

NYSSCPA

SUFFOLK Chapter News

Vol. 43 No. 6 • Jan./Feb. 2014

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays. Our chapter closed out the year with several memorable events.

The Toys for Tots drive was once again a great success. The Marines counted over 130 boxes full of toys, the largest single pickup in Suffolk County. Congratulations to Cynthia Barry and the Suffolk Chapter's Young CPA Committee for running such a great toy drive.

On the morning of December 10 the Suffolk and Nassau Chapters joined forces for the First Annual Legislative Breakfast. The breakfast served as a starting point to get more members involved in our government advocacy activities. State Senator John Flanagan fielded questions on a variety of topics affecting the CPA profession in New York. Robert Busweiler, Public Affairs Manager of the State Society, provided an update on legislative activities of the

chapter. On the top of the Chapter list were tax reform issues, revitalization of not-for-profit organizations laws, non-CPA firm ownership and mandatory annual internal audits for public schools districts.

On December 18 the Society held an open house to show off their new office. (See page 5.) The new location at 14 Wall Street, New York City is a state-of-the-art conference and meeting center. I encourage anyone in the area to stop in a take a tour.

The new year has gotten off to a fast start with several worthwhile events. The Estate & Financial Committee's January 7 event covering estate planning for medium-sized clients was a sellout. Please look for notification of the committee's next event.

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Lawrence Lucarelli

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Golf Outing
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Management of an Accounting Practice
Lawrence Lucarelli, CPA

Members in Industry
Janet T. Verneuille, CPA

Membership
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Deborah Werner, CPA

Sponsorship
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Young CPAs
John Hermus, CPA
David Oksenhorn, CPA

President's Message

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On January 9 the Forensic and Valuation Services Committee will be holding a networking event at the office of AVZ in Hauppauge. This is an opportunity for professionals that specialize in the forensic and valuation service area to get to know each other. Then, on January 16 the committee will be holding a technical event covering various aspects of the business valuation process.

The Cooperation with Banker and other Credit Grantors committee will be holding an evening of networking on January 30 at the Crest Hollow County Club. This year LIA

Economist John Lizzo will be a special guest speaker. This event is a great way to get out and network before busy season takes over.

In addition to the educational benefits, the Chapter is a great way for CPAs to build relationships with other CPAs and network with other professionals. I encourage you to review the calendar of events and attend some of the Chapter's upcoming events.

Please contact me or any other board members or committee chairs to get more involved in the chapter.

- Larry Lucarelli

Special Offers from the Suffolk Chapter



SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Here's your chance to make the most of your membership! Sponsor one of our events and get in front of colleagues, referral sources, and potential clients.

Step One: Choose an event.

- golf outings
- networking events
- technical workshops
- informational seminars
- charitable events

Step Two: Become a sponsor. At a cost of **\$1,000** you receive:

- recognition in the Suffolk Chapter newsletter
- logo/recognition in all event flyers
- opportunity to speak at the event
- booth or table display space

To take advantage of this great offer, contact our Sponsorship Chair:
Thomas S. Pirro: (631) 472-7637; tpirrocpa@optonline.net

2013-14 SUBSCRIPTION PLAN

Become a subscriber and save as much as \$300 on meetings! The tremendously discounted price of **\$99** covers the following chapter meetings:



September 2013	Banker/CPA Event
October 2013	Student Night
October 2013	Town Hall Meeting/Ethics panel
January 2014	Not-for-Profit Event
January 2014	Banker/CPA Event
May 2014	To Be Determined

Act now to get the full savings! Contact the Suffolk Chapter Treasurer:
Brian Michels, (631) 665-7040, bmichels@sheehancpa.com

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Please make checks payable to
 NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter and mail to:
 Brian Michels, CPA
 Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
 165 Orinoco Drive
 Brightwaters, NY 11718

(Can be used by any member of the firm)

Now Accepting Nominations for the 2014-15 Suffolk Chapter Board

The Nominating Committee of the Suffolk Chapter has been set with the following as this year's members:

1. Mark Cirelli, CPA Committee Chairperson
2. Harold Deiters, CPA
3. Cynthia Barry, CPA

Alternate – Paul Becht, CPA

The Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for Board and/or Executive Board positions for the upcoming fiscal year 6/1/14 through 5/31/15.

Nominations will be accepted through January 31, 2014.

Please forward nominations to:

Mr. Mark Cirelli, CPA
North Shore Wealth Mgmt. Advisors
220 Lake Ave., Suite 6
St. James, NY 11780

Or email: maccpa@optonline.net

The State Society Celebrates the Opening of New Headquarters

On December 18 the New York State Society of CPAs celebrated its new headquarters, located at 14 Wall Street in Downtown Manhattan, with an open house and an official ribbon-cutting.

Interestingly enough, after its founding in 1897, the Society's very first offices were right across the street, at 11 Wall Street.

The event and ribbon-cutting highlighted the intertwining of the CPA profession and the society with New York history, featuring talks by Michael Miscione, the official historian of the Borough of Manhattan, as well as a Teddy Roosevelt impersonator (*pictured to the right, with Suffolk Chapter President Lawrence Lucarelli*). Roosevelt was commissioner of police in 1897, when the society was founded.

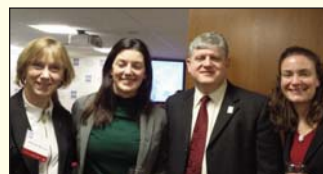


There was live music provided by ragtime band great food and some fun raffles.

The new facility has state of the art technology and is a place of which all members can be proud.



Amanda Sexton, Harold Deiters, Larry Lucarelli, Danielle Napolitano



Joanne Barry, Amanda Sexton, Larry Lucarelli, Danielle Napolitano



Dick Piluso, Amanda Sexton

Understanding the Spousal Benefits of Social Security

By Daniel G. Mazzola, CPA, CFA

Social Security has been described as the one product all Americans buy yet none understand. Though flippant, this characterization sadly rings true.

In 2012 the Social Security Administration paid benefits to over 56.3 million Americans, the overwhelming majority of whom had no idea how eligibility is determined, the manner in which payouts are calculated, or the extent to which family members may collect on the earnings record of the primary breadwinner.

Many of those eligible for social security are not aware of an interesting feature called the spousal benefit. Spousal benefits allow one spouse to collect a retirement benefit based on the working record of the other spouse, regardless of his or her own earnings history.

As an example, we will use a married couple (Mr. and Mrs. Smith) with the husband employed while the wife stays at home to maintain the household. Social Security regulations allow Mrs. Smith at full retirement age (currently 66 for those born in 1943 through 1954) to receive a spousal benefit of 50% of Mr. Smith's payout, even though she has no record of employment outside the home. Had Mrs. Smith worked during

her lifetime to earn enough credits for social security coverage, she would then be entitled to the greater of the spousal benefit (50% of Mr. Smith's) or one derived from her own record.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2012 both spouses were employed in 47.4% of American "married couple" families; this rate increases to 59.0% for "married couple with children" units.

With reductions in benefits for filing before full retirement age and delayed credits (until age 70) for applying afterward, married couples can select from a wide variety of collection options.

Strategies have been designed to assist them in maximizing social security payouts. One of these strategies is termed "file and suspend." Let us return to Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Under "file and suspend," Mr. Smith applies for his benefit (permitting Mrs. Smith to collect her spousal benefit) and then immediately postpones his payout until needed. The advantage to him in suspending collection is that he receives a delayed credit of 8% a year while he waits. An 8% guaranteed return is nothing to dismiss in the current climate of low interest rates.

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Understanding the Spousal Benefits of Social Security (cont'd)

This delaying tactic is doubly rewarding in that it locks in a higher survivor benefit for Mrs. Smith if she outlives Mr. Smith.

Another strategy to be employed when both spouses have similar earnings records yet one wants to delay collecting is to file a "restricted" application. We will use the Smiths again with an adjustment. Mrs. Smith has worked enough to have earned her own benefit. She wants to collect, while Mr. Smith does not. Mrs. Smith will file for and claim her own benefit. By filing for a "restricted" benefit, Mr. Smith can collect his spousal while again postponing his own and receiving a delayed credit of 8% a year.

Key points to consider with these approaches is that the party who "files and suspends" or applies as "restricted" must have reached full retirement age, and that a husband and wife cannot collect a spousal

benefit on each other -- a married couple is limited to one spousal benefit only.

Spousal benefits add another layer of complexity to an already challenging question: "When should someone take their social security benefits?"

There is, obviously, no one-size-fits-all answer. The many nuances of the program, combined with an individual's lifestyle, health status, and financial resources should all be considered before reaching such an important decision. Yet while perplexing, social security is too important a topic not to educate oneself and become cognizant of the varied features and options.

As Americans, we pay for social security retirement benefits in the form of payroll taxes remitted through a lifetime of working. It would be imprudent not to take full advantage of all it has to offer.

2013 Toys for Tots Campaign



The Toys for Tots program began in 1947 with Major Bill Hendricks, USCR and a group of Marine Reservists who collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children in the Los Angeles area. The story goes that Bill's wife, Diane, crafted a doll and asked her husband to provide it to an organization that would distribute the doll to a needy child at Christmas. When it was found that no such agency existed, Diane told Bill that he should start one. Bill did so in 1947 and the first year was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted the program in 1948 and extended it nationwide.

The founding philosophy of "bringing the joy of Christmas to America's needy children" has not changed. The generosity of all participants in our program this year has demonstrated that so many of us are touched by the spirit of the campaign and its mission to provide new unused toys to underprivileged children at Christmas.

On Friday, December 13, 2013, approximately 20 members of the United States Marine Corps Reserves from Farmingdale descended upon the offices of Sheehan and Company CPA, PC in Brightwaters with a tractor trailer, as they had in past years. Over the years, the Marines have changed their method of pick up as the collection has grown in epic proportions. Years ago they arrived with a five-ton truck. They

then added rented vans, then a 7 ton truck, and now they come fully prepared with a tractor trailer.

The NYSSCPA Toys for Tots program has grown tremendously over the years. What began as a grassroots effort by the Suffolk Chapter Young CPAs Committee in 1995 with 10 member firms participating, has grown to encompass drop off sites in Nassau, Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan, in addition to Suffolk with over 130 boxes.

As always, one of the key factors that contributed to the success of the 2013 Toys for Tots campaign was the support provided by Sheehan & Company, CPA, PC, member firms, local businesses, all branches of The First National Bank of Long Island, several branches of Valley National Bank, C.W. Post Accounting Society, and several client offices that participated in the drive. We were pleased to have JPMorgan Chase Suffolk branches join in our efforts this year as well.

This year we were extremely fortunate to have so many volunteers to the program; it is impossible to name them all without missing someone. Volunteers helped obtain boxes from grocery stores, assemble and wrap the boxes, distribute and pick the boxes up from the many locations, coordinate the collection efforts at each location, shop for toys,

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2013 Toys for Tots Campaign

(continued from previous page)

and arrange the collection for the Marines. Several volunteers enlisted the efforts of their children this year and educated them on how to help those that are less fortunate.

The committee members extend their sincere appreciation to the following firms, local businesses and their employees and customers for helping make a difference this holiday season for underprivileged children in our area:

Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company, P.C.	Hairtique
Anthony Dushaj Esq.	Innovative Planning Services
Arizona	Isrealoff Trattner & Co. PC
Armao LLP	JPMorgan Chase
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP	Knights of Columbus – Smithtown
BDO USA, LLP	Lambda Phi Sorority – St. John's University
C.W. Post Accounting Society-Beta Alpha Psi	Lemon Tree House
Capital One	Long Island Arrhythmia Associates
Castellano, Korenberg & Co., CPAs	Long Island Housing Partnership
Castle Financial Advisors, LLC	Marcum LLP
Cerini and Associates	Margolin, Winer & Evens LLP
Charles A. Barragato & Company LLP	Moomjian & Waite, LLP
Cohn Reznick	New York Spine and Brain Surgery
Covati and Janhsen, CPAs PC	Next Generation of Dance
C-Tech Collections	Owen Petersen & Co. LLP
Cullen & Danowski, LLP	Robert J. Eckhardt & Co., P.C.
DeTolla & DeTolla DDS, LLP	Sabino & McIntyre CPA, PC
Direct Fulfillment Services	Satty Levine & Ciacco CPA, PC
Dr. Seymour	Schwartz & Co, CPA
Eisenberg Pediatrics	Sheehan & Company, CPA, P.C.
Fairfield Properties	SITA
First National Bank of Long Island	Stony Brook University Medical Center
FocusRX	Storage America
Forest Hills Financial Group	Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
Frendolph Construction	Suffolk Ophthalmology
Friedman LLP	Toys R Us – Bay Shore
Fuoco Group	Tutor Time – Smithtown
Gaseteria	Valley National Bank
Giambalvo, Giammarese, & Stalzer CPA, PC	WeiserMazars, LLP
Grassi & Co., CPAs, P.C.	Woodhaven Nursing Home
Guildnet	

Catching Up With...

First, happy and healthy New Year greetings! The Not for Profit & Government Accounting and Auditing Committee met December 12, 2013 for a discussion led by Ken Cerini.

Not-for-Profit & Government A&A

It was a workshop format. We broke into two teams and analyzed six different sets of financial statements with an eye towards critiquing disclosures that were erroneous, missing, or in accordance with professional standards. The discussion was very informative and enlightening and everyone came away with useful ideas for their practices. The meeting was well attended and the subject matter was quite timely.

This month's meeting is scheduled for **January 15, 2014** at the Citibank offices on Veterans Highway in Hauppauge. We will be discussing various accounting topics and how they affect not-for-profits.

If you're interested in attending any of our committee meetings, please contact Joel Schleifer, CPA at theSchleif@aol.com to get on our mailing list.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

On Saturday December 14 at the Islandia Marriott, the General Taxation Committee once again presented the All Day Tax Seminar.

General Taxation

The day was filled with great speakers covering interesting tax topics. Timothy Noonan gave us all a great update on New York State tax. Following that, Professor Robert Katz covered all the federal changes via the Federal tax update. And Eric Morgenthal gave a great overview regarding the FBAR, FATCA, and OSVDI.

After lunch we started off with Louis Vlahos and his coverage on sales tax issues upon sales of businesses, as well as the various issues within the world of deferred executive compensation. To round out the day, Daniel Mazzola discussed the issue of baby boomers and various rules regarding Social Security and Kenneth Laks presented an update on the Affordable Care Act.

Catching Up With...

On December 12, 2013 the Estate and Financial Planning Committee conducted a program on Elder Law Update and IRA Planning Update, sponsored by Astoria Federal Savings.

Estate and Financial Planning

The morning event took place at the Courtyard by Marriott, Ronkonkoma, New York. The instructors were David R. Okrent, CPA, JD and Seymour Goldberg, CPA, MBA, JD, co-chair of the Estate & Financial Planning Committee.

The program was well received. There were 19 attendees.

The Members in Industry Committee would like to invite you to its Annual Tax Update, to be held **Thursday January 23**. Attendees receive two free CPE credits.

Members in Industry

Our speaker will be Ernest Smith, CPA of Nawrocki Smith LLP. Please join us:

Members in Industry Annual Tax Update

January 23, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

at Empire National Bank

1707 Veterans Memorial Highway, Suite 8, Islandia

Light breakfast included.

For more information, contact Janet T. Verneuille, jverneuille@empirenb.com.



Mark Your Calendar...

JANUARY 9, 2014

Forensic and Valuation Services Committee Social Event: Networking in the Tropics (a.k.a. Hauppauge). Details on page 13.

JANUARY 15, 2014

Not-for-Profit & Government A&A Committee meeting. Details on page 10.

JANUARY 15, 2014

Accounting & Auditing and Not-for-Profit Committee Meeting. Revenue Recognition, Lease Accounting, and More. Details on page 14.

JANUARY 23, 2014

Members in Industry Annual Tax Update. Details on page 15.

JANUARY 30, 2014

Cooperation with Bankers and Other Credit Grantors committee meeting: An Evening of Networking with Special Guest Speaker John Lizzo, LIA Economist. Details on page 16.

For up-to-the-minute chapter activities:

www.nysscpa.org

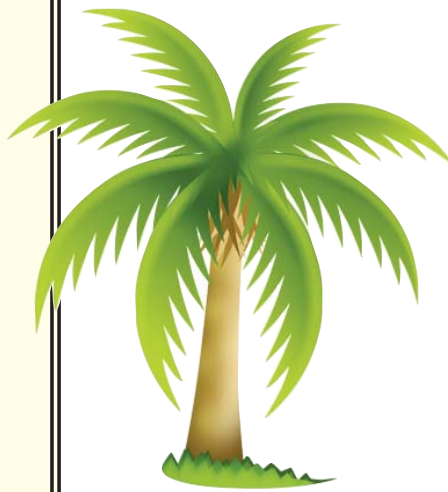
Search for the Suffolk Chapter under "About Us"

Committee Chairs!

Make sure to get all future meeting dates to Felix Russo at frusso@cabcpa.com

Heating Up Your Networking...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk
Forensic and Valuation Services Committee
invites you to



Network in the Tropics (a.k.a. Hauppauge)

Thursday, January 9, 2014
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

at the offices of
Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company
25 Suffolk Court, Hauppauge, NY 11788

\$20 per person

Join us for our first networking event of 2014.

Dinner provided by
Tropical Smoothie Café
Wine and beer will be served.



For information: contact Wendy Valentino
wvalentino@cohengreve.com | (516) 877-1900

Name: _____
Firm: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____

*Please make checks payable to NYSSCPA
Suffolk Chapter and mail to:*

Wendy Valentino CPA/CFF, CFE
Cohen Greve & Company CPA, P.C.
485 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY 11501
(516) 877-1900
FAX (516) 742-0122
wvalentino@cohengreve.com

A&A Items for Review

The NYSSCPA Suffolk
Accounting & Auditing and Not-for-Profit Committees
invite you to



Revenue Recognition, Lease Accounting, AICPA Financial Reporting Framework for SMEs, FASB Private Company Council and Other Topics

**Wednesday, January 15, 2014
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

**at Citibank, 730 Vets Highway, Hauppauge
Second floor conference room**

Speaker: George I. Victor, CPA
Giambalvo, Stalzer & Company, CPAs, P.C.

**Earn
2 CPE
credits**

RSVP: Michael Joy
mjoy@rem-co.com
(516) 228-9000 Ext. 272

Sponsored by: **citibank**[®]

Tax Primer...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk
Members in Industry Committee
invites you to



Annual Tax Update

Thursday, January 23, 2014
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

at at Empire National Bank
1707 Veterans Memorial Highway,
Suite 8, Islandia, NY

Speaker: Ernest Smith, CPA
Nawrocki Smith LLP

Networking, light breakfast included.

2 CPE credits available!

RSVP:

Janet T. Verneuille
jverneuille@empirenb.com

Networking with Bankers...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk and Nassau Chapter
Cooperation with Bankers and Other Credit Grantors Committees
invite you to the



**Annual Joint Nassau/Suffolk Chapter Meeting:
An Evening of Networking
with Special Guest Speaker
John Lizzo, LIA Economist**

**Thursday, January 30, 2014
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**at Crest Hollow Country Club – Woodbury, NY
Networking | Cocktails | Buffet Dinner**

Open to all NYSSCPA members, bankers, and other professionals

\$60 in advance (cash or check)
\$70 walk-in (not pre-registered)

RSVP required by January 16, 2014

Please attach a list of names/business cards if paying for more than one attendee:

Name: _____
Firm: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____
I am a: CPA banker other
Number of people attending: _____
Enclosed amount: _____

*Please make checks payable to NYSSCPA
Nassau Chapter and mail to:*

Neal Korenberg, CPA
Castellano, Korenberg & Co., CPA's, P.C.
313 W. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801
Phone (516) 937-9500
Fax (516) 932-0485
cpinto@ck-co.com

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CLIP AND SAVE

True or False?



1. Batman fights crime in retaliation for the destruction of his planet.
2. A 12-carat gold piece is considered half gold.
3. In Dante's Inferno, the deepest ring of Hell is reserved for murderers.
4. High-school teacher John T. Scopes was found guilty of cruelty to animals in the famous "Monkey Trial" of 1925.
5. Alfred Nobel, for whom the Nobel Prizes were named, invented dynamite.
6. The modern Caesar salad is derived from a recipe dating back to ancient Rome.
7. "S.O.S.," the Morse code distress signal, originally stood for "Save Our Ship."
8. Dinosaurs were the largest animals in history.
9. Red grapes can make white wine.
10. The tongue has distinct sections that are exclusively responsible for detecting certain tastes.



SOURCE: Merriam-Webster.com

Flip over for the ANSWERS...

1. FALSE. Bruce Wayne (a.k.a., Batman) turned to fighting crime after witnessing the murder of his parents.
2. TRUE. Pure, 100-percent gold is considered 24 carat; something 12 carat, therefore, would be half gold.
3. FALSE. The ninth (and deepest) ring of Hell was reserved for individuals guilty of treachery.
4. FALSE. He was found guilty of teaching evolution, then a crime in Tennessee, and received a \$100 fine.
5. TRUE. This invention, among others, brought him enormous wealth, later used to establish the prizes in his name.
6. FALSE. It was reportedly invented in Tijuana, Mexico, in the 1920s by Caesar Cardini, an Italian immigrant restaurateur.
7. FALSE. The signal's code sequence - three dots (S), three dashes (O), three dots (S) - was simply easy to transmit and recognize.
8. FALSE. The blue whale is considered the largest animal ever to have lived.
9. TRUE. The juice of red grapes can make white wine, but white grapes can't make red wine (because the red grape skins are critical to red wine production).
10. FALSE. "Tongue maps" are a myth; all areas of the tongue can recognize each of the four basic tastes, though some areas are slightly more sensitive to certain tastes than others.

— ANSWERS —

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Get Involved and Help Make a Difference

COMMITTEE SERVICE APPLICATION

Thank you in advance for getting involved and ensuring the success of this chapter. Please rank the top 3 committees in which you have an interest:

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