



Michael A. Genito
Assistant City Manager/Comptroller
City of Rye

Mr. Genito was born and raised in Suffern, New York. Michael was educated at Ramapo College of New Jersey where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music degree. Michael continued his education by completing a Master of Business Administration in Accounting and Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1980, and a Master of Public Administration in Government from Pace University in 2001. Michael also holds the designation of Certified Government Finance Manager from the Association of Government Accountants, and the Certified Public Finance Officer from the Government Finance Officers Association of the US and Canada.

In addition to his commitment to life-long learning, Michael is committed to his profession on many levels. He joined NYS GFOA in 1984 and within a few years he became an active member by serving on the Downstate Region Council. Within a short time, Michael was elected to the position of Chair of the Council and a member of the statewide governing Board of Governors. Michael then went on to serve as the Association's Vice President in 1994 and as the President from 1995-1996. In addition, Michael has been a long-term member of both the Accounting, Auditing, and Finance Reporting Committee and the Technology Committee, of which he now serves as Co-chair, and Chair respectively. Michael took a respite from serving as an officer on the NYS GFOA Board but returned to serve as Secretary; a position he has held since 2004.

Michael stayed active in NYS GFOA while increasing his activities at the national level. Here he served as a member of the national GFOA's Technology Resource Group, and the Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Committee. Michael's knowledge and leadership led to his serving as the Committee Chair of GFOA's Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Committee.

He has contributed as a Special Review Committee (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) member, a Budget Reviewer, and a Popular Annual Financial Report Review Committee member for many years, and previously served on the Nominating Committee. In 2005, Michael's skills, expertise, and contributions earned him a nomination and election to the GFOA's Executive Board. Michael is one of only a handful of New Yorkers to ever serve on GFOA's Executive Board, and he holds the distinction of serving on the Board on the 100th anniversary of the GFOA.

In 2002, Michael began serving as an adjunct professor at Pace University. He teaches graduate level courses in accounting and budgeting. Michael is also a Research Associate with the University's Michaelian Institute for Public Policy and Management. The Institute is a separate professional service offered by the University that works on projects for local governments in the areas of public policy and management, with Michael contributing to the managerial and financial analysis required in such studies.

Michael's entry in the world of government finance was by default. He studied to be a teacher, but upon graduating with his bachelor's degree in the mid 1970s, found that schools were cutting back on faculty positions. Michael filled this time by working various jobs. In 1977, when he was employed in a credit union, he realized that earning an MBA would enable him to secure a job in any industry. This led to work at a commodity firm in NYC for several years.

As a resident of the Village of Suffern, Michael attended a village meeting in 1982 to learn more about a significant (65%) increase in the water rates being projected. During the meeting, Michael felt that the responses to his questions were not really answered. He pressed on and as a result earned the attention of the village residents, and the respect of the Mayor who in 1984 offered him a job as the part time treasurer to help the village move out of the negative financial position it was currently in. Michael's approach was non-political

and he demonstrated an understanding of the issue. Michael agreed to serve for one year. In the end the rates did go up though only by 45%. Michael's one-year commitment quickly became two and ultimately (1987) he was offered the position of full time treasurer. In 1991, Michael became the Director of Finance for the Town of Ramapo. He served in this position until 1996 when he began working as the Comptroller for the City of Rye, the position he holds today. In 2003, Michael assumed the additional role of Assistant City Manager.

There are several people that Michael credits with having significantly influenced him over the years. Mayor Joe Savarese (Village of Suffern) was an unintended mentor. His actions were somewhat erratic and he saw things from a different perspective. Michael used his observations to try to make sense of the Mayor's thought process. Michael considers Herb Reisman at the Town of Ramapo the best politician he ever met. It was through Mr. Reisman that he learned to reflect responsible financial positions and standards in a political environment. At GFOA of US and Canada, Michael cites Stephen Gauthier, Director of Technical Services, for his wonderful work as a support staff for committees and Stephen's unmatched knowledge of accounting and financial reporting. Within NYS GFOA, Michael acknowledges Dwight Hadley, CFO, Albany County Airport Authority, who has been involved with NYS GFOA since its inception and has tremendous knowledge about the organization. He also includes Judi Kehoe, Comptroller, Town of Bethlehem, and Ann Marie Berg, Comptroller, Town of Eastchester as both phenomenal individuals and finance officers. As Michael notes, all three operate with integrity and are forward thinkers. Michael emphasized that they are on top of the issues and epitomize the highest standards of being a finance officer. Michael also acknowledges the first City Manager he worked for at the City of Rye, Frank Culross, and the current City Manager, Paul Shew, who have different management styles but are both good leaders. Above all others Michael says that his parents were his greatest influence, and his wife Kathy, his greatest inspiration. His parents taught him about perseverance, generosity, and the ideal of giving to others. Kathy gives him encouragement and helps him balance the many influences of work and family life.

Michael spent some time working in the private sector prior to his public service. He feels that the ability to have a direct impact on a community is rewarding and preferable though he believes that in today's world, obtaining a balance between work and life is hard, regardless of the industry. As he states, "it is hard to be active in anything and still find balance but you do the best you can, and in the end, family does come first."

Michael echoes what many feel to be the greatest challenge of working in public sector, which is to accomplish the goals desired by the community with limited resources. He also acknowledges that it is challenging to find the time and resources to be an adult learner about the standards, practices, and changes in one's profession but emphasizes its importance. Michael's activities at the state and national level have confirmed his commitment to continuous learning.

Highlights of Michael's career include earning the certification designations, his work on various committees and serving on the Boards of both NYS GFOA and GFOA of US and Canada. He is proud of preparing award winning reports, including budget documents, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, and Popular Annual Financial Reports. He also includes his first year at the Town of Ramapo as a highlight. The Town was faced with a one million dollar cut in state aid and was required to revise its budget after adoption to ensure that the Town was not significantly impacted.

Michael is a fervent believer in integrating technology into the public sector. He is proud of his involvement at the leading edge of the technology boom. As a result, the Town of Ramapo was the first town to develop and manage its own web site. This was achieved through participation in the New York State and Local Government Telecommunications Initiative Program, otherwise known as "TIP".

Michael currently lives with his family in the Village of Montebello, located in Rockland County. Michael acknowledges that he has a great family that includes his supportive wife, Kathy, and their four wonderful boys; the oldest of which is in high school. His second son is in middle school and the two youngest are now in elementary school.