In this rapidly changing time, when we are all affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, there is much uncertainty. News is updated by the minute, and there is a great deal to take in. This April 15 was certainly different than in any previous year, to say the least.

At the Suffolk Chapter, all in-person meetings and events are currently postponed until further notice. Unfortunately, this means we will not be able to carry on the normal chapter activities we are accustomed to; however, the health and safety of our membership is our top concern. To stay up to date and for a list of resources, including the opportunity to pose a question directly to the NYSSCPA on this matter, please visit nysscpa.org/covid19.

As I reflect on my year as Suffolk Chapter president, it has been both challenging and rewarding. In this role, I’ve had the opportunity to interact with the membership in a new way and have gotten to meet many more members and work with our respective committees in more detail.

I have also been able to work with the Society at the statewide level, and this is something I intend to continue after my time as Suffolk Chapter president is over. It has been a pleasure to work with you all, address our membership’s needs, and get to know everyone better.

My many thanks go out to my fellow Suffolk Chapter officers, board members and committee chairs for their hard work and dedication over this past year. I am confident that our next fiscal year board and President Ken Laks will do a great job and carry on our many Suffolk Chapter traditions.

I wish you and your families safety and good health in this difficult time. If I, or any member of the Suffolk Chapter executive board, can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach me at jhermus@sheehancpa.com.

– John W. Hermus
It is truly amazing how quickly each year flies by and I cannot believe that another year with the NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter has gone by.

I am excited to step into my next role as Suffolk Chapter President-Elect for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. It has been a pleasure to serve the chapter as Vice President and Newsletter Editor over the last year.

I personally would like to thank our membership for everyone's continued hard work and dedication to make our chapter so successful each and every year. Your efforts to make our chapter run as it does are very much appreciated.

Although we are all navigating our way through unprecedented times, I have confidence that together we will get through it and the Chapter will remain successful as we make changes to adapt to the changing environment.

Thank you to my fellow board members, committee chairs, and committee members for your articles, pictures, updates, and content for our newsletter over the past year. I am so fortunate to be able to be a part of such a great group of individuals within the Suffolk Chapter.

There is one especially important person our chapter would like to acknowledge, Flo Federman of Marcum LLP. Flo puts forth an amazing effort to organize, design, and assemble our newsletter each issue. Flo, it has been a pleasure working with you this last year. Our committees greatly appreciate your help in creating their flyers and promoting their events. Everyone who has worked with Flo can attest to both her creativity and lightning quick turnaround. Thank you very much for all that you do for the Suffolk Chapter!

I encourage everyone to continue to support the chapter newsletter and remain current with all our happenings (whether they are virtual events or in-person events when it is safe to do so). I am certain our next editor and chapter Vice President, John Spatola, will do a great job in the role.

I hope you all have a great summer and make the best of it and I wish continued safety and good health to you and your families during these difficult times. I encourage you all to stay connected with the NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter and get involved. Please feel free to reach out to me with any chapter related questions, or just to say hello and catch up.

– William Huether
The Nominating Committee is proud to announce the Slate for the 2020-21 Year:

**OFFICERS:**
- **President**
  - Kenneth Laks, CPA
- **President-Elect**
  - William Huether, CPA, CGMA
- **Vice President**
  - John Spatola, CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA, CFE
- **Treasurer**
  - Robert J. Huether, CPA
- **Secretary**
  - Rebecca Brodsky, CPA

**DIRECTORS:**
- Joel E. Ackerman, CPA, MST  Two Year Term Ending 5/31/22
- Chris Cheeseman, CPA  Two Year Term Ending 5/31/22
- Frank Giambruno, CPA  Two Year Term Ending 5/31/22
- Michael Joy, CPA, CGMA  Two Year Term Ending 5/31/22
- Sean Kelly, CPA  Two Year Term Ending 5/31/22
- Thomas S. Pirro, CPA  Two Year Term Ending 5/31/21
- Janet T. Verneuille, CPA  Two Year Term Ending 5/31/22

The following are automatically selected:

- **Director (Past President)**
  - John Hermus, CPA, CGMA
- **President**
  - Kenneth Laks, CPA
Getting Back to Work in New York:
An Employer’s Guide

By Christine Malafi Esq.,
Campolo Middleton & McCormick

Recently, Governor Cuomo gave us all a glimmer of hope that New York may be ready to start expanding the definition of essential business and to consider reduction of work from home and isolation mandates. Easing back into “normalcy” post-mandated COVID-19 isolation requires individualized planning. Businesses must develop and implement workplace safety policies and procedures customized to their own business model and needs. Social distancing, use of protective equipment, temperature checks, cleanliness, and use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas must all be personalized for your unique business.

Work sites must be clean and disinfecting supplies should be on hand (i.e., sanitizing wipes available throughout the office). Businesses should encourage, and even require, employees to clean their workspaces and personal items daily and should limit the number of employees congregating in restrooms and common areas of the office.

Best practice would allow small groups of selected employees to return to work at a time. Consider continuation of alternating remote workdays where possible, perhaps permitting those employees who cannot work from home to return first. Employees must keep a safe social distance from one another while doing their jobs effectively. Limiting the number of employees will ease everyone into the new “normal.” It may be necessary to revamp shared workspaces.

Although many of us are anxious to return to the “outside” world, some employees may be apprehensive or even afraid to venture out of the safety of their homes, and some may be feeling emotional trauma from the loss of a relative, isolation, or loss of income. Employers should not ignore the anxiety which may be felt by some. Making sure that employees understand the seriousness of maintaining social distancing in the workplace may help ease the tension.

Employers must decide whether to implement a clearance procedure before allowing employees to return (or upon hiring new employees), such as checking for COVID-19 symptoms, taking temperatures, and providing personal protective equipment (PPE), all while making sure to keep their employees’ information confidential. Be ready to send employees home, if necessary, to maintain workplace health and safety. Create COVID-19 related written guidelines if you haven’t already. It is important to communicate operational or policy changes to employees and visitors to your business. Consider having employees acknowledge the new policies and procedures in writing to emphasize the importance of following these procedures and guidelines.

(continued...)
It may be necessary for employers to require employees showing any symptoms of a cold or any type of illness to take sick/personal days. Make sure employees understand the importance of not coming to the workplace if they don’t feel well. It may be the time to implement a formal “work from home” policy that may be followed in such situations.

Don’t ignore implementation of special accommodations for workers who are considered vulnerable (i.e., those with serious underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, or compromised immune systems, and the elderly).

The CDC has recommended facial coverings/masks be worn in public, and New York State has mandated same if social distancing is not maintained. Permit, or even mandate, all employees to wear coverings/masks, unless there are specific safety reasons prohibiting same. Remember that if PPE is required by a business, the business must pay for PPE for its employees.

For those areas of your business that the public comes into contact with, such as a reception area, counter area, cashier area, etc., businesses should minimize appointments or restrict mass access. These considerations are very business-specific, and what is right for one business may not be right for another. Additionally, these procedures will need to evolve as life gets back to “normal.”
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. For more information: Janet Verneuille, janet.verneuille@fnbli.com.

Thanks to Michelle Maratto Itkowitz, partner with Itkowitz PLLC LLP, for her discussion at our February meeting on what accountants need to know about the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019. Thanks also to Marcum LLP in Melville for hosting the meeting. And thanks lastly to The First National Bank of Long Island for sponsoring the breakfast.
JUNE 16, 2020
WEBINAR: Forms 5500 – What Auditors Need to Know to Perform a Knowledgeable Review. Details on page 8.

JUNE 17, 2020
WEBINAR: Forms 5500—What Auditors Need to Know to Perform a Knowledgeable Review

Tuesday, June 16, 2020
2:30 to 6 p.m.

This course will provide a general understanding of the reporting requirements and filing instructions for the form 5500. The participants will obtain a better understanding of the requirements for plan auditors to reconcile financial information on the form 5500 to the plan’s financial statements.

Topics will also include identifying the plan administrator’s fiduciary responsibility for the information included in the form 5500.

Speaker: Melissa Critcher

Early bird pricing ends May 26  |  4 CPE credits

REGISTER HERE
WEBINAR: Advanced Audits of 401(k) Plans—Best Practices and Current Developments

Wednesday, June 17, 2020
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As we saw from the recent United States Department of Labor review of employee benefit plan audits, auditors need to raise their game in order to provide the quality audits that plan stakeholders demand. The AICPA has reacted by issuing a proposed SAS that will significantly impact how audits of these plans will be performed.

Now is the time to get up to speed on these significant issues and changes occurring in the world of 401(k) plan audits.

Speaker: Melissa Critcher

Early bird pricing ends May 27 | 8 CPE credits

REGISTER HERE
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The NYSSCPA Suffol Chapter has a few committees looking for a chair:
• CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS & REAL ESTATE
• EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
• ESTATE/FINANCIAL PLANNING
• MANAGEMENT OF AN ACCOUNTING PRACTICE
FUN & GAMES: The Exceptions Quiz

As our current health crisis has taught us, accepting exceptions is part of life... Which one of these is the exception and DOESN’T belong?

1. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "NEGOTIATE"?
   A. Chaffer  B. Palter  C. Haggle  D. Blather

2. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "DRUNKARD"?
   A. Tossspot  B. Shicker  C. Loblolly  D. Stewbum

3. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "A HIGHLY ADMIRED PERSON"?
   A. Horse’s Mane  B. Cat’s Meow  C. Bee’s Knees  D. First-Class

4. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "NONSENSE"?
   A. Folderol  B. Bunkum  C. Autarky  D. Blatherskite

5. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "AGILE"?
   A. Nimble  B. Refulgent  C. Lissome  D. Featly

6. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "HODGEPODGE"?
   A. Mishmash  B. Fricassee  C. Omnium-Gatherum  D. Gallimaufry

7. WHICH OF THESE WORDS IS NOT SLANG FOR "MONEY"?
   A. Lolly  B. Tulip  C. Pelf  D. Cabbage

8. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "EXPRESSING MISERY"?
   A. Insouciant  B. Dolorous  C. Mournful  D. Lugubrious

9. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT HAVE DUTCH ORIGINS?
   A. Poppycock  B. Hustle  C. Cookie  D. Coward

10. WHICH OF THESE WORDS DOES NOT MEAN "FOOLISH"?
    A. Balmy  B. Fatuous  C. Knackered  D. Daffy

SOURCE: merriam-webster.com

HOW’D YOU DO?

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
COMMITTEE SERVICE APPLICATION

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:
John Hermus: (631) 665-7040, jhermus@sheehancpa.com

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