>

## Member Certifications

	2016	2017
CGFM	32	35
CPA	54	57
CIA	4	4
CFE	9	13
Other	12	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>120</b>

## Vision Statement

AGA is the premier association for advancing government accountability.



### National Mission

AGA fosters learning, certification, leadership and collaboration for professionals and stakeholders committed to advancing government accountability.

### Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Hours Awarded

We strive to provide our members more the 40 hours of CPE credits per year. The following table shows total CPE credits awarded over the past three years:

	2015	2016	2017
Audio Conferences	252	238	224
Fall Seminar	637	700	700
Spring Symposium	700	700	847
Dinner Meetings *less dinner meetings were held this year due to inclement weather.	52*	112	112
Other	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,883</b>



### Community Service

- Six members served lunch at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen in October. Various canned goods and other donations were provided to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen throughout the year.
- Handmade Valentine's Day cards were created by members which were delivered to a local senior care facility.
- Members participated in a program on Memorial Day to honor veterans by assisting the Italian American War Veterans Post # 2 in placement of flags on Veterans' grave sites at a local cemetery
- Raised \$1,600 for the Paul M. Vidunas Community Service Memorial donated to The Anchor House

### Awards Banquet

- Presented various awards to members and non-members for a number of services in governmental financial management
- \$1,500 awarded through scholarships to college students

### Early Career

- Hosted a bowling networking event where four students from TCNJ and Rider as well as four non-member young professionals were in attendance

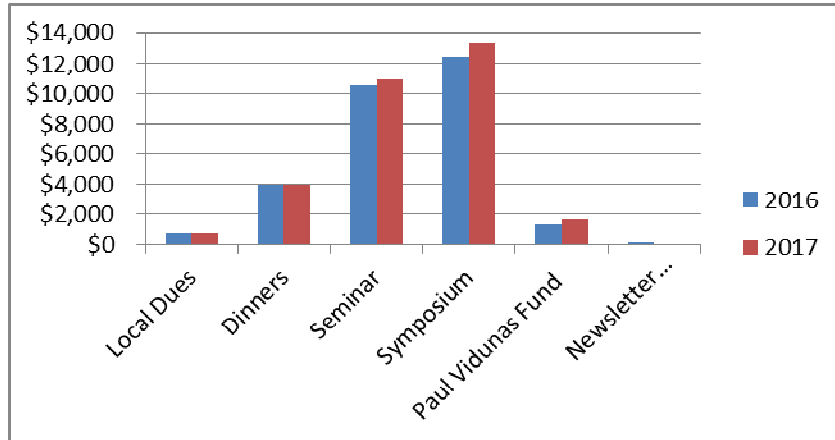


## REVENUES AND EXPENSES

### Primary Sources of Revenue

	2016	2017
Local Dues	\$707	\$763
Dinners	\$3,955	\$3,974
Seminar	\$10,525	\$10,945
Symposium	\$12,445	\$13,307
Paul Vidunas Fund	\$1,300	\$1,600
Newsletter Ads/Other Education/Misc	\$152	\$26
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$29,084</b>	<b>\$30,615</b>

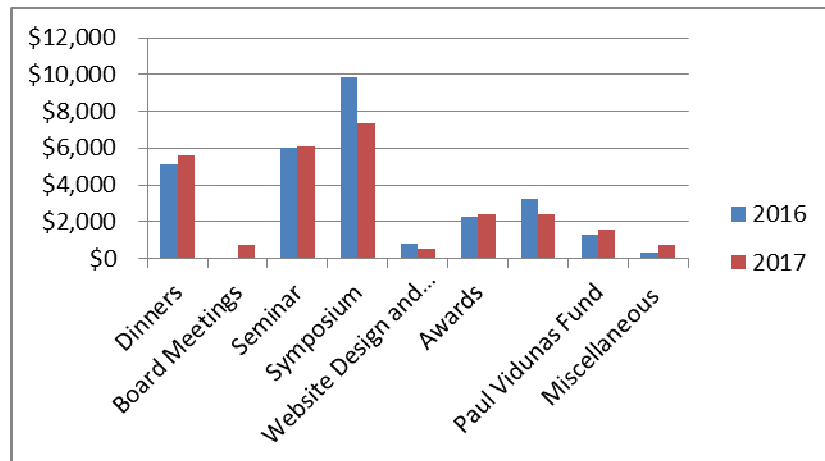
Fiscal Year 2016 & 2017 Revenue by Type



### Primary Functional Expenses

	2016	2017
Dinners	\$5,107	\$5,601
Board Meetings	\$0	\$728
Seminar	\$6,060	\$6,084
Symposium	\$9,872	\$7,359
Website Design and Maintenance	\$815	\$554
Awards	\$2,291	\$2,423
Other Education Expenses	\$3,260*	\$2,421*
*PDT		
Paul Vidunas Fund	\$1,300	\$1,600
Miscellaneous	\$358	\$772
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$29,063</b>	<b>\$27,542</b>

Fiscal Year 2016 & 2017 Expenses by Type



### Independent Audit

Independent audits of the Association's finances were conducted, resulting in clean opinions.



## Challenges moving forward

### We want to hear from you.

Do you like this report?  
Would you like to see other information?  
Please let us know by contacting Kiersten Kokotajlo at [kkokotajlo@njleg.org](mailto:kkokotajlo@njleg.org).

#### AGA - Trenton

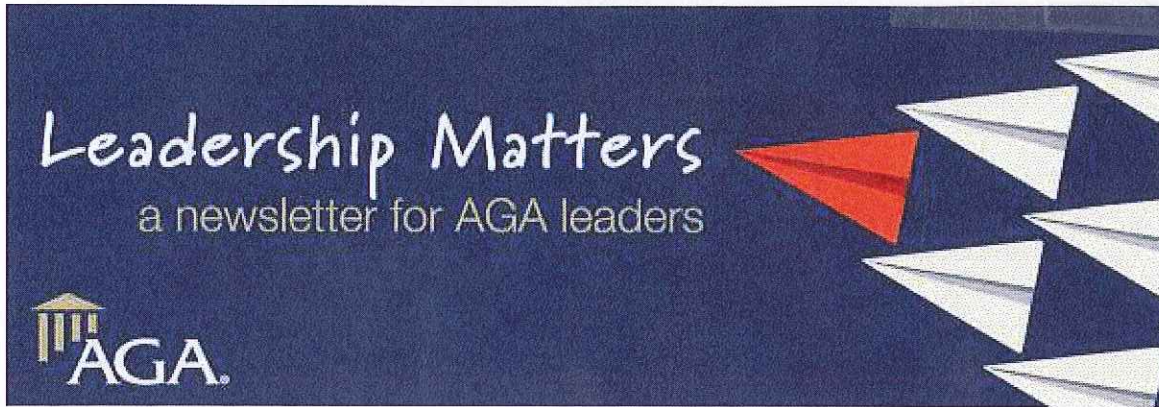
PO Box 536  
Trenton, NJ 08604  
[agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com](mailto:agatrentoninfo@agatrenton.com)  
[www.agatrenton.com](http://www.agatrenton.com)  
FACEBOOK: "AGA Trenton Chapter"



Like us on  
**Facebook**



- Continue to increase our presence in the professional community through constant upgrade and update of our website and use of social media to provide the most current and important information to the Chapter's members and friends and by issuing periodic electronic newsletters. This will strengthen and move AGA-Trenton forward to communicate its vision, mission, and goals to the existing and potential membership.
- Continue constant and regular communication with AGA's Regional and National coordinators to exchange information and ideas.
- Membership:
  - ✓ Continue improving and expanding annual Membership-Scholarship Program to promote AGA-Trenton Chapter and its membership especially among early career government employees by providing full sponsorship of the one full year of membership dues (national and chapter) along with registration for all AGA-Trenton Chapter's functions during the year at the member's rate (including annual Fall Seminar and Spring Symposium) for one or more individuals.
  - ✓ Continue promoting AGA-National Members' Recruitment and Retention Program with the Focus on Early Career and Student Members.
- Raise Public Awareness of Government Accountability, Transparency and Performance:
  - ✓ Preparing and distributing Chapter's Citizen-Centric Report to AGA-Trenton's membership and beyond.
  - ✓ Encouraging governmental entities to adopt four-page Citizen-Centric Report for greater governments' transparency and accountability.
  - ✓ Establishing and maintaining the Board position of Accountability Coordinator.
- Continue providing regular education programs through CPE dinner meetings, audio conferences, and Annual Fall and Spring Symposiums inviting highly respected and recognized speakers from all levels of government, private enterprise, and academia.
- Continue to promote the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program. Implement a scholarship incentive to become a CGFM.



## Last chance to register: Planning Meetings & Events

As an AGA leader, you're developing skills through tools provided for your volunteer work. Register for this complimentary webinar to hear tips from AGA's meetings staff on keeping yourself organized through the planning process, and pitfalls to avoid and enhancing your attendees' experience. Encourage your executive board to attend!

[register](#)

## Notify all undergraduate students

The National Collegiate Leadership Program (NCLP) is accepting applications for [NLT 2018](#). NCLP provides up to 10 full-time undergraduate students with the opportunity to travel to and attend the event at no charge, and engage with leaders in government financial management. Share this opportunity with all undergraduates at your local community colleges and universities. The deadline to [apply](#) is Friday, Nov. 10.

[learn more](#)

### How do you attract non-members?

Think like one! Consider that most don't join because of "general unawareness" and go from there.

[learn more](#)

### AGA's network of passionate leaders

Read and share this refresher as we discuss the governance structure in 2017–2018.

[learn more](#)

### Tell your CGFM candidates

Join us for the fall CGFM Intensive Review Course, and your exams are on AGA!

[register](#)

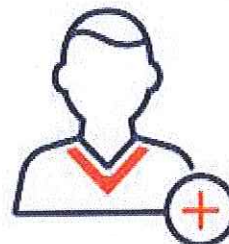
## Attention, education chairs!

AGA has greatly expanded its onsite course offerings! View the new 2017 online training catalog and discover the affordable and high-quality training that you can bring onsite to your chapter members. Hold two or more courses before March 31, 2018 and you'll receive \$500 off each one!



## Chapter best practice: Trenton's Membership Scholarship Program

Margarita Stanislavskaya initiated the Membership Scholarship Program to diversify the chapter's board and attract new members. Through activity board, scholarship recipients work with other board members on projects integral to the chapter's success. Being an active board member keeps these scholarship recipients in AGA by showing them the value of their membership.



 [learn more](#)

### dates & deadlines

#### August 21

First update due from your RVP

[learn more](#)

#### August 22

Leadership webinar on planning meetings and events

[register](#)

#### September 1

*Journal* submission deadline:

#### September 27

Leadership



Integrity and Leadership

webinar on CGFM

learn more

register

contact us



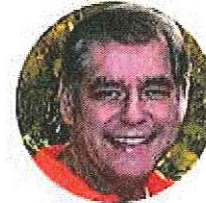
Louise Burnette, MPA  
Chapter Services Manager



Amanda Taylor  
Membership Manager



Julia Robinson  
Programs Assistant



Bobby Derrick, MBA, CGFM  
Field Representative & PNP



[Contact Us](#) | [Chapter Resources](#) | [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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## Trenton Chapter Membership Scholarship Program

Applicants must be:

- Government employees
- Working in accounting, auditing or IT-related roles
- New to AGA, has not previously been a member

The chapter will pay the scholarship recipient's membership fee for one year as well as registration fees for all chapter events for the year. The scholarship recipient must be an active board member for the duration of the scholarship.

Margarita Stanislavskaya initiated the Membership Scholarship Program to diversify the chapter's Board as well as to attract new members. The cost of joining AGA and attending events is a barrier that keeps potential members from joining AGA. By offering the scholarship, these new members get the benefit of attending events without having to pay. By becoming active on the chapter's board, scholarship recipients are able to work with other board members on such projects as planning educational events. This board activity forges relationships with other chapter members and enables scholarship recipients to take on challenging yet rewarding tasks.

Becoming an active board member is what keeps these scholarship recipients in AGA and shows them the value their membership has. All of our scholarship recipients have paid for their memberships the following year and remained active on our board. The scholarship program costs the chapter roughly \$400 per recipient. This cost is well worth it, as one of our scholarship recipients has already served as our Chapter President. The Trenton Chapter plans to continue utilizing this program to add youth and diversity to our board.



Certificate of Excellence  
in Citizen-Centric Reporting

presented to

**AGA Trenton Chapter**

for the fiscal year ending 2017

Ann M. Ebberts, MS, PMP  
Chief Executive Officer, AGA