

President's Message



**AMANDA
 SEXTON**

Happy New Year everyone!! I hope you had a great holiday season.

What a crazy end to 2017 with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law on December 22nd and New York State homeowners scrambling to pay their

2017/2018 property taxes in advance. The \$10,000 deduction limitation on property taxes and state and local taxes is certainly a hot topic and will have a huge impact to many of us and our clients here in New York and other high-tax states.

Christmas 2017 was very different for me than any other year – my boyfriend, his 2 daughters and I were in Germany and Austria. We landed in Munich, Germany on December 20th, then proceeded to Oberammergau and Garmisch. After that we crossed over into Austria (without ANY border patrol might I add!), starting in Salzburg and finishing up in Vienna. We then returned back to New York on December 28th. I highly recommend

visiting any of these cities – they are gorgeous and have so much history. I also learned the hard way to TRIPLE CHECK for my passport BEFORE leaving the house...

December 2017 ended with a busy finish with our Toys for Tots pickup by the United States Marines on December 8th at Sheehan & Company, followed by our all-day Tax Conference on December 9th, New York State Ethics Update on December 19th and annual GAAP update presented by Paul Becht on December 21st.

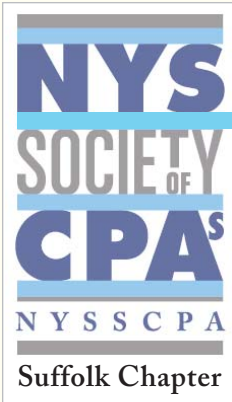
The following are events we have coming up for the rest of January and February:

- **January 23rd** – Our A&A and NFP Committees are hosting a 2 CPE session in the morning on the Do's and Don'ts of Financial Statements in Melville.
- **January 23rd** – Following our morning session, the FVS Committee will focus their creative skills with a Paint Nite in Sayville.

(continued...)

THIS ISSUE

- 3 | Special Offer from the Suffolk Chapter
- 4 | Accepting Nominations for 2018-19 Suffolk Chapter Board
- 5 | Committee Report
- 6-12 | Calendar of Events
- 13 | Contacting Us
- 14 | Fun & Games
- 15 | Time for YOU to Get Involved



President's Message (cont'd)

• **January 25th** – Join us at the semi-annual networking event with the Nassau Chapter at the Fox Hollow in Woodbury. Food and drink will be provided and this event is open to anyone – professional and students are welcome!

• **February 1st** – the East End Committee is holding its 2nd annual Networking on the East End event in Riverhead from 6-8pm and business casual attire is welcome.

• **March 21st** – Members in Industry is hosting a 2 CPE session on the basics of sales tax in Islandia.

In addition to these events, our Chapter's Nominating Committee has begun accepting nominations for potential Suffolk Chapter Board Members. Please see page 4 for more details.

I wish you a busy but smooth tax season this year!!

– Amanda Sexton

PRESIDENT

Amanda Sexton, CPA/ABV/CFE, CFE

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Melissa Hicks, CPA

VICE PRESIDENT

John Hermus, CPA, CGMA

TREASURER

Kenneth Laks, CPA

SECRETARY

Frank Giambruno, CPA

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Brian Michels, CPA

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Joel Ackerman, CPA

William Huether, CPA, CGMA

Michael T. Joy, CPA, CGMA

Thomas S. Pirro, CPA

Joel Schleifer, CPA

John Spatola, CPA/ABV/CFE, CVA, CFE

Janet T. Verneuille, CPA

STATE SOCIETY DIRECTOR

REPRESENTING SUFFOLK

Thomas S. Pirro, CPA

COMMITTEES

Accounting & Auditing

Cooperation with Attorneys

Cooperation with

Bankers & Other Credit Grantors

Cooperation with

Educational Institutions

Construction & Real Estate

East End

Emerging Technologies

Employee Benefits

Estate/Financial Planning

Forensic and Valuation Services

General Taxation

Golf Outing

Members in Industry

Membership

NextGen

Nominating

Not-For-Profit & Government

Accounting & Auditing

Public Relations

Small Business

Sponsorship

To contact a committee chair,
see page 13.

Special Offer 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.



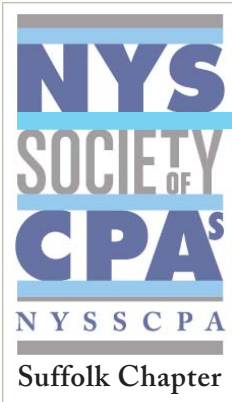
Step One: Choose the type of event based on your target audience.

- 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



Now Accepting Nominations for the 2018-19 Suffolk Chapter Board

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

1. Brian Michels – Committee Chair
2. Paul Becht
3. Liz Vuozzo

Alternate – George Foundotos

The Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for Board and/or Executive Board positions for the upcoming fiscal year 6/1/18 through 5/31/19.

Nominations will be accepted through February 15, 2018.

Please forward nominations to:

Brian Michels, CPA
Michels & Hanley CPAs, LLP
(631) 360-2727
brian@mhcpafirm.com

The election of the officers will take place at the Members in Industry meeting on March 21st in Islandia.

Committee Report: **Members in Industry**

The Suffolk Chapter NYSSCPA Members in Industry committee meets monthly from September through May. We welcome CPAs across all industries and practices. Our morning meetings start and end promptly, from 8 to 10 a.m. There are no entry fees and meetings earn two CPE credits. Joint sessions with Nassau charge a \$10 fee. The State Society has requested that all attendees register online to ensure you receive your CPE certificates. Please register at NYSSCPA.org. For more information: Janet Verneuille, JVerneuille@empirenb.com.

On December 21 the committee enjoyed a holiday breakfast sponsored by Empire National Bank in Islandia. Paul Becht, CPA, Partner at Margolin, Winer & Evens LLP, presented his annual GAAP update to a full room of CPAs who either needed continuing professional education credits or were especially hungry.



Upcoming sessions:

Friday, February 9, 8-10 a.m.

Healthcare, Benefits and NYS Paid Family Leave Update

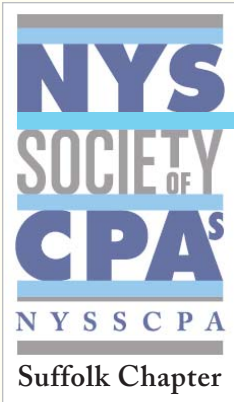
Joint meeting of the Nassau CFO and the Suffolk Members in Industry Committees

Speakers: Jill Bergman and Kevin Quinn of Chernoff Diamond. Hosted by Marcum LLP at 10 Melville Park Road, Melville.

Wednesday, March 21, 8-10 a.m.

Sales Tax Defense

Speaker: Mark Stone, Sales Tax Defense LLC. Hosted by Empire National Bank, 1707 Veterans Highway, Islandia. See details on page 11.



Mark Your Calendar...

JANUARY 23, 2018

Accounting & Auditing and Not-for-Profit Committees: Do's and Don'ts of Financial Statements. Details on page 7.

JANUARY 23, 2018

Forensic & Valuation Committee: Painting with Business Professionals. Details on page 8.

JANUARY 25, 2018

Banker/CPA Social Event. Details on page 9.

FEBRUARY 1, 2018

East End Social Networking. Details on page 10.

MARCH 21, 2018

Members in Industry Meeting: Sales Tax Defense. Details on page 11.

MAY 16, 2018

East End Committee Meeting.
8 a.m. at Hotel Indigo, Riverhead.
Info/RSVP: skelly@mfbcpa.com.

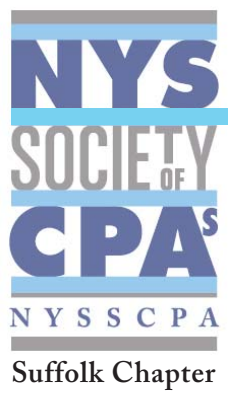
AUGUST 23, 2018

East End Committee: Riverboat Tour.
Details on page 12.

Committee Chairs!

Make sure to get all future meeting dates to John Hermus at jhermus@sheehancpa.com.

For up-to-the-minute
NYSSPA Suffolk chapter activities
[CLICK HERE](#)



For Auditors...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk Accounting & Auditing and Not-for-Profit Committees invites you to a Chapter meeting and educational event:



Do's and Don'ts of Financial Statements Tuesday, January 23, 2018 | 8-10 a.m.

at Capital One Bank
275 Broad Hollow Road, 4th floor, Melville

Become familiar with correct financial statement presentation at this breakfast session.

SPEAKERS:

Joel Schleifer, CPA | Craig, Fitzsimmons & Michaels, LLP
Paul Becht, CPA | Margolin, Winer & Evens LLP

2 CPE credits (course code: 29081819)

[RSVP HERE](#)

More information: Michael Joy, mjoy@rem-co.com

Sponsored by



Calling All (Non?) Artists...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk Forensic and Valuation Services Committee invites you:



Painting with Business Professionals

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.
at Mini Monet Art Studio, 64 Railroad Avenue, Sayville

\$35 per person

Join us for a social event as we do a
guided painting of a winter wonderland!

More information: John Spatola, (631) 756-9500 x 271, jspatola@nslpcpa.com

Our Annual Event...



Nassau/Suffolk Joint Chapter Annual Networking Event

Thursday, January 25, 2018

6-9 p.m.

at The Fox Hollow

7725 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury

\$75 per person | \$85 at the door

Join the Suffolk and Nassau Chapter Cooperation with Bankers and Other Credit Grantors Committees for an evening of networking, cocktails, and buffet dinner.

RSVP required by January 22, 2018

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Heading East...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk East End Committee invites you



Networking on the East End

Thursday, February 1, 2018 | 6 to 8 p.m.

Atlantis Banquets & Events – Sea Star Ballroom
431 East Main Street, Riverhead*

If you do business anywhere east of, say, Route 112,
join us for this east end networking event!

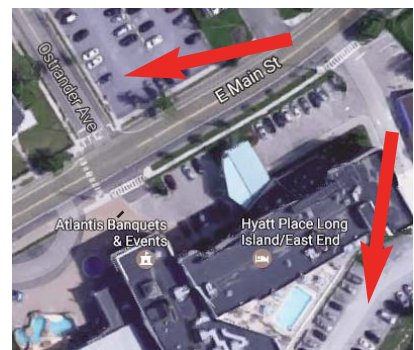
Open bar! Hors d'oeuvres! Business casual dress!

\$25 for members
\$40 for non-members

Register [HERE](#)

Info: Amanda Sexton
asexton@mfbcpa.com

* Parking available behind Atlantis
and across the street, by Ostrander Avenue



Sponsored by

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch

Sales and Use Tax Tips...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk Members in Industry Committee invites you:



Sales Tax Defense

Wednesday, March 21, 2017

8 to 10 a.m.

at Empire National Bank, 1707 Veterans Highway, Islandia

- What is sales and use tax?
- Nexus
- Fiduciary & Statute of Limitations
- Documentation
- Transferee Liability
- Appeals Process

Speaker:

Mark L. Stone — Sales Tax Defense LLC

2 CPE credits (course code: 29086814)

[RSVP HERE](#)

Coming this Summer...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk East End Committee invites you



Riverboat Tour along the Peconic River

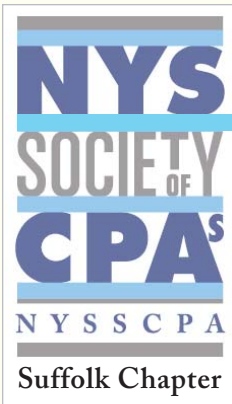
**Thursday, August 23, 2018
6 to 9 p.m.**

Long Island Aquarium in Riverhead

\$55 per person

Join us for a Riverboat Tour along the Peconic River, then come back for networking, drinks and appetizers.

Contact: Amanda Sexton; asexton@mfbcpa.com
Sponsorship opportunities are available.



Suffolk Chapter Board & Committees

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Joel Ackerman, CPA
Richards Witt & Charles LLP
(516) 740-0515
joel@autocpa.net

William Huether, CPA, CGMA
Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
(631) 665-7040
whuether@sheehancpa.com

Michael T. Joy, CPA, CGMA
Raich Ende Malter & Co., LLP
(516) 228-9000 | mjoy@rem-co.com

Thomas S. Pirro, CPA
Thomas Pirro, CPA, P.C.
(631) 472-7637 | tpirocpa@optonline.net

Joel Schleifer, CPA
Craig, Fitzsimmons & Michaels, LLP
(631) 360-1400 | jschleifer@cfmlp.com

John Spatola, CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA, CFE
Nawrocki Smith, LLP
(631) 543-1333 | jspatola@nslpcca.com

Janet T. Verneuille, CPA
Empire National Bank
(631) 881-5380 | jverneuille@empirenbank.com

ACCOUNTING & AUDITING
Paul Becht, CPA
Margolin, Winer & Evens LLP
(516) 240-4295 | pbecht@mwllp.com

Michael T. Joy, CPA, CGMA
Raich Ende Malter & Co., LLP
(516) 228-9000 | mjoy@rem-co.com

COOPERATION WITH ATTORNEYS
David Oksenhorn, CPA
Marcum LLP
(631) 414-4732
david.oksenhorn@marcumllp.com

Matthew Ryan, CPA
matt127256@yahoo.com

COOPERATION WITH BANKERS & OTHER CREDIT GRANTORS
Danielle Schadler, CPA
Bethpage Federal Credit Union
(516) 349-6887
dschadler@bethpagefcu.com

COOPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
Melissa Hicks, CPA
CN Guidance & Counseling Services
(516) 822-6111
mhicks@centralnassau.org

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS & REAL ESTATE
Brian Michels, CPA
Michels & Hanley CPAs, LLP
(631) 360-2727
brian@mhcpafirm.com

EAST END

Sean Kelly, CPA
Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank, LLP
(631) 727-3626
skelly@mfbcpa.com

Amanda Sexton, CPA/ABV/CFF, CFE
Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank, LLP
(631) 727-3626
asexton@mfbcpa.com

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
Suzanne Breit, CPA
HMM, CPAs LLP
(631) 265-6289 | sbreit@horanmm.com

Felicia Paura, CPA
Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
(631) 665-7040 | fpaura@sheehancpa.com

Rahema Zia
Cerini & Associates, LP
(631) 868-1120
rzaia@ceriniandassociates.com

FORENSIC AND VALUATION SERVICES
Pasquale Rafanelli, CPA/ABV, ASA, CVA, CBA, CFE, MAFF
Grassi & Co.
(516) 336-2415
prafanelli@grassicpas.com

John Spatola, CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA, CFE
Nawrocki Smith, LLP
(631) 543-1333 | jspatola@nslpcca.com

GENERAL TAXATION
Joel Ackerman, CPA
Richards Witt & Charles LLP
(516) 740-0515
joel@autocpa.net

Kenneth Laks, CPA
Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co., PC
(631) 434-9500 | klaks@avz.com

GOLF OUTING
John C. DeFalco, CPA
Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
(631) 665-7040 | jdefalco@sheehancpa.com

Robert T. Quarté, CPA
Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co., PC
(631) 434-9500 | rquarte@avz.com

MEMBERS IN INDUSTRY
Ernest Patrick Smith, CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA, CFE
Nawrocki Smith, LLP
(631) 543-1333 | esmith@nslpcca.com

Janet T. Verneuille, CPA
Empire National Bank
(631) 881-5380 | jverneuille@empirenbank.com

MEMBERSHIP

Melissa Hicks, CPA
CN Guidance & Counseling Services
(516) 822-6111
mhicks@centralnassau.org

Amanda Sexton, CPA/ABV/CFF, CFE
Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank, LLP
(631) 727-3626 | asexton@mfbcpa.com

NEXTGEN
Robert Huether, CPA
KPMG LLP
(631) 425-6542 | bobbyhuether@gmail.com

William Huether, CPA, CGMA
Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
(631) 665-7040
whuether@sheehancpa.com

NOMINATING
Felix Russo, CPA
BDO USA LLP
(631) 724-7900 | frusso@bdo.com

NOT-FOR-PROFIT & GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING & AUDITING
Kenneth R. Cerini, CPA
Cerini & Associates, LLP
(631) 582-1600
kenc@ceriniandassociates.com

Joel Schleifer, CPA
Craig, Fitzsimmons & Michaels, LLP
(631) 360-1400 | jschleifer@cfmlp.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Amanda Sexton, CPA/ABV/CFF, CFE
Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank, LLP
(631) 727-3626 | asexton@mfbcpa.com

SPONSORSHIP
Thomas S. Pirro, CPA
Thomas S. Pirro, CPA, P.C.
(631) 472-7637 | tpirocpa@optonline.net

STATE SOCIETY DIRECTOR REPRESENTING SUFFOLK
Thomas S. Pirro, CPA
Thomas S. Pirro, CPA, P.C.
(631) 472-7637 | tpirocpa@optonline.net

The NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter has a few committees looking for a chair! Contact Amanda Sexton for info on:

- EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
- ESTATE/FINANCIAL PLANNING
- MANAGEMENT OF AN ACCOUNTING PRACTICE
- SMALL BUSINESS

PRESIDENT
Amanda Sexton, CPA/ABV/CFF, CFE
Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank, LLP
552 East Main Street
Riverhead, NY 11901
(631) 727-3626
asexton@mfbcpa.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Melissa Hicks, CPA
CN Guidance & Counseling Svcs.
950 South Oyster Road
Hicksville, NY 11801
(516) 822-6111
mhicks@centralnassau.org

VICE PRESIDENT
John Hermus, CPA, CGMA
Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
165 Orinoco Drive
Brightwaters, NY 11718
(631) 665-7040
jhermus@sheehancpa.com

TREASURER
Kenneth Laks, CPA
Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co., PC
25 Suffolk Court
Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 434-9500
klaks@avz.com

SECRETARY
Frank Giamb Bruno, CPA
Frank J. Giamb Bruno, CPA PLLC
50 Route 111
Smithtown, NY 11787
(631) 380-5444
frank@fjgcpatax.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Brian Michels, CPA
Michels & Hanley CPAs, LLP
12 Bank Avenue
Smithtown, NY 11787
(631) 360-2727
brian@mhcpafirm.com

Fun and Games – Synonym Fun

What is the *REAL* synonym for the following words?

1. RANCOR

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. guess | B. bitterness |
| C. certainty | D. employment |

2. INTERIM

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| A. mellow | B. temporary |
| C. sunny | D. balanced |

3. INHERENT

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. flexible | B. untouchable |
| C. second-hand | D. natural |

4. PITHY

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. necessary | B. sad |
| C. concise | D. technical |

5. QUIESCENT

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. bookish | B. central |
| C. inactive | D. difficult |

6. PRODIGIOUS

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| A. huge | B. powerful |
| C. evident | D. unsightly |

7. SALUBRIOUS

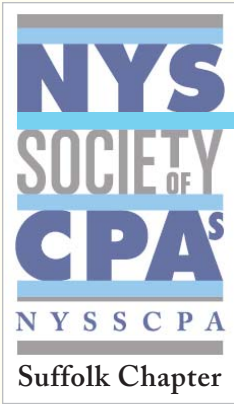
- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| A. fresh | B. healthful |
| C. gloomy | D. lazy |

8. QUIXOTIC

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| A. successful | B. restless |
| C. young | D. unrealistic |

SOURCE: merriam-webster.com

Answers: 1-B | 2-B | 3-D | 4-C | 5-C | 6-A | 7-B | 8-D



Get Involved with NYSSCPA Suffolk and Help Make a Difference

Newsletter Editor:
John Hermus, CPA, CGMA
Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
jhermus@sheehancpa.com

Design/Layout:
Flo Federman
Marcum LLP
flo.federman@marcumllp.com

The Suffolk Chapter newsletter is published monthly (bi-monthly January through August) by the Suffolk Chapter of the New York State Society of CPAs.

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting & Auditing | <input type="checkbox"/> Estate/Financial Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Forensic and Valuation Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Contractors | <input type="checkbox"/> General Taxation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation with Attorneys | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Outing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation with Bankers and Other Credit Grantors | <input type="checkbox"/> Management of Accounting Practice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation with Educational Institutions | <input type="checkbox"/> Members in Industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CPE/Professional Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East End | <input type="checkbox"/> NextGen (Young CPAs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Technologies | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-Profit & Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee Benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate & Construction |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business |

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please forward your response to:
Amanda Sexton, CPA/ABV/CFF, CFE
Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank, LLP
552 East Main Street Riverhead, NY 11901
asexton@mfbcpa.com