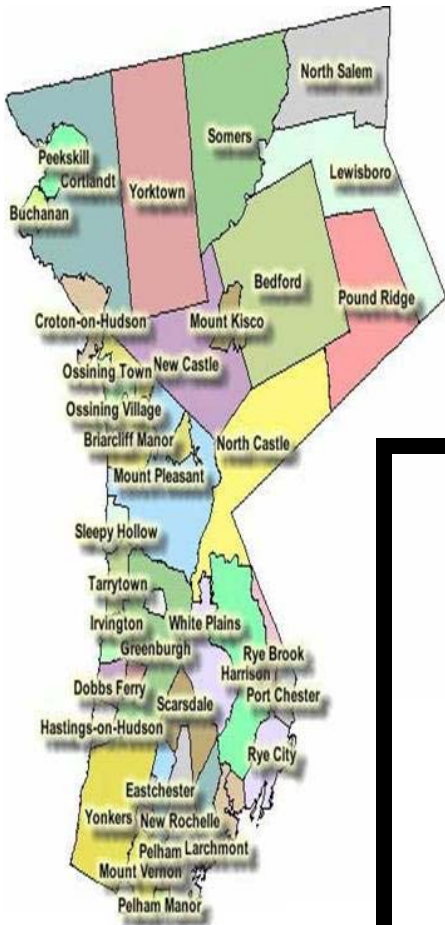




Westchester Chapter E-Newsletter

February 2016



PLEASE JOIN US AT:

THE ANNUAL COLLEGE PLANNING EVENT

When: Thursday, February 25, 2016

Where: The Centre at Purchase
4 Manhattanville Rd, Purchase, NY

Time: 5:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

Seating is limited so please register ASAP!

To register please contact: Cheryl Garippa at cgarippa@citrincooperman.com

SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR MORE DETAILS!



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Denise Stefano

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From Chapter President Michele Lazzara...

Dear Westchester Chapter Members,

The Internal Revenue Service is cautioning tax preparers that they are prime targets for identity thieves who are looking for data to use when filing fraudulent returns.

In the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the "Safeguards Rule" requires individuals involved in providing financial product or tax preparation services to ensure the security and confidentiality of customer records and information.

The IRS is launching a first-of-its-kind data-sharing program with states and tax preparation software companies to detect identity theft on online tax returns more easily by reviewing personally identifiable information and metadata embedded in each submission.

Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers, headlining the annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams for 2016 filing season.

It's a crazy world that we live in. Kids should be warned against oversharing personal information on social media. Aging parents are also prime targets. Protect your passwords. Give personal information over encrypted websites only.

If you are a victim of identity theft, the IRS will mark your account and issue an identifying number to be used when filing your return. You can elect to do this on your own by filing form 14039 - Identity Theft Affidavit. I have done this for a number of clients and they really appreciate the added protection.

Let the tax season fun begin!

Regards,
Michele

Michele Lazzara can be reached at: 914-909-3421 or by email at: mlazzara@markspaneth.com





**The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants
(NYSSCPA) Westchester Chapter
is hosting its:**

“Annual College Planning Event”

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND FREE OF
CHARGE**

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016

Place: The Centre at Purchase, 4 Manhattanville Road
Purchase

Time: 5:45 pm. – 8:00 p.m.

Come hear college planning and consulting experts, **Gary Carpenter, CPA and Owner of College Planning Services**, and, **Al Hoffman, Director of the College Funding Service Center (CFSC) and Co-founder and Board Member of the National College Advocacy Group (NCAG)**, speak on, and provide insight into, the college planning process. A question and answer discussion will follow the presentation.

Topics discussed will include: The college admissions process (including college visitations, college selection), college costs and funding sources, financial aid process and filing financial aid forms, student loans, educational tax benefits, 529 college savings plans, scholarships and other awards, and much much more!

Attendees will also receive a comprehensive “College Checklist and Timeline for Applying to College” that can assist with planning and organization of this often laborious process!

Light Refreshments will be served!

Seating is limited and registration is required.

To register please contact: Cheryl Garippa at cgarippa@citrincooperman.com or 914-949-2990 ext. 3353-OR-

**PLEASE JOIN THE ACCOUNTANTS IN INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE AT THE:**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RESOURCES
RULES & REGULATIONS**

When: Wednesday, March 16th

Where: Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP
360 Hamilton Ave 3rd FL, White Plains, NY

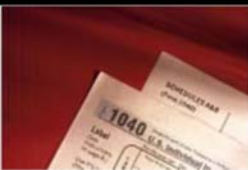
Time: 7:45 a.m. 9:15 a.m. (1 CPE - Course Code: 29115603)

Speaker: Attorney Penny Lieberman from Jackson Lewis

More Save the Dates:

April 20, 2016 - Protecting Assets from LTC Cost & Utilizing Medicaid Homecare as the
First Option

May 18, 2016 - Latest Developments in the Debt Collection Process



TAX HOTLINE ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Westchester Chapter in cooperation with *The Journal News* will host its annual tax hotline on **Saturday, March 5th, 2016** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at *The Journal News* offices at: 1133 Westchester Ave, White Plains.

We are looking for volunteers to answer phone in and web chat questions. This is a wonderful way to provide community service and to get publicity for our profession. We need your assistance in helping our county residents with any tax questions they may have.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Robert Winton by email at rwinton@citrincooperman.com or by phone at 914-949-2990 ext. 3326.

Make sure that you include your name, address and telephone number. We will contact you with more details. We will also let you know what materials to bring that past volunteers found helpful to refer to when answering questions.

Thank you, The Westchester Chapter appreciates your help.

NYS SOCIETY OF CPA'S - WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

Announces

THE ANNUAL GOLF OUTING EVENT

MONDAY, June 13th, 2016

WILLOW RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

123 North Street – Harrison, NY (914) 967-6161

PAYMENT RECEIVED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2015 - \$300

PAYMENT RECEIVED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 15TH, 2016 - \$325

SPONSORSHIPS:

Lunch, Golf, Cocktail Hour, Buffet & Dessert* \$350
Cocktail Hour, Buffet and Dessert Only \$150

LIMITED GOLD SPONSORSHIP: \$1,850 includes
♦ Sign near tee box area that company sponsored the hole
♦ Table at registration desk
♦ Reserved tables at cocktail hour and dinner
♦ Recognition at dinner
♦ Brunch, golf, drinks and dinner for one

* Includes greens fees, forecaddie, cart, and driving range

Hole Sponsorship - \$150

***** RESERVE EARLY – THIS EVENT WILL GET CLOSED OUT! *****

- 🚩 Line up your foursome with CPAs, clients, bankers, lawyers, etc. If you can't complete a foursome, we will do it for you.
- 🚩 The day begins with **sign-in/registration/brunch at 11:00 am, followed by a shotgun start at 12:30 pm.** Cocktail "hour" and hors d'oeuvres will begin at **approximately 5:30 pm** with open bar. Prizes will be awarded during buffet dinner. **ALL PRO SHOP CERTIFICATES MUST BE REDEEMED THAT EVENING.**
- 🚩 Our members, attorneys, bankers, and friends have contributed prizes. We thank them for their contributions.
- 🚩 Clients, spouses and others are welcome to attend!
- 🚩 Make your reservations early. I look forward to seeing you.
- 🚩 Rain or Shine! * No Refunds

Jeff Schwartz, Chairman

Westchester Chapter Golf Outing – June 13th, 2016

Name (please print) _____
Office Telephone Number _____
Firm Name and address _____
E-mail Address: _____



- I want to play in a scramble format (OR BELOW)**
- I want to play my own ball**
- Dinner Only
- Please put me in a foursome. My handicap is _____.
- I have arranged my foursome (Please list other 3 names) _____
- _____ _____
- My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Send check payable to "NYSSCPA – Westchester Chapter" to:

Stanton and Leone
1025 Westchester Avenue – Suite 301
White Plains, NY 10604
Att'n: Jeffrey A. Schwartz, CPA
Telephone (914) 286-6908
E-Mail: jeff@stantonandleone.com

2016 CALENDAR

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Program/Activity/Event</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| 02/25/2016 | The Annual College Planning Event | 5:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. |
| 03/05/2016 | Tax Hotline | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |
| 03/16/2016 | Accountants In Industry Committee CPE Event | 7:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. |
| 04/20/2016 | Accountants In Industry Committee CPE Event | 7:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. |
| 05/18/2016 | Accountants In Industry Committee CPE Event | 7:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. |
| 06/13/2016 | Annual Golf Outing | All Day Event |

| <u>Newsletter Committee</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>E-Mail</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Licia Vizcarra | (914) 997-7724 | Licia.Vizcarra@cmcensullocpa.com |
| Michele Lazzara | (914) 909-3421 | mlazzara@markspaneth.com |

(E-mail submissions to the newsletter committee no later than the 10th day of the month prior to publication.)

For ALL Newsletter Mailing Issues - Use This Form or Call (212)719-8333

CPA Certificate No. /_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/
 Name: (Last, First, Middle Initial)

CPA Certificate No. /_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/
 Name: (Last, First, Middle Initial)

Firm Name _____
 Firm Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Business Phone () _____

Firm Name _____
 Firm Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Business Phone () _____

Return this form to: Membership Dept., NYSSCPA, 14 Wall St, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10005

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS 2016

(Board Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday Morning of the month. Exceptions are noted)

02/18/2015 @City Limits Diner

NEXT NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2016



HAPPY TAX SEASON!



Mortgage Rate Protection



If mortgage rates drop, you can lower yours at no charge!

citibank

If you've been waiting to purchase or refinance a home because you thought rates might go even lower, you don't have to wait any longer! With Mortgage Rate Protection from Citibank, you can apply for a new mortgage today. If our rates go down in the next three years, you can lower your rate at no charge¹.

Please see important terms & conditions below.

- Competitive mortgage rates today, with protection if our mortgage rates decrease in the future
- Rate protection for 3 years
- Expert advice and help throughout the process

Contact Us

Important Conditions:

For Citibank first mortgage loan applications registered July 23, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Offer not applicable on Home Equity Loans or Lines of Credit.

1. Your eligibility in the program will be determined at the time you apply for a first mortgage loan on a specific property with your Mortgage Consultant.

2. You must have a Citibank deposit account before closing. Prior to closing, we will verify that you have a Citibank deposit account. This can be an existing account or a new account.

3. In addition, we will require you to establish direct debit for mortgage payments from a deposit account.

Both conforming and jumbo loan amounts are allowed for this program.

Program Parameters:

1) The "Rate Protection Conversion Index," which is based on the Citibank par rate, must fall more than one quarter of one percentage point (0.25%) from the Rate Protection Conversion Index in effect as of the date the Note rate was locked.

2) You must notify Citibank to exercise the Rate Protection Option.

3) Mortgage cannot be in default under the Note or the Security Instrument.

4) You must provide or complete any documents the Note Holder requires to effect the new interest rate, including, but not limited to a Loan Modification Agreement.

Terms and conditions of accounts, programs, products and services are subject to change.

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**I help clients grow their businesses.
Citibank helps me grow mine.**

With CitiBusiness® Solutions for Accounting Professionals, you gain greater efficiency for your business and personal finances so that you can focus on helping your clients grow their businesses.

Take advantage of special benefits for Accounting Professionals

For your firm's finances

- CitiBusiness® Flexible Checking with no monthly maintenance fees
- Preferred rate on CitiBusiness® Insured Money Market Account¹

For your personal finances

- Citigold,® premier personal banking, with waived monthly service fee.²

For your clients

- \$100 cash reward after they open a new business checking account³

To enroll, talk to your Citibank Business Specialist



¹ A business checking account is required to receive the preferred rate on CitiBusiness Insured Money Market Account. The entire balance in your CitiBusiness Insured Money Market Account earns the same interest rate, which is determined by the total balance in your account. You earn the preferred rate only if your total balance is less than \$5,000,000.00. Speak to your Business Specialist for full details.

² Offer applies to accounting professionals and CPAs who are owners or employees of an accounting firm that is a customer in the CitiBusiness Solutions for Accounting Professionals Program.

³ Qualifying behaviors required. See a Business Specialist for details.

Please speak with a Citibank Business Specialist for full details on the CitiBusiness Solutions for Accounting Professionals Program. Offer subject to change or termination at any time without notice, and cannot be combined. The terms, conditions and fees for accounts, products, programs and services are subject to change. All accounts and services are subject to approval.

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