



VIRGINIA
PENINSULA
CHAPTER



December 1 & 2, 2011

***Navigating through
Uncertainty***

16th Annual Mid-Atlantic
Professional Development
Conference

*Held jointly by the VA Peninsula and
Richmond chapters of AGA*

Williamsburg Hospitality House
415 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

8:15 AM - 5:05 PM daily

16 CPEs

(including the 2011 Required
Ethics CPE for Virginia Registered
CPAs)

Registration

\$200 for AGA members
(\$250 nonmembers)

Attire is business casual

*Fundraising raffle to benefit the
Make-a-Wish Foundation*

[Conference Registration](#)

For more information contact
Curtis Joachim at
cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com

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Chapter President's Message

Thanksgiving, the event that for many marks the official kick-off of the holiday season. I have fond memories of Thanksgiving, because it was not long after coming to America that I was shipped off to Paris Island, where I went through the transformation process of becoming a Marine. It was in late November 1986 that I graduated and got the chance to go home for Thanksgiving as a Marine. This became for me an annual event. For many years, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, as soon as the Liberty Bell was sounded, I'd hop into my 1986 Plymouth Turismo and make the 12-hour trip from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to Brooklyn, NY. The back of the small two-door automobile was weighted down with the sea-bags of four Marines eager to get home. With nothing between us and multiple servings of mom's cooking but road, it was pedal to the metal all the way up I-95.

Yes, those days in the Marines are long gone. But the urge to hit the road on Thanksgiving lives on. As I get ready to pack up the SUV to make the annual pilgrimage to NY, this time loaded with a wife and two kids instead of my three marine buddies, I can't help but ponder how much I've got to be thankful for. I was reminded today, when my dad returning from a trip to my home country, recounted the state of life on the Island. It wasn't all relaxing on white sand beaches sipping on pina colodas or roaming through lush green forest bathing under cool waterfalls flowing over giant volcanic rocks as I remembered growing up, but rather lingering economic hardship fostered by the lack of real opportunity and the sometimes cruel and unforgiving forces of mother nature.

Yes, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to be in these United States, the country known as the land of opportunity, where one can create his or her own luck, and rise from rags to riches regardless of their last name or even skin color for that matter. It is said that many sometimes miss those opportunities, because they are often disguised as hard work. Still there are some that, for whatever reasons, were never fortunate enough to be on one of those ships that were supposed to have been raised by rising economic tides. Yes, one doesn't have to travel far to see economic hardship in full swing, right here in America, the land of opportunity.

So this Thanksgiving, as we pause to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us over the previous 12 months, let's take a moment to think about how we can in-turn pay it forward. Our chapter provides many such opportunities, from volunteering at the foodbank or Union Mission to donating blankets and clothing during the cold months, even supporting our service men and women who are fighting for freedom far away from home. Yes, there are lots of opportunities to serve and be a blessing to others who are less fortunate than we are. One such opportunity will be available during the upcoming PDC in Williamsburg Dec 1st and 2nd, where there will be a raffle to raise funds for the "Make-A-Wish" foundation.

If you've not yet registered for the conference, you're almost too late. But, no worries, we saved one more spot, just for you. Don't miss it; we have a line-up of dynamic speakers to help equip, encourage and enable you take advantage of all those opportunities available to you in these United States, the land of opportunity. See you there!

Curtis P. Joachim, CPA, MBA
President
AGA VA Peninsula Chapter



What's Happening?

This month:

- December 1 & 2, Fall PDC to be held jointly with the Richmond Chapter in Williamsburg, *Navigating through Uncertainty* (contact cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com)
 - Fundraiser to benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation at the Fall PDC in Williamsburg, VA

To be able to get your CPE certificate, be sure to sign in at chapter events...see CPE retrieval instructions on pg 3.



November Meeting Recap - Chapter Mixes Up Monthly Meeting Format in Offering Webinar

In its ongoing pursuit to provide accountability professionals the tools they need to be successful, the chapter offered technical training on governmental auditing standards as part of the November meeting. An AICPA standards update webinar was shown in lieu of the planned AGA audio conference on XBRL.

Following the webinar, Curtis Joachim facilitated a group discussion which reinforced and clarified the presentation. Attendees got a rare opportunity to hear about and learn from each other's experiences. The discussion ranged from technical auditing standards to local Recovery Act projects. It was a unique and creative way spin on the chapter's typical monthly meeting.

Meetings director Melissa Saunders again went beyond the call of duty in providing nice refreshment spread of Chick-fil-a nuggets, fruit salad (with caramel sauce!), candy, coffee, and sodas to keep everyone energized. As a free learning, networking (and eating) opportunity, the November meeting was another example of the value of being a member of the VA Peninsula chapter of AGA!



Virginia Peninsula Chapter 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

- January 19, 2012, Chapter Meeting - joint with ASMC (POC is Melissa Saunders at msaunders@wittmares.com)
- January community service - "Coats for Kids". AGA will collect gently used coats for kids working with the local News Channel, Wavy TV10 and businesses (contact tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil).
- February 16, 2012, Chapter Meeting - joint with IIA (POC is Melissa Saunders at msaunders@wittmares.com)
- February community service- Food Collection for local area Food Banks. Chapter will collect food items and money donated for each Food bank (Southside and Peninsula). Also, prepare breakfast for the families of the Ronald McDonald House.
- March 14 & 15 - Spring PDC (joint with ASMC) in Virginia Beach
- April 19, 2012. Chapter Meeting (POC is Melissa Saunders at msaunders@wittmares.com)
- April community service - March of Dimes Walk America - Sponsor and participate in this fundraising event. Also, Chapter will help provide manpower to register walkers and count donations after the event for deposit (contact tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil).
- May community service projects (contact tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil):
 - Equikids Therapeutic Riding program for special children. Chapter will contribute \$250 to sponsor a hole for the fundraiser and/or help sponsor a team to participate. Point of Contact will be Joe Rutecki.
 - Hampton Veterans Affairs Center - Volunteers provide many important functions throughout the Medical Center and help make patients' stay more enjoyable. Volunteers will be performing a number of services.
- July 28-August 1, 2012 - AGA National PDC, *Navigating the Winds of Change*, San Diego, CA.



Scenes from the November monthly meeting --
Above - Melissa Saunders sets out a fantastic spread for meeting participants. At top left - Chapter President Curtis Joachim introduces himself to Vanessa Walker, William Fisher, and Karen Webb, all from ODU. At left - Curtis Joachim talks with Barbara Reeves from the Norfolk City Auditor's Office.

Membership News

By Traneisha Bailey-Williams, Membership Director

New CPE Certificate Process Requires Sign-In at Meetings

Please ensure that you sign in at the registration table when attending our chapter training events. We realize it's a new process so there's a learning curve for everyone. However, we enter this attendance information into the 123system, which generates an email with a link from which you can view and print your CPE certificate.

Be sure to create a password on your 123signup profile (this can be done at the time you register for an event) so that you can log in at your convenience and retrieve your certificate(s) after the event. To view and print your CPE certificate:

1. Go to the Edit Profile link:
<https://www.123signup.com/profile?Org=agavapen>
2. Scroll to the bottom of your profile and click the "Registration History" button.
3. Select the event from the list of events you've attended, and click the "Print Certificate" button.

Membership Update

As of mid November, we have 190 members in our chapter. There have been twelve new members that have joined since May 1:

MR. LEE JONES - MS. MELISSA SPIESS - MR. RIGOBERTO RODRIGUEZ - MS. PAMELA YOUNG - MS. REGINA STRADFORD - MRS. JENNIFER COSTON - MS. SARA CRABTREE - MR. CRAIG PRESTENBACH, CGFM - MR. LYNDON REMIAS - MS. BRITTANY RENICA - MS. ANITA JONES-QUINONES - MS. LAURIE WHITE

Recruitment Incentives Abound!

Here is a reminder of AGA's National membership recruitment incentives

- 1 referral = sponsor pin
- If you sponsored a member by 31 Oct, your name was entered in a fish bowl drawing to win an IPAD
- If you recruit 6 or more by 31 Dec, you receive free renewal of membership dues
- 10 or more by 31 Mar, your name is placed in a drawing for a \$200 AMEX gift card (more members recruited, the more times your name is entered into the drawing)

In addition to the AGA National membership campaign (Ready, Set, Grow), the Virginia Peninsula chapter is running its own membership recruitment promotion — *AGA Fever!* Current members (excluding officers) and non-members are encouraged to participate. Here's how it works -- attend at least 3 meetings and 1 chapter-sponsored event (conference, community service event, etc.) this year for a chance to earn free membership for the 2012 – 2013 program year. The winners (up to 3) will be announced at the April monthly meeting. It will not be necessary to be present to win. In case of a tie, there will be a drawing.

If anyone has any membership suggestions or improvements on how I can better serve them, please e-mail me at tbailywilliams@deloitte.com

Traneisha Bailey-Williams,
Membership Director



On November 17th, VA Peninsula members took part in a panel representing all three levels of US government auditing to auditors visiting from Vietnam. In Vietnam, audits are largely limited to financial, so the delegation was particularly curious about performance audits. Panelists included Kelly Stefanko (federal), Laurie Hicks and Lakisha Speller (state), and Darren Padilla (local). For two weeks, Old Dominion University's Department of Accounting hosted the delegation of 20 auditors (and two translators) from the State Audit Office of Vietnam. Above, Dr. Doug Ziegenfuss and Dean Yochum address the delegation.

Board Members Support Early Career Event

On Saturday November 19, 2011 the VA Peninsula Emerging leaders and members of the executive board enjoyed dinner at Macaroni Grill. The food was delicious and plentiful and we all learned about a new cocktail, "The Curtis" (Coca Cola and Bud Light). During dinner, we discussed taking on new opportunities at work and the benefits of attending the PDCs.

-- Brittany Renica, Emerging Leaders Chair



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, here are two people that the chapter is grateful for! If you were to peek "behind the scenes" of VA Peninsula chapter operations, you'd likely see these two hard at work - Ellen Silvela and Joy Leyeza. Ellen has worn many hats officially for the chapter in recent years from Membership Director to Treasurer but she has tirelessly taken on many more duties beyond those roles that we could possibly ever list. She's the ever present volunteer we couldn't do without! Similarly Joy is always willing to offer a helping hand. In recent years she has quietly become the unofficial newsletter co-editor, photographer, and proofreader. Many thanks to these two ladies as well as all of the many volunteers for which the chapter has to be thankful.

Community Service

By Tia Forte Godwin, Chapter Community Service Director

Members Make a Difference at Union Mission

On November 12th, several chapter members (and their families!) spent two and a half hours helping out at the Union Mission. Ellen Silvela reported that she had a great time volunteering with such a generous group of AGA'ers. "It's always easy to donate money to charities but you all donated your time and came with a positive attitude for such a worthy cause - now that's priceless", remarked Silvela. The work was not for the faint of heart – sorting through bag after bag of who knew what was exhausting – but rewarding with the thought that their work would immediately benefit the men, women and families of the Mission's emergency shelter.



Like the clothes themselves, the volunteer sorters apparently were segregated by gender with both men (top picture) and ladies (middle pictures) well represented! The volunteers included Ellen Silvela, Daphne Turner, Darryl Carver, Mark Morehouse, Marc Sangalang, Clement Mikowski, Delmo Locus, Nicole Whitaker, and Joy Leyeza (and several of their children).



Joe Rutecki represents the VA Peninsula chapter at the Equikids fundraiser on October 25, 2011 at Bayville Golf club. In addition to the chapter's sponsorship, Rutecki contributed his own time and money, combining for a total of \$300 donated to Equikids from our chapter. In total, the event raised \$28,390!

Rutecki reported that his team finished in the A flight one from the bottom with a 64. The winner of the B flight was 65 so one less birdie and they would have been winner! Like a true auditor, he even sent in a picture evidencing his score! Rutecki sends his thanks (from retirement) for supporting the Equikids therapeutic riding program for handicapped kids.

On-Going Projects

Blankets and Winter Clothing Drive: Join our *Blankets and Winter Clothing for the Homeless* initiative this winter and make a difference where you live during the cold months to come. A rapidly growing number of kids, women, and men, including veterans, are becoming homeless everyday and the realization is that most shelters seem to run out of blankets for homeless families and individuals. If you would like to donate some gently used items to Union Mission, please call 757.627.8686 to schedule a pick-up. Thank you in advance for your support!

Stockings and Bears for Christmas: During the month of November, members of the AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter will be filling holiday stockings with books, toys, games and gifts for area children. The holiday stockings will be donated to the Salvation Army for Christmas distribution. Members can also dress & return Christmas Bears provided by the Salvation Army (drop off points at the Coast Guard, DODIG & GAO). Contact tia.m.godwin@uscg.mil for more information.

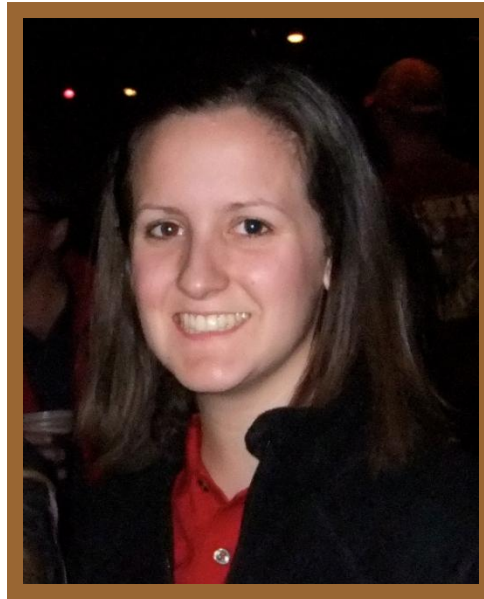
Military Care Package: The AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter will be participating in *Operation USO Care Package Holiday Letter Writing Campaign*. Anyone who has ever been away from home for long periods of time, especially during the holiday season, can relate to the excitement and joy of receiving a care package. The USO takes great pride in extending that touch of home to troops deployed overseas. It creates an instant connection between the troops, home, and the citizens they serve. Operation USO Care Packages include an individual letter of support. These letters can range from children's drawings, note cards, post cards or simple letters. Please help the USO complete their mission of having every care package that is sent over the holidays include a hand-written letter of support.

Please send your letter(s) to:

AGA
P.O. Box 1464
Chesapeake, VA 23327-1464

Member Spotlight

By Joyce A. Milton-Cuffee



Brittany Renica

What is your job position?

I am a Systems Accountant at the USCG Finance Center.

Give us a brief description of your job.

I monitor the trial balance for improper transaction postings and work on various projects related to system development.

What do you like most about your job?

I like that my job poses new challenges and opportunities to learn every day.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years?

In five years, I will have completed my graduate program and earned certifications.

What are the benefits of being in a professional association?

Being in a professional association has been a benefit for me. I was eligible to receive a scholarship to help me further my studies. In addition, I have met many others in my career field who have helped me to grow in numerous ways.

What is your most memorable AGA experience?

My most memorable AGA moment was receiving my undergraduate scholarship at the 2010 National PDC in Orlando. It was a unique experience to go on stage and receive a giant check from the National President.

Anything else you'd like to share about yourself?

I enjoy that AGA is a family affair for me. My mother and father are both members of AGA as well
(Editor's Note: Brittany's mom is past chapter president Tanya Renica and dad is past chapter Treasurer William Renica).

Beyond the Chapter

AGA National News

Remember to join AGA on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter!

Two Familiar Faces Leaving AGA National Office

Fall is always a time of transition, and our National Office is feeling those effects. Two of the senior members of our team have decided to pursue other challenges.

After more than 40 years of public service, **Ray Harris, CGFM**, has decided to take advantage of a well-earned retirement. Ray has been working closely with members in chapter operations and education areas.

Marie Force has been a tremendous member of AGA's team since 1996. Marie is responsible for coordinating and promoting all of the Association's many communication efforts, and she has made incredible contributions to AGA's successes. Under Marie's leadership, and with the help of our Journal Editorial Board and contributing authors, *The Journal* has become one of the most respected publications in the accounting industry. Marie's second career as a novelist has taken off, and after she leaves AGA in January she plans to devote more time to her writing and spend more time with her family.

We wish them both luck and thank them for their years of service to AGA.

Apply for 2012 National Academic Scholarships

Are you or a family member pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in disciplines such as accounting, auditing, budgeting, economics, finance, information technology, public administration, etc.? If so, consider applying for an AGA National Academic Scholarship today!

Each year, AGA National awards:

- Up to four \$3,000 full-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members,
- Up to two \$1,000 part-time merit scholarships to AGA members and their family members, and
- One \$3,000 community service scholarship

The **deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, March 30, 2012**. Apply now and take full advantage of your AGA membership.

[Download a copy of the application](#), or contact [Louise Kapelewski](#).



Certification News

Steve Reagan, CGFM Director

Congratulations to Sara Blake for passing Exam 1 of the CGFM!

Ready to Earn Your CGFM in February?

Examinations Are Free if you Take the Intensive Review

Don't miss the opportunity to take the CGFM Examinations and earn your CGFM at the next Intensive Review Course event in February. AGA is offering a two-day Intensive Review Course on **Monday, Feb. 27, 2012** and **Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012** and an opportunity to take CGFM Examinations on **Feb. 29-March 2, 2012**. The cost of the course is only \$279 for qualified participants, and it offers 18 CPE hours. **Special Bonus:** The CGFM Examinations are offered at no cost to course attendees. [Learn more.](#)

Are YOU preparing for the CGFM?

Be sure to keep us in the loop on your progress by e-mailing Steve Reagan, chapter Director of Certification at sreagan01@verizon.net

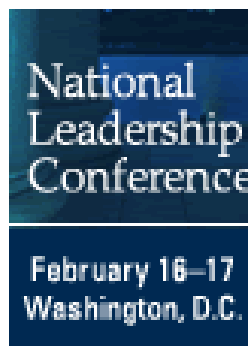
Don't forget, until Dec. 31, 2011, you can receive a rebate of \$20 on your CGFM application if mentioning the assistance of our chapter. Visit [AGA's website](#) for additional information.

[CGFM Application](#) and [CGFM Certification--Learn More](#)

[Click here for detailed information on CGFM CPE requirements.](#)

UPCOMING NATIONAL CONFERENCES

(click icons for more info)



Treasurer's Report

By Nicole Whitaker

AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter

Balance Sheet

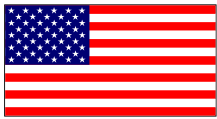
As of October 31, 2011

	Accrual Basis Oct 31, 11
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Towne Bank	9,348.47
Accounts Receivable	-411.00
Undeposited Funds	-75.00
Total Current Assets	8,862.47
Office Equipment	314.49
Total Fixed Assets	314.49
TOTAL ASSETS	9,176.96
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Payroll Liabilities	250.00
Total Liabilities	250.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	2,857.53
Retained Earnings	12,227.69
Net Income	-6,158.26
Total Equity	8,926.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	9,176.96

Chapter Treasurer Nicole Whitaker can be reached at nicole.e.whitaker@gmail.com.

AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter Income Statement - October 2011

	Memo	Amount
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Interest Earned	Interest	0.40
Total Interest Earned		0.40
Total Income		0.40
Expense		
Charity	Snacks at Charity event	10.00
Total Charity		10.00
Credit Card Fees	Service Charge	8.00
	Service fees	9.95
	Bankcard fees	11.27
Total Credit Card Fees		29.22
Meetings	Meeting food	54.59
Total Meetings		54.59
PDC Expenses		
Fall PDC		
Attendee Gift - Bags	Attendee gifts Fall PDC	2,495.41
Total Attendee Gift - Bags		2,495.41
Gift Fall	Speaker & sponsor gifts	359.00
Total Gift Fall		359.00
Total Fall PDC		2,854.41
Total PDC Expenses		2,854.41
Postal	Shipping	25.72
Total Postal		25.72
Total Expense		2,973.94
Net Income		-2,973.54



Thankful for Being a Part of AGA



A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Mark A. Morehouse, MBA, CGFM
Regional Vice President-Elect for the Mid-Atlantic Region

We are fortunate to live in a free society where we can express our ideals and try to attain our professional and personal goals. The United States of America is a giant among nations and we have a collective responsibility to help make the world a better place to live for all, including non Americans. We must not allow our patriotism to interfere with our responsibility to help one another. AGA is one of the most balanced organizations that I have chosen to participate in. I say this because of its opportunities for professional and personal development, networking and community service.

Specifically, within the Mid-Atlantic region, the nine chapters hold monthly meetings with guest speakers offering CPE's to anyone who cares to participate. Most chapters hold yearly educational events that offer the finest training available at a very reasonable cost and provide an effective means to network with fellow government financial management professionals. Many careers have been boosted as a result.

Community service is the cornerstone of AGA and the chapters within the region. Chapters within our region offer many ways to help those in need. For example, chapters raise funds for charities, help clean up their communities, and volunteer at local public service organizations. We are part of something bigger than ourselves and we have much to be proud of.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Team

Regional Vice President
Denise Wu (Baltimore Chapter)

Regional Vice President-Elect
Mark Morehouse (VA Peninsula Chapter)

Certification Regional Coordinator
Alfred B. Washington, CGFM (Richmond Chapter)

Chapter Dev & Assistance Regional Coordinator
Kelly Stefanko (VA Peninsula chapter)

Community Svc Regional Coordinator
Dellareese Morton-Smith (Baltimore Chapter)

Early Careers Regional Coordinator
Rashad A. Holloway (Baltimore Chapter)

Want to join our team? The region is always looking for new leaders. Please contact Mid-Atlantic RVP Denise Wu at denise.wu@cliftoncpa.com or RVP-elect Mark Morehouse at mark.morehouse@navy.mil to find out how you can get involved in our region's leadership.



VIRGINIA
PENINSULA
CHAPTER

Chapter Officers:

President

Curtis P. Joachim, CPA, MBA
The Joachim Group CPAs &
Consultants, LLC
cjoachim@thejoachimgroupcpas.com

President-Elect

Ellen Silvela
Deloitte and Touche LLP
esilvela@deloitte.com

Past President

Brad Smith
City of Norfolk
Brad.Smith@norfolk.gov

Treasurer

Nicole Whitaker
Nicole.E.Whitaker@gmail.com

Secretary

Valerie Ward
US Joint Forces Command
valerie.ward@jfc.com

Emerging Leaders

Brittany Renica
brittany.renica@gmail.com

The Virginia Peninsula Chapter Board of Directors 2011-2012

Chapter Directors:

By-Laws

Jocelyn Leyeza
USCG Finance Center
jocelyn.j.leyeza@uscg.mil

Education

J. David Sweeney, PPM
Booz Allen Hamilton
Sweeney_J_David@bah.com

Meetings/Publicity

Melissa A. Saunders, CPA
Witt Mares
msaunders@wittmares.com

**Research, Early Careers and
Academic Affairs**

Doug Ziegenfuss, CPA, CMA,
CIA, CFE, CGFM, CCSA, CISA
Old Dominion University
dziegenf@odu.edu

Awards

Marc Sangalang
USCG Finance Center
Marcelito.Y.Sangalang@uscg.mil

Newsletter

Kelly Stefanko, CPA, CGFM
National Science Foundation
kstefanko@hotmail.com

Community Service

Tia F. Godwin
Deloitte and Touche LLP
fortegodwin@deloitte.com

Membership

Traneisha Bailey-Williams
Deloitte Consulting
tbaileywilliams@deloitte.com

Professional Certifications

Steve Reagan
USCG Finance Center
stephen.d.reagan@uscg.mil

Webmaster

Herbert C. Griffin, IV
US Coast Guard
Herbert.C.Griffin@uscg.mil

Accountability

Helen Brooks
USCG Finance Center
Helen.M.Brooks@uscg.mil

Directors at Large:

Cecelia Smith
NASA
cecelia.smith-1@nasa.gov

Mark Morehouse, CGFM
Military Sealift Command
mark.morehouse@navy.mil

**Regional Vice President-
Mid Atlantic Region**

Denise Wu
denise.wu@cliftoncpa.com



Honorable
Mention

Have member news or pictures to share via the newsletter? Send to kstefanko@hotmail.com

Visit the Virginia Peninsula Chapter on the web at www.agavapen.org or
AGA National at www.agacqfm.org

Mailing us something? AGA Virginia Peninsula Chapter
P.O. Box 1464
Chesapeake, VA 23327-1464