I hope everyone is having a smooth and productive busy season and is starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We are full steam ahead toward Spring, which means we can look forward to warmer weather and the end of another taxing busy season (no pun intended).

As we look forward to the coming weeks, please consider joining us at one of our upcoming CPE sessions. On March 7, the Nonprofit Committee will be hosting a one credit CPE session on “2024 Nonprofit Trends” (refer to page 7 for further details) and on March 20, the Members in Industry Committee will be hosting a one credit CPE session entitled “Discover How Generative AI is Transforming Business” (page 8).

In this month’s issue, we are pleased to showcase a few ways our Suffolk Chapter leadership is helping to give back to the local community and fun ways for all to get involved in to help raise money for fantastic causes. (See pages 4 and 5)

During this busy time, I do want to recognize all of the Suffolk Chapter membership for their unwavering dedication and commitment to their clients and the profession as a whole. The hours that you continue to put in does not go unnoticed and although it may not seem like it all the time, your clients certainly appreciate and value your partnership and guidance.

As president of the Suffolk Chapter, I am always looking for feedback and thoughts from members on what they would like to see as a chapter in the future. If anyone has any thoughts or feedback, please feel free to reach out to me directly via e-mail at rhuether@estee.com.

All the best to you and your families!

– Bob Huether
Cybersecurity incident response outlines an organization's processes and technologies for detecting and responding to cyber threats, security breaches, or cyberattacks. The goal of incident response is to prevent cyberattacks before they happen and to minimize the cost and business disruption resulting from any cyberattacks that might occur.

While it is important for accounting practices, it is also a solid recommendation for the businesses they serve.

Ideally, an organization defines incident response processes and technologies in a formal incident response plan (IRP) that specifies exactly how different types of cyberattacks should be identified, contained, and resolved. An effective incident response plan can help cybersecurity teams detect and contain cyberthreats and restore affected systems faster, and reduce the lost revenue, regulatory fines and other costs associated with these threats. IBM's Cost of a Data Breach 2022 Report found that organizations with incident response teams and regularly tested incident response plans had an average data breach cost $2.66 million lower than that of organizations without.

No matter the size of the business, forethought and planning can help to navigate a breach and improve reputational and financial outcomes. A viable plan will provide a playbook for questions including who to contact, what to lock down, what to do or change, and how/if it's possible to continue working if systems are offline – all of which are best answered before an incident occurs. It should also outline any legal or regulatory notice required to be given to government agencies and clients in the case of a breach.

A cross-functional incident response plan will:

- Establish an interdepartmental internal response team with roles and responsibilities of each member/position.
- Identify the security solutions and resources needed to detect and respond to a breach. Having an independent, objective view is critical to developing a complete picture of the incident.
- Establish a business continuity plan outlining procedures for restoring critically affected systems and data as quickly as possible in an outage.
- A communications plan for informing company leaders, employees, customers, and even law enforcement about incidents.
• Instructions for documenting for collecting information and documenting incidents for post-mortem review and (if necessary) legal proceedings.

Promoting an ongoing and cumulative culture of cybersecurity and fraud awareness for employees is also important. By offering ongoing training and education and consistent reminders, businesses can better protect themselves from the many vectors targeting their systems and infrastructure.

This includes:

1. **Educate and Train Employees**: Raise awareness about common phishing techniques, password security, and the importance of maintaining strong security practices. Encourage employees to report suspicious emails, links, or activities promptly.

2. **Implement Strong Password Policies**: Enforce strong password policies that require employees to create complex passwords and change them regularly. Implementing multi-factor authentication settings (MFA) adds an extra layer of security by requiring additional verification steps, such as a code sent to a mobile device.

3. **Regularly Update and Patch Software**: A patch is a set of changes to a computer program that eliminates vulnerabilities that hackers can use in a cyberattack. Establish a process to regularly update and patch all employee software, operating systems and applications on networks. Enable automatic updates whenever possible to ensure that the latest security patches are downloaded to company software promptly.

4. **Secure Network and Wi-Fi Connections**: Secure network and Wi-Fi connections to prevent unauthorized access, and change default network passwords and ensure that Wi-Fi networks utilize routers with strong encryption (often labeled as WPA2 or WPA3). Implement a separate guest network for visitors to ensure that they don’t have access to sensitive data. Regularly monitor network activity and consider implementing an online barrier (also known as a firewall) that filters certain website traffic on your software.

5. **Regular Data Backup and Recovery Planning**: Data loss can occur due to cyberattacks, hardware failures or human error. Implement data backup procedures to have important information on file elsewhere in the case of data loss. Additionally, develop a data recovery plan to restore operations swiftly in the event of an incident.

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**Incident Response Plan (cont’d)**

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**Cybersecurity Awareness**

Incident Response

An effective Incident Response Plan can help cybersecurity teams detect and contain cyberthreats, restore affected systems faster, and reduce the lost revenue, regulatory fines and other costs associated with these threats.

IBM’s Cost of a Data Breach 2022 Report found that organizations with incident response teams and regularly tested incident response plans had an average data breach cost $2.66 million lower than that of organizations without.
In the tapestry of life, there are threads that weave tales of resilience, hope, and unwavering strength. Among these threads lies a cause that resonates deeply within my heart - the mission to raise funds for the Stony Brook Cancer Center. This beacon of hope stands as a sanctuary for those navigating the tumultuous waters of cancer, providing a lifeline to patients in need.

Every dollar raised in this endeavor is not merely a monetary contribution; it is a promise to illuminate the path of those facing the shadows of uncertainty. The Stony Brook University Cancer Center, a pillar of compassion and cutting-edge care, relies on our collective support to continue its vital programs and services. The impact of these funds reverberates beyond the walls of the center, reaching the very souls of individuals battling cancer and their families.

Join me in this noble journey as we stand united against the formidable foe that is cancer. Let our shared commitment echo through the halls of healing, offering solace and strength to those in their most challenging moments. Together, we can be the driving force behind renewed hope and brighter tomorrows for the courageous individuals served by the Stony Brook Cancer Center.

On April 7 from 3–9 p.m. in Patchogue we will be hosting a fundraiser to raise money for the Stony Brook Cancer Center. For details, see below or CLICK HERE.

I hope to see you there and if you do come please join me for a country line dance lesson!

Harold Deiters
Former Suffolk Chapter President
Former NYSSCPA President

APRIL 7, 3 - 9:00 PM

$25 per person
$35 AT DOOR

89 North Ocean Ave.
PATCHOGUE

CASH BAR

ONLINE TICKET SALES
Available March 1

cancer.stonybrookmedicine.edu/kick2024

SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

For more information, call Sal at (516) 250-7058
In September we included information in this newsletter about Brylan’s Feast, the only pediatric lymphedema non profit 501(c)(3) that is dedicated to providing financial need, raising awareness, and advocating for children who have been impacted by lymphedema.

Lymphedema is the chronic swelling in parts of the body and is often caused in pediatric patients by the lymphatic system developing abnormally.

This worthy charitable organization was brought to our attention by NYSSCPA Suffolk Board Member Christina Galasso, who’s son Nicholas has benefited from Brylan’s Feast.

Please join us in supporting a Flapjack Fundraiser to support Brylan’s Feast on May 5 in Riverhead. For details, see below or CLICK HERE.
MARCH 7, 2024  

MARCH 20, 2024  
Discover How Generative AI is Transforming Business. Details on page 8.
2024 Nonprofit Trends

Thursday, March 7, 2024
8:30 to 10 a.m.
at Cerini & Associates LLP
3340 Veterans Memorial Highway, Bohemia

Join us for a discussion on trends in the nonprofit sector in marketing, fundraising, operations, technology, the economy, and much more! Understand what is currently impacting the nonprofit industry:

• Gain insights into the current impact of various factors on the nonprofit industry, including the state of the economy
• Explore emerging HR trends affecting nonprofit organizations
• Understand the influence of AI and other technological advancements on nonprofit operations

Speakers: Kenneth R. Cerini, James Laino Cerini, Kelly Mehr Cerini
Cerini & Associates, LLP

1 CPE credit (Course code: 29081406)

REGISTER HERE
Discover How Generative AI is Transforming Business

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
at Marcum LLP, 10 Melville Park Road, Melville

Artificial intelligence is having tangible effects on the way companies do business. As the digital landscape evolves, generative AI stands at the forefront of this transformation, offering unparalleled opportunities for growth and creativity.

Seize the moment to stay ahead of the curve in an era where artificial intelligence is not just an advantage, but a necessity. Be empowered with actionable insights and strategies that can be directly applied to your business for tangible results.

Join us for an enlightening event that promises to reshape the way you think about innovation in business, bringing together industry leaders, technology experts, and forward-thinking professionals to explore the remarkable capabilities of generative AI.

Speaker: Peter Scavuzzo, Chief Executive Officer, Marcum Technology; Chief Information & Digital Officer, Marcum LLP

1 CPE credit (Course code: 29036411)

REGISTER HERE
For info: janet.verneuille@fnbli.com
FUN & GAMES: Which DOESN’T Belong?

During busy season you’re keeping track of the details. Can you figure out which of these words doesn’t belong?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. This does not mean &quot;HODGEPODGE&quot;</th>
<th>2. This does not mean &quot;NONSENSE&quot;</th>
<th>3. This is not slang for &quot;MONEY&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. quintessence</td>
<td>A. sagacity</td>
<td>A. cabbage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. olio</td>
<td>B. bunkum</td>
<td>B. tulip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. farrago</td>
<td>C. folderol</td>
<td>C. pelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. gallimaufry</td>
<td>D. blatherskite</td>
<td>D. lolly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. This does not mean &quot;AGILE&quot;</th>
<th>5. This does not mean &quot;HIGHLY ADMIRED&quot;</th>
<th>6. This does not mean &quot;FOOLISH&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. lissome</td>
<td>A. horse's mane</td>
<td>A. balmy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. refulgent</td>
<td>B. cat's meow</td>
<td>B. fatuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. nimble</td>
<td>C. bee's knees</td>
<td>C. daffy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. lithe</td>
<td>D. crackerjack</td>
<td>D. knackered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. This does not mean &quot;UNHAPPINESS&quot;</th>
<th>8. This does not mean &quot;NEGOTIATE&quot;</th>
<th>9. This does not mean &quot;DRUNKARD&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. dolorous</td>
<td>A. haggle</td>
<td>A. hobnobber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. insouciant</td>
<td>B. chaffer</td>
<td>B. stewbum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. lugubrious</td>
<td>C. blather</td>
<td>C. tosspot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. mournful</td>
<td>D. palter</td>
<td>D. shicker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: merriam-webster.com
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The NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter has a few committees looking for a chair!
- COOPERATION WITH ATTORNEYS
- COOPERATION WITH BANKERS & OTHER CREDIT GRANTORS
- EAST END
- EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
- MANAGEMENT OF AN ACCOUNTING PRACTICE
- SMALL BUSINESS
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Here’s a way to get involved with NYSSCPA Suffolk and help make a difference! 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

Please forward your response to:
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- 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:
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