President’s Message

I hope everyone survived the March 15 deadline and gearing up for the April 18 deadline a few weeks away. Accountants everywhere are in the home stretch of “busy season” – that gentle euphemism that doesn’t begin to convey the chaos and insanity of tax time.

Like death and taxes, tax season is also inevitable for accountants. The 60+ hour, six day workweeks can create a hectic office environment. If you manage your time correctly and take steps to lower the stress level you can survive and even thrive during this period.

Here are a few suggestions on how to excel during the last few weeks of busy season.

1. **Eat Healthy.** During crunch time, it’s tempting to grab fast food. Stock up the offices with healthy alternatives.

2. **Exercise.** Exercising, even a short time each day will help to reduce stress and increase your energy. Skip that unhealthy meal at lunch and spend 30 minutes at the local fitness center instead.

3. **Schedule a vacation or weekend getaway.** Having something to look forward to (other than the end of busy season) helps to get through the days. If you haven’t already, book a vacation or short weekend getaway after busy season to help unwind and recharge.

4. **Laugh!** Humor is a great antidote for stress. Try to keep

(continued...)
President’s Message (cont’d)

sparks light by finding opportunities to laugh. Another idea is to offer humorous awards, such as “office diplomat” (for the person who excels at appeasing a difficult client), “tax maniac” (for the most productive employee) or “Mr./Ms. Congeniality” (for the most helpful and cheerful colleague).

5. **Be alert to burnout.** Employers should watch staff closely for signs they’re wearing down, such as low morale, missed deadlines and declining work quality.

The Suffolk Chapter has many upcoming events and have been planning tirelessly throughout busy season.

On April 19, the Members in Industry Committee is holding an event on estate planning, elder law and business succession. This event is being held at Empire National Bank in Islandia from 8-10 a.m. The Members in Industry committee does a great job in putting together informative and educational events for our members. There is no cost to attend this event. (Details on page 6.)

On May 3, the NextGen Committee is having a Cinco De Mayo joint networking event with the Risk Management Association – Young Professionals and the New York State Bar Association – Young Lawyers Section. See page 8. The event will be held at Tocolo Cantina in Garden City. This will be a great event for some of your firms “up and comers” to meet other liked minded professionals in a casual relaxed atmosphere.

The 46th Annual Banker / CPA golf outing is quickly approaching and a great way to get out of the office for some fun after tax season. This year’s outing is on May 15th and being held at the Southward Ho Country Club. This event is generally a sell out so get your ticket and sign up soon. More on page 9.

It would be great to see some new faces at some of the upcoming events. I would like to encourage those who are not NYSSCPA members to join and get involved. If you are a current member, join a committee and become active. It’s a great way to maximize the value of your membership.

I look forward to seeing you at many of our upcoming events.

— Brian Michels
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 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

2016-17 SUBSCRIPTION PLAN
Become a subscriber and save as much as $300 on meetings!
The tremendously discounted price of $99 covers the following chapter meetings:

- October 20, 2016  Banker/CPA Event
- November 2016  Student Night
- Nov./Dec. 2016  Accounting & Auditing Event (2 CPE)
- December 6, 2016  Town Hall Meeting / Ethics Panel (2 CPE)
- January 2017  Banker/CPA Event
- May 2017  To Be Determined

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

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Telephone: _____________________________________
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Please make checks payable to NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter and mail to:
John Hermus, CPA
Sheehan & Company CPAs, PC
165 Orinoco Drive,
Brightwaters, NY 11718
Committee Report:
Members in Industry

On Thursday, February 16 at a joint session with the Nassau CFO committee, Ernie Smith from Nawrocki Smith LLP presented on Demystifying Forensic Accounting. Wells Fargo in Melville hosted this event. The session covered the fraud triangle and basics of forensic accounting. There were numerous case studies presented fostering lively conversation.

Then, on Wednesday, March 22, Richard Cross from American Premier Financial Group presented on the Department of Labor New Fiduciary Rule, Best Interest Contract Exemption & Investment Strategies. Participants filled the board table at Empire National Bank in Islandia although the session was postponed a week for the blizzard that missed most of Long Island.

NEXT UP:
April 19, 2017, 8-10am: Estate Planning, Elder Law and Business Succession
Speaker: John J "Pete" Roe, Egan & Golden, LLP. At Empire National Bank in Islandia.
REGISTER HERE.

The State Society has requested that all attendees register online to ensure you receive your CPE certificates. Please use the link above to register.

May 17, 2017, 8-10am: Annual Employment Law Update

Rachel Gold was formerly Special Counsel for Labor, as well as the Deputy Commissioner for Legislation, Policy, and Federal Affairs at the New York State Department of Labor.

After our May 17 meeting, we will hold our planning session for the upcoming fiscal year. If you are unable to attend the planning session please email potential ideas and speakers for our upcoming meetings to JVerneuille@empirenb.com.

The Annual webcast of the Business and Industry full day conference is tentatively scheduled for October 18 at Empire National Bank in Islandia. This is a joint Nassau/ Suffolk event.

Contact Janet Verneuille at JVerneuille@empirenb.com to get on the committee mailing email list, for more information, or to offer suggestions for future sessions and speakers.
Mark Your Calendar...

**APRIL 12, 2017**
Cooperation with Attorneys Committee meeting. 9:15 a.m. At the Sweet Hollow Diner. Discussing business valuation event.

**APRIL 19, 2017**

**APRIL 27, 2017**
Not-for-Profit Accounting and Auditing Conference. Details on page 7.

**MAY 3, 2017**
Cinco de Mayo Young Professionals Networking Event. Details on page 8.

**MAY 15, 2017**

**MAY 17, 2017**
Members in Industry meeting: Annual Employment Law Update. Details on page 10.

**JUNE 29, 2017**
Suffolk Chapter Past Presidents Golf Outing. Details on page 11.

**JULY 12, 2017**
Nine and Dine in Riverhead. Details on page 12.

For up-to-the-minute chapter activities:
http://www.nysscpa.org/membership/chapters/suffolk

Committee Chairs!
Make sure to get all future meeting dates to Melissa Hicks at MHicks@grassicpas.com.
Being a Better Advisor...

Estate Planning, Elder Law and Business Succession

Wednesday, April 19, 2017
8 to 10 a.m.
at Empire National Bank, 1707 Veterans Highway, Islandia

Join us as our speaker, John J. Roe of Egan & Golden LLP, will discuss:

- Review of basic documents: will, durable power of attorney, health care proxy, living will, disposition of remains
- Intestacy and "state-made wills"
- Trusts: revocable, irrevocable, life insurance, charitable, Medicaid
- IRAs: beneficiary designations; no beneficiary designations
- Post-Death planning: disclaimers; Right of Election
- Business Succession: Agreements, financing, use of family entities
- Discussion of actual cases: Problems and resolution

2 CPE credits (specialized knowledge)

RSVP HERE
All-Day NFP Training...

Latest Developments in Not-for-Profit Accounting and Auditing

Thursday, April 27, 2017
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Melville Marriott, 1350 Old Walt Whitman Road, Melville

$279 Member | $349 Non-Member

The nonprofit sector is very dynamic. Accounting, auditing and reporting are constantly changing. Seminar speaker Allan Fetterman will discuss:

• Nonprofit accounting and auditing update
• Nonprofit common financial reporting deficiencies
• OMB’s Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards
• Functional expense reporting and allocation
• Fundamentals of the New York Non-Profit Revitalization Act

8 CPE credits (4 accounting, 4 auditing)

RSVP HERE
Creación de Redes...

CINCO DE MAYO
Young Professionals Networking Event

Wednesday, May 3, 2017
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Tocolo Cantina, 920 Old Country Road, Garden City

Come network, have some fun and meet new people, with:

- Risk Management Association – Young Professionals
- New York State Bar Association – Young Lawyers Section
- NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter – NextGen Committee

$60 per person
Includes open bar and appetizers

RSVP HERE*

For more information: William Huether
whuether@sheehancpa.com, (631) 665-7040

*ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Golf Season Begins...

The Committee on Cooperation with Bankers and Other Credit Grantors presents

NYSSCPA – Suffolk Chapter’s
46th Annual Golf Outing

Monday, May 15, 2017
Southward Ho Country Club, Bay Shore

Check-In & Brunch  10:00 a.m.  
Shot Gun Start  11:30 a.m.  
Cocktails and Dinner  5:30 p.m.  

Fees:
$500 – Golf, Brunch and Dinner
$225 – Cocktails and Dinner Only

The cost of the event includes $50, which will go towards the NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter Accounting Scholarship Fund.

Raffles & Prizes • Inscribed “Suffolk Cup” awarded to the low gross golfer.

Golf, brunch, dinner: $500 per person  ____
Cocktails, dinner only: $225 per person  ____

Total amount enclosed:  ____

Name: __________________________________________
Firm: ___________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ___________________________________
Telephone: ______________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________

Golfer #1: ______________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________
Golfer #2: ______________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________
Golfer #3: ______________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________
Golfer #4: ______________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________

TO REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD:
Click HERE

PAYING BY CHECK, payable to NYSSCPA, Suffolk Chapter to:
Irene Howell | AVZ & Co, PC
25 Suffolk Court, Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 434-9500, ihowell@avz.com
Primer on Employment Law...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk Members in Industry Committee invites you

Annual Employment Law Update

Wednesday, May 17, 2017
8 to 10 a.m.
at Empire National Bank, 1707 Veterans Highway, Islandia

Join us as our speaker, Rachel Gold of Abrams Fensterman, will discuss:

- Proposal 7: Governor Cuomo, the State of the State, and Wage Enforcement
- Wage & Hour
- Independent Contractors and UI Audits
- Worker Misclassification
- Criminal Liability

2 CPE credits (specialized knowledge)

RSVP HERE
Past Presidents in the Present...

Suffolk Chapter

Past Presidents Golf Outing and Networking Dinner

June 29, 2017

Complete details and information to come!
East End Golf...

The NYSSCPA Suffolk Forensic and Valuation Services Committee and the NEW East End Committee invite you to the 4th annual

Nine and Dine in Riverhead
Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

at Cherry Creek Golf Links, 900 Reeves Avenue, Riverhead

Join us for this east end social event.
Nine holes of golf (with cart) and practice at the driving range, followed by BBQ dinner, beer/wine/soda, and dessert.

REGISTRATION LIMITED – Each year this event quickly sells out. First come, first served so sign up early!
Early bird registration (on or before June 12): $50. After June 12: $60.
Dinner only: $30 (approx. 5:30 p.m.)

Prizes: Longest drive, closest to pin (men/women)

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!
$100 per hole. Deadline June 12.

Name: _________________________________________
Firm: ___________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City, State, Zip: ___________________________________
Telephone: _______________________________________
E-mail: _________________________________________

☐ Please place me in a foursome
☐ Preferred foursome below:
   Golfer #2: ____________________________
   Golfer #3: ____________________________
   Golfer #4: ____________________________

REGISTER ONLINE HERE
Or mail check to: John Spatola
Nawrocki Smith LLP, 290 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 115E, Melville, NY 11747
631-756-9500, jspatola@nsllpcpa.com
Suffolk Chapter Board & Committees

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

Frank Giambruno, CPA  
Gabriel & Sciaccia CPA’s LLP  
(516) 364-7090  
fjgiambruno@gscpasllp.com

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

Thomas S. Piro, CPA  
Thomas Piro, CPA, PC.  
(631) 472-7637 | tpirocpa@optonline.net

Joel Schleifer, CPA  
Perlman, Schleifer, Perrone, CPAs  
(631) 586-1000 | theschleif@aol.com

Janet T. Verneullie, CPA  
Empire National Bank  
(631) 881-5380 | jverneullie@empiernb.com

ACCOUNTING & AUDITING
Paul Becht, CPA  
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
(631) 719-3380 | paul.becht@bakerlilly.com

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

COOPERATION WITH ATTORNEYS
David Okeshorn, CPA  
Marcum LLP  
(631) 414-4732 | david.okeshorn@marcumllp.com

Matthew Ryan, CPA  
Grassi & Co.  
(631) 256-3500 | mryan@grassicpas.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  
Grassi & Co.  
(516) 336-2489 | mhicks@grassicpas.com

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS & REAL ESTATE
Brian Michels, CPA  
Michels & Hanley CPA’s, LLP  
(631) 360-2727 | brian@mnhcpafirm.com

COOPERATION WITH INSTITUTIONS
Danielle Schadler, CPA  
Bethpage Federal Credit Union  
(516) 349-6887 | dschadler@bethpagefcu.com

COOPERATION WITH OTHER CREDIT GRANTORS
David Okeshorn, CPA  
Marcum LLP  
(631) 414-4732 | david.okeshorn@marcumllp.com

COOPERATION WITH REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
Amanda Sexton, CPA/ABV/CFF, CFE  
Markowitz, Fenelon & Bank, LLP  
(631) 727-3626 | skelly@mbcpca.com

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

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
Glenn Reed, CPA  
Vehicle Tracking Solutions  
(631) 586-7400 | glenn.reed@vehicle.tracking.com

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
Suzanne Brett, CPA  
HMM, CPA’s LLP  
(631) 265-6289 | sbrett@norannm.com

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

ESTATE/FINANCIAL PLANNING
Seymour Goldberg, CPA, MBA, JD  
Goldberg & Goldberg, PC.  
(516) 222-0422 | info.goldbergjs@gmail.com

FORENSIC AND VALUATION SERVICES
Pasquale Raffanelli, CPA, CVA, CFF  
Grassi & Co.  
(516) 336-2415 | pasquale@grassicpas.com

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

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

Kenneth Laks, CPA  
(631) 434-9500 | klaks@avz.com

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

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

Janet T. Verneullie, CPA  
Empire National Bank  
(631) 881-5380 | jverneullie@empiernb.com

MEMBERSHIP
Brian Michels, CPA  
Michels & Hanley CPA’s, LLP  
(631) 360-2727 | brian@mnhcpafirm.com

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

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

William Huether, CPA  
Sheehan & Company CPA’s, PC  
(631) 665-7040 | whuether@sheehancpa.com

NOMINATING
Elizabeth A. Vuozzo, CPA  
Fuoco Group LLP  
(631) 870-3906 | evuozzo@fuoco.com

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

Joel Schleifer, CPA  
Perlman, Schleifer, Perrone, CPAs  
(631) 543-6660 | theschleif@aol.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Brian Michels, CPA  
Michels & Hanley CPA’s, LLP  
(631) 360-2727 | brian@mnhcpafirm.com

SMALL BUSINESS
Deborah Werner, CPA  
(631) 321-6760 | dwernercpa@yahoo.com

SPORTING
Thomas S. Piro, CPA  
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
(631) 719-3380 | tpiprocpa@optonline.net

STATE SOCIETY DIRECTOR
Representing Suffolk
Paul Becht, CPA  
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
(631) 719-3380 | paul.becht@bakerlilly.com

March/April 2017
Fun and Games – True or False

1. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France to America.
2. Ozone is good in the upper atmosphere, but bad in the lower.
3. The Apgar Score measures body fat.
4. Run-D.M.C was the first rap group to go “gold” and be nominated for a Grammy.
5. Jackson Pollock revolutionized art with his photo-realist paintings.
6. The world’s largest animal, the blue whale, has teeth 12 inches long.
7. No woman has ever won an Oscar for Best Director.
8. The main innovation that made cars widely available and affordable was the assembly line.
10. Kryptonite is the source of Superman’s power.

Flip to see if you’re right...

1. TRUE. It was given on the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
2. TRUE. Upper-level ozone = protects from dangerous UV rays. Lower level = smog.
3. FALSE. It rates newborn health - appearance, pulse, grimace, activity, respiration.
4. TRUE. Influential in the 1980s, they are now members of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
5. FALSE. He was a leading abstract impressionist painter.
6. FALSE. It is baleen (toothless), with bristles to capture and filter food.
7. FALSE. Katherine Bigelow won in 2008 for The Hurt Locker. She’s the sole female Best Director winner.
8. TRUE. His first car was the Ford Model T, mass-produced with interchangeable parts.
10. FALSE. The radioactive debris from his home planet nullifies his powers, silly!

SOURCE: merriam-webster.com
Get Involved with NYSSCPA Suffolk 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:

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

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Firm: __________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________________________________
Telephone: _______________________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________________________________________________

Please forward your response to: Brian Michels, CPA | brian@mhcpafirm.com
Michels & Hanley CPAs, LLP | 12 Bank Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787

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