President’s Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring and gearing up for a great summer filled with well-deserved vacations, extra time spent with their families and friends and of course some respite for all us hard working accountants! Now that the pools are open, the flowers are blooming, the birds are chirping, the golf courses are filled and the kids are getting ready for summer break, it’s time for some rest and relaxation.

Although this is a time of year we always look forward to, it is a little bittersweet this year for me as my term as president of the Suffolk Chapter is complete. As I reflect on the past year, I couldn’t be prouder and happier of the successes the chapter has had and the many great people in Suffolk both in the membership and at the board level that I have worked with.

This year was a unique one and yet more like years past, as we were able to gather socially with our fellow accountants and other professionals in a normal pre-pandemic fashion. This was a year of firsts and a year of resurgence. For the first time we had a unique type of membership event at the Sand City Brewing Company with craft beer and a food truck in July 2022. Then in August 2022, we had our annual Nine & Dine golf outing at Cherry Creek Golf Links for the first time since 2019.

We followed that up with our Supersized Networking Meeting in October 2022 and then by popular demand brough back our annual Banker CPA all day golf outing and had it at Stonebridge Country Club in May 2023 for the first time since 2019.

Intertwined within the schedule of social events we had many technical events including our all day tax and audit seminars and various 1-2 hour CPE events covering a multitude of topics.

As I turn the page on my term of presidency of the Suffolk chapter, I am looking forward to what comes next in the upcoming year with Rob Huether as the president for the fiscal year. Not only does Rob have the bloodline as his brother Bill Huether was the Suffolk chapter president just two years ago, but he brings a great mix of experience working both in public accounting at a Big 4 firm (KPMG) and working in private accounting for Estee Lauder. I have worked closely with Rob for many years through my involvement in the Suffolk chapter and know he will do a great job as president.

Although this may be goodbye as president, it is not farewell as I will continue my involvement with the chapter this incoming year as the immediate past president in addition to my role on the statewide board as a director at large. To take a quote from one of my children’s books, as the one and only Winnie the Pooh once said “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

— John M. Spatola
Over the past year, it has been a privilege working with the newsletter team to bring you the most current events within our industry and the Society. As I part from the role of Editor, I am filled with gratitude looking back over the last 12 months networking with talented professionals and dedicated individuals.

Your support, contributions, and commitment to bringing information to our members is an invaluable resource to the future of our Chapter and to those just starting their career journey. Together, we have provided informative articles, shared exciting social events, guided members to quality CPE sessions, and honored those who have departed us for everything they have done to strengthen the foundation of the Society.

The Suffolk Chapter has always been known as one of the most active and successful chapters of the Society. I am incredibly proud of the strides we have made over the past year navigating the world and the changes to our profession. I am eager to continue contributing to the success of our Chapter. I’d like to thank you to all for your support as I served you in this role and introduce you to our next Editor, Janet Verneuille. Janet, I could not think of anyone more qualified to continue bringing the best of the best to our Chapter.

As always, this newsletter and all of our event flyers and marketing are made possible thanks to Flo Federman of Marcum LLP. Flo not only creates quality imaging, but also keeps the newsletter team timely, especially when we get boggled down with accounting deadlines. Flo, thank you for keeping me on track. Thank you for all of your insight and guidance each month.

Wishing you all continued success and relaxation as we close the fiscal year and head into the next half of 2023.

– Rebecca Brodsky
Throughout her 30 years at the New York State Society of CPAs and her role as Manager of Chapter Relations, **Lelia Dickenson** has touched the hearts of many in Suffolk County.

Since 1997, Lelia had such a positive impact on the local representatives of the New York State Society of CPAs. Our leadership in Suffolk always looked forward to seeing her at our annual chapter installation with her upbeat demeanor. She was an integral part of making the wheels turn as a liaison between the NYSSCPA staff and the Chapter volunteers and went above and beyond to assist the volunteers in any way possible.

Lelia had an infectious positivity, always laughing and happy, even when things got tough.

Our deepest condolences go to Lelia’s family. We hope that you know she will not only be missed by you, but by the thousands of people she impacted throughout her career at the NYSSCPA and the Suffolk Chapter.
On Wednesday, May 17, by popular demand, we held our annual Banker CPA golf outing at Stone Bridge Country Club for the first time since 2019. We had 17 foursomes golfing for the event and a total of 80 attendees for the dinner. The weather was great for a perfect afternoon for golf.

Prizes were given out the lowest team score using a scramble format, longest drive (men & women) and closest to the pin (men & women). All the golfers who arrived prior to tee time were welcomed with breakfast and time to network with their fellow professionals.

After 18 holes of golf, everyone gathered for drinks, dinner, and networking where various prizes were raffled off including a 65 inch TV, IPAD, Apple Watch, Humidor with Cigars, Oakley Sunglasses, RecTec Smoker, Solo Stove, Laptop, Wine Cooler, Bushnell Speaker/GPS, Bose Headphones, a set of Taylor Made Irons with Golf Bag, a Playstation 5, a Yamaha Home Theater System and two (2) $3,500 travel vouchers.

Most importantly, the outing helped raise $4,000 for our Chapter’s George T. Foundotos, CPA Memorial Scholarship.

We’d like to thank all of various sponsors for their support of the NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter:

- Alliant Group
- Brandow Law
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- Doyle Security Services
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- First National Bank of Long Island
- Grant Thornton
- Mostransky & Associates
- Nawrocki Smith LLP
- Paychex
- Pursuit Lending
- Raynor & D’Andrea Funeral Homes
- Siegfried Group
- Suffolk Credit Union

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

*Please see the next page for some pictures of the event...*
The NYSSCPA’s Suffolk Chapter George T. Foundotos, CPA Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of one of our beloved former chapter presidents, who passed away in 2019.

George dedicated a great deal of his time to giving back to the accounting profession as an educator, mentor, and friend to all who knew him. He was dedicated to fostering the next generation of CPAs and we are pleased to present this scholarship in his honor.

In his memory, the NYSSCPA Suffolk Chapter will award a $2,000 scholarship to be sent to the winner’s university/college toward tuition costs.

APPLY BY JUNE 25, 2023
APPLICATION AVAILABLE HERE
FUN & GAMES: Test Your Insult Skills

Simple! Are these “facts” true or false? (Are you sure?)

1. Basketball is the only major sport completely American in origin.

2. Tapas are common Scandinavian appetizers.

3. The classic sci-fi novel “Fahrenheit 451” gets its title from the temperature used to burn paper.

4. Drinking warm milk induces sleep.

5. Halle Berry was the first African American woman to win an Oscar.

6. "Magma" is the scientific name for lava.

7. According to Thomas Edison, "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% fabrication."

8. Skin is the human body's largest organ.

9. Mahatma Gandhi began his nonviolent crusade in South Africa.

10. The "Strawberry Fields" memorial, dedicated to musician John Lennon, is in Liverpool, where he was born.

SOURCE: merriam-webster.com

How’d you do? Flip to see if you’re right...
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 M. Spatola, (631) 756-9500, jspatola@ns.cpa

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
- informational seminars
- networking events
- charitable events
- technical workshops

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