

# Dakota CPA Connection

Produced by the North Dakota CPA Society

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## INSPIRATION THROUGH UNCERTAINTY

### An Update from AICPA Spring Council

The AICPA Spring Council meeting was held in May and covered a wide range of topics, including economic uncertainty, political issues, technology evolution, talent pipeline, CPA services, tax guidance, and advocacy. Barry Melancon, the AICPA CEO, spoke about the challenges and opportunities facing the profession.

Political issues are top of mind for US CEOs. This is a big election year as more people in the world will select leaders of countries and organizations than at any point in history. Greatest challenges as seen by CEOs are (in order) uncertainty for the election, increased regulation, high interest rates, rising operating costs, upward wage pressure and then labor shortages, costs related to energy transition and size of government debt.

Top concerns for finance and accounting teams include accelerated digital transformation, Generative Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence, and need for new competencies and skills, finding and retaining talent, maintaining culture and environment.

The top 100 firms are reporting that Client Advisory Services (CAS) has the highest growth area. Attest, SALT, Estate planning

and M&A follow are the next fastest growing services in the top 100 firms.

Key drivers of audit transformation: Audit change needs to be transformative, not just automating what we are doing today. This has been the vision of the DAS (Dynamic Auditing Solution). About 80% of the stakeholder consortium are either evaluating, deciding or implemented the DAS in their firms. About 2,500 audits have been conducted and 4,000 licenses have been issued to date. Multiple top 25 firms are in the process of implementing this software. The AICPA has begun engagement with firms outside of stakeholder consortium. Young professionals are really appreciating the way learning happens with this new solution. They appreciate the efficiency of the audit and using new technology. For more information [www.cpa.com/das](http://www.cpa.com/das)

Artificial Intelligence was a focus at Council. About 68% of leaders have confidence in their organization's responsible use of AI. Not surprisingly, 70% of accounting professionals agree AI will have positive productivity impact on their jobs in the next 3-5 years. The AICPA has some good resources in this area at [www.cpa.com/gen-ai](http://www.cpa.com/gen-ai).

A large part of council focused on the pipeline and the draft report released by NPAG (National Pipeline Advisory Group). Visit [www.accountingpipeline.org](http://www.accountingpipeline.org) for the full report.

Barry also announced his retirement at the end of the year, after more than 30 years of service as the AICPA CEO. His replacement is expected to be announced in October or November.

**New Horizons In Medora**  
**2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**August 11-13**

See page 7 for more details or visit [www.ndcpas.org/conv](http://www.ndcpas.org/conv)

**CPA CONVENTION**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRITTANY DUNN, CPA

It is easy to lament about the challenges our profession faces and the impact that the pipeline shortage has on our careers. It is harder to know what to do to solve the problem or to feel like any one of us can move the needle on this issue. As the late great Toby Keith said, it's time for "A Little Less Talk and a Lot More Action", so I was excited to attend the AICPA Spring Council meeting in May to get an update from the National Pipeline Advisory Group on the work they have been putting in to form a strategy to address these challenges.

There is great diversity in opinion on how to solve these challenges, but I was impressed with the data driven approach taken by NPAG to assess the situation and establish six key recommendations to begin to address the problem. NPAG delivered a challenge to us at Council, and to the entire profession, to take the Pipeline Pledge and make an individual commitment to participate in two activities that have the potential to influence and grow the accounting talent pool. It is clear from their research that there is no silver bullet to solve this problem, rather a need for each one of us to act, which will move the needle. I would invite you all to visit [accountingpipeline.org](https://accountingpipeline.org) to read the draft strategy report to see how you can assist.

A couple of the key strategies recommended is to tell a more compelling story about careers in accounting and create a more engaging college experience for accounting

majors and other potential accounting majors. This is where all of us can make an impact and fulfill our Pipeline Pledge. It is also an area where I am proud to brag a little bit about our ND CPA Society and the work the staff and members have already been doing in this area. Our ND CPA Society leadership identified the need to invest in our CPA profession pipeline a couple of years ago with the hire of Ryan Olson as our Membership and Pipeline manager. This investment has allowed us to be ahead of the curve and ready to be a part of the solution.

In 2023, Ryan and NDCPAS members made over thirty visits to high schools and colleges to build awareness and attraction to the accounting profession. This is an increase from five visits in 2022. This 600% increase in events means that we were able to potentially impact almost 10,000 students in 2023. I want to give a big thank you to both Ryan as well as the NDCPAS members that made the investment in our pipeline. Based on the success stories shared by NPAG, there is evidence that these actions are effective, and I have confidence that a little more action by each one of us will allow us to have a lot less to lament about in the future.

Have a great rest of your summer! Looking forward to seeing everyone in Medora at the CPA convention in August. Maybe if we are lucky, we will get a Toby Keith cover during the musical!

## WANTED: AICPA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

North Dakota will be nominating a CPA for a 3-year role on the AICPA governing Council. The role begins May 2025.

The role involves three meetings during the year (a one-day session in March, plus May and October sessions of about 3 days each). This person would also be expected to provide reports to the Society Board as well as written reports for the Society newsletter. In addition to the governing role, there is exposure to informative content from AICPA leaders as well as outside speakers. It's also an opportunity to build connections with CPAs from around the country.

To apply for the role, submit a letter to the Society Board by Sept 1 (email [ssattler@ndcpas.org](mailto:ssattler@ndcpas.org)). Share your reasons for being interested, and your qualifications for serving in the role. Feel free to include other experiences and activities you feel are relevant.

All letters of interest will be shared with the Board, who will make the selection.

AICPA membership is required.

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all of our 2024 Foundation scholarship winners!

### R.D. Koppenhaver

Erin Host  
Jayden Barth  
Ethan Baptie  
Kelsey McCloud  
Emily Kunz  
Jacob Beeninga  
Coralie Bruns  
Brady Grefsrud  
Bailey Nagel  
Kristin Schaaf  
Skye Hertel  
Miranda Millette  
Cole Haskins  
Braedon Kelly  
Jaydon Goette  
Anna Masseth  
Miranda Ramusson

### Eide Bailly LLP

Tom Liking  
Christian Johnson

### Eldon Reinke

Mia Bilben

### Bullinger Family Foundation

Carcie Materi  
Isabel Olson  
Rosalee Moske  
Haley Diers  
Amber Kalvoda  
Reagan Klose  
Grace Adelman  
Luke Bullinger  
Grant Dahly  
Zachary Pastir

### Stanley Sandvik

Andrew Sandvik  
Jessica Wong

### Brent G. Hovdestad

Moses Effah Akoto  
Tyler Rolfe

### North Dakota Endowment

Maizie Richard

### Baldwin & Shirley Martz

Reese Sys  
Carson Ullmer



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kayla Alvarez . . . . . Dickinson  
Jessica Anderson . . . . . Bismarck  
Jayden Barth . . . . . Bismarck  
Emily Belland . . . . . Bowman  
Paul Breslin . . . . . Horace  
Becky Dolley . . . . . Minot  
Teresa Fiedler . . . . . Bismarck  
Karmen Freeman . . . . . Carrington  
Amber Friesz . . . . . Bismarck  
Brandi Garrett. . . . . Bismarck  
Kyle Glander. . . . . West Fargo  
Jordan Hatzenbuhler . . . . Bismarck  
Kayla Hermanson . . . . . Bismarck  
Leah Kasper . . . . . Minot  
Krista Lambrecht . . . . . Minot  
Ana Loza . . . . . Minot  
Mark Lunseth . . . . . Grand Forks  
Jessica Magilke . . . . . Solen  
Rachel Miller . . . . . Bismarck  
Georgia Moe . . . . . Fargo  
Bailey Nagel . . . . . West Fargo  
Nicholas Nelson. . . . . Jamestown  
Aaron Ochsner . . . . . Grand Forks  
Tatum Offerdahl . . . . . Bemidji  
Evelyn Padilla . . . . . Ray  
Katelyn Petersen . . . . . Washburn  
Jacob Rodgers. . . . . Minot  
Maren Roehrich. . . . . Fargo  
Anthony Scherr . . . . . Minot  
Christopher Schroeder . . . West Fargo  
Alison Skansgaard. . . . . Moorhead  
Lindsey Slappy . . . . . Bismarck  
Ethan Synsteliën . . . . . Moorhead  
McKenna Warcken . . . . . Fargo



## MEMBER NEWS

Janet Holaday has given the University of Jamestown \$300,000 that will add to the Promise Scholarship. Janet has been a member with the North Dakota CPA Society for over 46 years. The Janet Holaday Promise Scholarship ensures deserving students with financial need will have the means to complete their education at the University of Jamestown. The scholarship aims to create access to higher education and a pathway for students to achieve their career goals.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT TOUR STOP



Randy and Sherre honored the tradition and stopped for a Whirlas Whip in Stanley during their officers tour in June. Randy enjoyed a unique flavor of peanut butter, bacon and dill pickles. Thank you to the organizers of these visits and to the members who joined us.





## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Build relationships with colleagues, return something to the profession, and maybe even have some fun! Whether you're in public accounting, industry, government, education or a more specialized niche. There's a spot for you. We need volunteers in the following areas. Email us at [membership@ndcpas.org](mailto:membership@ndcpas.org)

### COMMITTEES

#### Convention

Help facilitate a fun, well organized CPA Convention. Typically for members close to the next convention location (2025 Grand Forks)  
Time - Various local meetings plus Convention

#### Membership

Promotes and selects award winners and new member services. Time - (1 hour) conference calls a few times each year.

#### Business & Industry

Plans the Management Conference and B&I Miniseries. Time - 1 day meeting in person.

#### Professional Ethics

Responds to ethical violations handled by the AICPA. Time - As Needed.

#### NextGen Recruiting

Educate and Engage potential future CPAs. Includes presentations to University students. Time – varies

#### Accounting Career Influencer

Speak at middle schools and high schools. Time – Virtual training session, visit(s)

#### Taxation and Legislation

Reviews ND Legislation, consults with staff for advocacy efforts, liaison with tax entities, educate members. Time – regular virtual meetings during legislative session. Virtual meetings and potential visit with Tax Commissioner

#### Young Professionals

Provide young CPAs with networking and leadership development. Become a mentor for new CPA Exam Passers. Time - 1/2 day meeting; virtual meetings

#### Small Firms Network

Provide a network for small firm practitioners to connect with other members and share resources. Time - Quarterly virtual meetings, One day roundtable event

### Official Notice

## 2024 Annual Meeting & Election

The NDCPAS annual meeting will be Monday, August 12, 2024 at 7:30 am MT, at the Medora Community Center. The meeting will include election of directors, officers, a Foundation trustee, plus comments from the current and new presidents. Each member has one vote at the meeting, except student, affiliate and exam candidate members and those with dues in arrears. Cumulative voting is not allowed. A person may serve as proxy for only one other member. A majority of the members entitled to vote and present (in person or by proxy) shall carry any motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles or Bylaws. To vote by proxy, complete and sign the proxy form below and send to your proxy (a member who will be attending). Feel free to specify voting choices to the proxy.

### Proxy Ballot

I, \_\_\_\_\_, CPA cert. # \_\_\_\_\_, hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as my proxy to vote on any and all matters which may come to a vote at the 2024 NDCPAS Annual Meeting.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting instructions (optional):

## THE NOMINEES

The following slate will be proposed. Voting members present may also nominate members.

#### Society President (1 to be elected)

##### Randy Heller

Widmer Roel PC, Fargo  
Randy is a current member of the Board. He has been involved with the Tax, Public Relations and Convention Committees.

#### Society President-elect (1 elected)

##### Emily Klym

Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Medora  
Emily is a current member of the Board. She has served on the NextGen, Public Relations, YP, Ethics and Convention committees

#### Society Secretary (1 to be elected)

##### Juan Martinez III

Widmer Roel PC, Fargo  
Juan is a current member of the Board. He has served on the YP, Convention, and Membership committees.

#### Society Director (3 elected)

[3 year term]

##### Matt Labernik

Eide Bailly LLP, Fargo  
Matt has served on the YP, NextGen, Convention and Strategic Planning committees.

##### Sheldon Kauk

Eide Ford M-L, Inc, Bismarck  
Sheldon has been active for years on the Industry committee serving as Chair in 2014. He also served on the convention and nominations committees.

##### Nicole Wald

Minot State University, Minot  
Nicole has served on the YP, Nominations, Convention, NextGen, and Small Firms committee. She is currently the President of the Minot Chapter.

#### NDCPAS Foundation Trustee

(1 to be elected)

##### KateLynn Albers

Minot State University, Minot  
KateLynn has served as a Chapter Leader for Minot and also the CPE Advisory Group. Currently she is a member of the Young Professionals Committee.



## MEET OUR MEMBERS

**Current Job:** Financial Controller, United Energy Trading, Bismarck

**Hometown:** Berthold, ND

**Alma Mater/Degree:** Minot State University, Accounting

**Any current Professional and Community Activities?** Co-Leader of the Bismarck Chapter of the NDCPA Society, board secretary/treasurer of Pride Inc., and board member of Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary

**What or who inspired you to become a CPA?** Honestly, becoming a CPA was never on my radar until my last year of college. A partner from KMPG was recruiting on our campus and she made public accounting sound super exciting, so I figured I better get my CPA license. Even though I no longer work in public accounting, it has definitely been a springboard in my career.

**What is your favorite thing about your job?** Well, I'm never bored! I originally went to school for criminal justice in hopes to do something with law enforcement. I like to solve problems and there's always a problem to solve in accounting.

**What was your first job?** Babysitting for \$1 an hour and driving the grain cart on my parents' farm.

### Nicole Lautenschlager



**Tell us about your family:** My husband, Toby, and I have been married 15 years and we have 3 boys, Miles – 14, Henry – 11, and Otto – 9.

**Tell us about a mentor or a book or a quote that influenced you:** I read a leadership article years ago that I think about daily. It said that not all employees should be treated equally, but they should be treated fairly. It was so eye-opening about being a leader or even an employee who realizes that people are human. We go through human things and a work environment can't be black and white.

**What do you like to do in your free time:** I'm an extroverted accountant so anything to do with people but with the least amount of physical activity. I love shopping, meeting up with friends for dinner, people watching and whatever adventures my kids come up with.

**Favorite Vacation:** Last summer my husband and I went to London, Paris and Barcelona. It was amazing. We are currently planning a trip to Thailand and Singapore.

**Favorite Food:** Macaroni and cheese

**Something most people don't know about me:** I used to be a hair stylist before I was an accountant.



### Preston Gilderhus

**Current Job:** Tax Manager @ Eide Bailly in Fargo.

**Hometown:** Oberon, ND

**Alma Mater/Degree:** North Dakota State University – BS in Finance and Accounting

**Current Professional Activities?** A member of the West Fargo Lions club and serve as 2nd Vice President. I volunteer as a NextGen committee member for the Society. I am also the Board of Trustees treasurer for my fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega – NDSU.

**What or who inspired you to become a CPA?** A family friend, Steve Linehan, encouraged me to pursue the CPA license. He said it would help to differentiate myself in the accounting field as well as open doors to a community of driven individuals.

**What is your favorite thing about your job?** Helping clients to carry out their business and personal goals by maximizing their tax position and planning for retirement.

**What was your first job?** Working for my dad on the farm: driving combine, cleaning grain bins, and raising chickens, horses, and sweet corn. Every August, I would sell sweet corn by the baker's dozen in nearby towns.

**Tell us about your family:** Even though I am an only child, I grew up around many of my cousins. Some of my uncles and cousins would come out to the farm every fall for deer camp. Holidays almost always involved extended family, which made for great memories and traditions.

**What do you like to do in your free time:** Going to concerts. My fiancé, Danielle, and I enjoy going to local venues and listening to alternative, Christian, or hard rock. We also enjoy trying new restaurants in the area. I enjoy traveling and catching up with family.

**Favorite Food:** Any kind of seafood. Big fan of sushi, salmon, walleye, shrimp, etc. Danielle and I took a trip to Portland, Oregon a couple years ago and enjoyed all the fresh seafood, including the oysters on a half shell.

**Something most people don't know about me:** In high school, I used to ride horses, compete in 4-H, and go on trail rides with a local group of trail riders. My favorite 4-H competitions were pole bending and barrel racing.



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Ganguri**

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**Rahul  
Verma**

Work exp. in India  
8.02 years



**Vuppala  
Lasya Priya**

Work exp. in India  
3.00 years

# NEW HORIZONS IN MEDORA



## 2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION

August 11-13 | 16 CPE | Medora & Virtual

### CONVENTION SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

1:00 - 5:00 pm	Registration
2:30 - 4:10 pm	A. Building the Future: Pipeline Pane ( <i>in-person only</i> )
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Social Hour
6:15 - 7:00 pm	Pitchfork Fondue
7:30 pm	Medora Musical

**16 CPE CREDITS**  
*INCLUDING 1.5 ETHICS CREDITS &  
8 YB CREDITS*

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 12

7:00 - 8:00 am	Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits		
7:30 - 8:00 am	Annual Meeting		
8:00 - 9:00 am	B. Professional Issues Update   Carla McCall, AICPA Vice Chair		
9:00 - 10:15 am	C. The Richest Man in Town   VJ Smith		
10:30 - 12:00 pm	D. Become an Ethical Leader to Drive Business Results   Jon Lokhorst <i>1.5 Ethics CPE</i>		
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch		
12:30 - 6:00 pm	Golf at Bully Pulpit		
1:00 - 2:40 pm	E1. Yellow Book Update <i>Bruce Shepard</i>	E2. Estate Planning Update <i>Art Werner</i>	E3. Delegation, Feedback, & Accountability <i>Jon Lokhorst</i>
3:00 - 4:40 pm	F1. Uniform Guidance Update <i>Bruce Shepard</i>	F2. Corporate Transparency Act <i>Art Werner</i>	F3. Develop Your Emotional Intelligence <i>Jon Lokhorst</i>
6:00 pm	Social Hour		
6:30 pm	Recognition Dinner		

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

7:00 - 8:00 am	Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits		
8:00 - 9:40 am	G1. GASB/FASB Update <i>Bruce Shepard</i>	G2. Mid-Year Business Tax Update <i>Art Werner</i>	G3. Future-Proof Your Leadership <i>Jon Lokhorst</i>
10:00 - 11:40 am	H1. Not-for-Profit Update <i>Bruce Shepard</i>	H2. Mid-Year Individual Tax Update <i>Art Werner</i>	H3. Multiply Your Value with Strategic Management Thinking   <i>Jon Lokhorst</i>
11:40 - 12:45 pm	Lunch		
12:45 - 2:35 pm	I. Medora Story   Randy Hatzenbuehler		
2:35 - 4:15 pm	J. K2's Top Tech Productivity Tips & Tricks   Brian Tankersley ( <i>virtual attendees only</i> )		

#### CONFERENCE LOCATION:

Medora Community Center

#### GOLF:

##### Bully Pulpit

3731 Bible Camp Rd, Medora, ND 58645

\$85 with registration for Convention

\$95 without registration for Convention  
(includes lunch)

#### IN-PERSON FEES:

**Add \$50 if registering after July 29th.**

\$499	Society Member
\$599	Nonmember
\$475	Group Discount
Free Exam Passer from July 2023 to June 2024	
\$250	Lifetime Member
\$425	One Day Society Member
\$525	One Day Nonmember
\$40	Recognition Dinner Only

#### VIRTUAL FEES:

**Add \$50 if registering after July 29th.**

\$475	Society Member
\$575	Nonmember
\$450	Group Discount
Free Exam Passer from July 2023 to June 2024	
\$250	Lifetime Member
\$400	One Day Society Member
\$500	One Day Nonmember



# UPCOMING CPE OPPORTUNITIES

## 2024 FARM TAX CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 9-10 | 16 CPE | ALERUS CENTER & VIRTUAL

FEATURING ROB HOLCOMB FROM UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION  
& ROGER MCEOWEN

### Topics Include:

- Easements
- Soil Fertility Deduction
- FSA & Government Programs
- H2A worker and payroll

#### Agricultural Tax Issues:

- Legislative & Regulatory Update
- Livestock Tax Issues
- Sale & Exchange of Property

#### Agriculture & Natural Resource Tax Issues

- Employee vs. Independent Contractor
- Cost-Sharing Exclusion
- Farm Trade or Business
- Farming S Corporations

# UPCOMING LIVE WEBCASTS

### JULY WEBINARS

- 17 K2's Small Business Internal Controls, Security, & Fraud Prevention and Detection
- 18 K2's Best Word, Outlook & PowerPoint Features
- 18 K2's Excel Charting & Visualizations
- 19 How Changes in Business Methods Affects Internal Control
- 22 Surgent's Latest Developments in Government and Nonprofit Accounting and Auditing
- 23 Level V: Advanced Management & Leadership Essentials
- 24 Nonprofit Accounting and Financial Reporting Explained
- 25 Tax Practice Standards
- 29 2024 Performance Management - Hiring to Retiring
- 30 K2's An Accountant's Guide to Blockchain & Crypto
- 31 K2's Advanced QuickBooks Tips & Techniques
- 31 K2's Case Studies in Fraud and Technology Controls

### AUGUST WEBINARS

- 1 Payroll Essentials: Fringe Benefits: Taxable or Not?
- 5 Auditing, SSARS, and Attest Update
- 7 HR Guide to Evolving Business Strategy, Finance and Development
- 8 Yellow Book: Staying Compliant with Government Auditing Standards
- 13 Self-Rental Real Estate: Passive Activity & Section 199A
- 15 Critical Issues That CPAs in Industry Will Need to Face This Year
- 19 Surgent's U.S. Taxation of Foreign Corporations: A Case Study Approach
- 20 K2's Business Continuity - Best Practices for Managing The Risks
- 21 K2's Microsoft Access - Tables, Queries, & Beyond
- 22 K2's QuickBooks for Accountants
- 26 Auto and Energy-Related Tax Credits
- 27 What Practitioners Need to Know About Estate Planning & Administering a Client's Estate
- 29 2024 PCAOB and SEC Update

*There are many more webinars at [ndcpas.org/cpe/](https://ndcpas.org/cpe/)!*



North  
Dakota



## K2's Accountant's Artificial Intelligence Conference

Thursday, November 7 | 8 CPE | 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Early Registration through October 23: \$250 Member | \$350 Nonmember

## TAX PRACTITIONER INSTITUTE

**NOVEMBER 20-21 | IN-PERSON AND LIVE WEBINAR**  
**17 CPE HOURS AND 2 ETHICS CPE**

There are no prerequisites or advanced preparation needed for this course. This course is recommended for Certified Public Accountants, Registered Tax Return Preparers, Enrolled Agents, Insurance Providers, Financial Planners and Lawyers. The program knowledge level of the Institute is considered to be basic. One copy of the 2023 Federal Tax Workbook is included in your participant registration fee.

**To register for the Institute:**

[https://und.edu/conferences/nd-tax-institute/participant\\_registration.html](https://und.edu/conferences/nd-tax-institute/participant_registration.html)

*Registration will be available soon.*

For more information call UND's Office of Extended Learning at 701-777-2663

## TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

**December 10 & 11**  
**Virtual Only**







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– Cantor Forensic Accounting, PLLC

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## MIKE SCHMITZ

### NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

#### What national position do you hold?

I am on the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) board of directors as the Central Region Director, I am in my third year on the board of directors. For the past two years I served as Chair of the Audit Committee and this year I am serving as Chair of the Peer Review Compliance Committee. In addition to these responsibilities, as a board member I participate in 4 regularly scheduled board meetings at which we provide guidance to the overall operation of NASBA as well as help set recommendations to all the regulatory boards in the United States related to the regulation of the CPA licensees.

#### Tell us about your career path. What led you to this position?

I started in the profession in 1984 as an accountant with a small local firm, in April 1985 I received my license to be a CPA from the State of North Dakota. This was the start of what has been a nearly 40-year path of service to the profession. The first 15-20 years was mostly based in serving on committees for the North Dakota CPA Society and at the local CPA Chapter as I was busy raising a family. Then in 2006 I was elected to the Board of Directors of the North Dakota CPA Society, serving as President during the fiscal year September 2010 to September 2011. As part of my term as President of the Society I also served on the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA) Council for one year. Following my North Dakota CPA Society Board Term I was selected to service a 3-year term on the AICPA Council beginning in 2012, at the same time the AICPA selected me to serve a 3-year term on the Professional Ethics Executive Committee (PEEC). In July of 2014 the Governor of North Dakota appointed me to serve on the North Dakota State Board of Accountancy, as a result of my membership of that board I became a member of NASBA. I immediately volunteered to serve on several NASBA committees, which gave me exposure to the other members of NASBA and specifically to the nominating committee. Also, I had the opportunity to serve as President of the North Dakota State Board of Accountancy from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021, this experience and my volunteer experience gave the Nominating Committee of NASBA the confidence that I would be a good Central Region Director of the Board of NASBA, I was first appointed to this position on November 1, 2021. From June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023 I also was honored to serve on the AICPA Auditing Standards Board.

#### How has your involvement in the CPA Society benefited you?

My involvement in the CPA Society is really what got me started and gave me the confidence to put my name forward on a national basis. My colleagues in the Society have been some of my biggest supporters. Without them I never would have had the opportunities that have been presented to me to serve, nor would I have had the confidence to think I could lead. Really the Society and all its wonderful members are the reason for my volunteer service to the profession and society in general. What the Society showed me is that it is not only important to be a good professional in our daily job of helping clients, but to also be a good citizen.

#### What has been the biggest benefit of national involvement?

Being involved with the profession on the national level has been extremely rewarding. As mentioned above it all started with the AICPA and now with NASBA. As a result of my involvement, I have developed friendships and relationships with individuals in the profession that I will have for the rest of my life. Those relationships have been important to my development as a CPA, further those relationships have been incredible resources for technical knowledge.

#### Any final updates or comments?

My term on the North Dakota State Board of Accountancy expires on June 30, 2024, assuming the Governor appoints a new member as I will have served the maximum consecutive terms that are allowed by Century Code. However, I don't anticipate my involvement with NASBA to end with that, as a past board member I am able to still be an associate member of NASBA and also volunteer for roles with NASBA, which I am planning to do, I have indicated to the leadership of NASBA of my desire to stay involved and maybe even have the opportunity to serve first as Vice Chair of the NASBA Board of Directors and then as Chair. Time will tell. Further, I am currently the Mayor of the City of Bismarck and my current term runs to June 30, 2026. Lastly, I strongly encourage everyone to get involved in the profession, it helps keep us relevant, and you get far more back than you give.



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## UPDATES FROM THE STATE TAX COMMISSIONER

Brian Kroshus



### TAX DAY RECAP

The Office of State Tax Commissioner strives to fairly and effectively administer the tax laws of

North Dakota and provide exceptional service while enhancing compliance with the state's tax laws. Along with our agency's mission, we also DRIVE success with our core values including delivering results, respecting ideas, innovation, valuing all, and excelling at service. These purpose-driven goals have guided our office and team throughout various processes and periods including the individual income tax filing season.

April 15, 2024, recognized the end date for yet another busy tax season. As of the beginning of June, tax data noted more than 417,000 individual income tax returns were filed in the state with more than \$340 million dollars in net tax liability.

For those taxpayers that were unable to file their return by the April 15 deadline, and still maintain compliance with taxpayer laws, individuals needed to apply for an extension with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) prior to that date. If the extension request was granted for North Dakota returns with October 17, 2024, stated as the extended deadline to file individual tax returns.

To aid taxpayers throughout the year, the Office of State Tax Commissioner provides multiple services including North Dakota Taxpayer Access Point (NDTAP) which can be used to locate a refund, make a payment, view electronic filing options, and various tools to assist individuals and businesses. You can access the platform at [tax.nd.gov/tap](https://tax.nd.gov/tap).

### INTERIM LEGISLATION

Over the course of the past several months, the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner has been involved in various interim legislative committee hearings and meetings. The 68th Legislative Interim Session has been an important time for policy development and advocacy in which legislative committees continue studying key issues facing North Dakota to prepare for the upcoming general session.

The invaluable committee chairs prioritize goals and deem what should be studied over the interim period based on items not addressed during the general session, with input gathered from committee members, state agencies, and the public.

During the interim, our agency collaborates with the Taxation Committee comprised of 16 members and led by Representative Jared Hagert who serves as chairman and we work with the six-member Tax Relief Advisory Committee, whose chairman is Senator Jordan L. Kannianen.

Our office has provided updates and information pertaining to the Primary Residence Credit (PRC) program which was established during the 2023 Legislative Session under House Bill 1158 and the existing Homestead Property Tax Credit program that was expanded in the session, allowing more residents to qualify than in the past. Our office received nearly 140,000 PRC credit applications and the North Dakota assessing offices who process the Homestead Credit applications worked with more than 13,500 applications for the program. The Homestead Credit program saw a 77% increase in participation from last year.

We anticipate even more applications for both programs will be submitted next tax season.



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### MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE WRAP UP

The 2024 Management Conference was held June 17-18 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The two day event had over 270 attendees in-person and virtually. We had great speakers on finance, business management, technology, and other important updates. Mark your calendar for the 2025 conference on June 15-16! Thank you to our committee and everyone who contributed to make this conference a great place to innovate to elevate.



### ETHICS CORNER

#### The Case of the Methane Methodology

The firm of Bosco, Ovaltine & Nesqwik is the auditor of Bovine Energy LLC, an entity that has mastered harnessing methane gas from cows for rural electrification purposes. Don Bosco is the audit partner and for the audits of 2022 and 2023 he charged Bovine Energy \$41,000 and \$42,500, respectively.

In 2024, Bovine Energy hired Don's firm to do a large system consulting engagement for which they charged \$84,000. Therefore, Don decided to cut the audit fee to \$21,000. The systems engagement did not effect the budgeted audit hours.

Q. Is this fee reduction ok?

A. No. A new item in the Code of Professional Conduct at 1.230.030.02 notes:

The provision of other services to an attest client is not an appropriate consideration in determining the attest engagement

fee, except as provided for in paragraph .03. If a covered member responsible for determining the attest engagement fee allows the attest engagement fee to be influenced by the firm's provision of other services to an attest client, the self-interest and undue influence threats to the covered member's compliance with the "Independence Rule" [1.200.001] would not be at an acceptable level and could not be reduced to an acceptable level by the application of safeguards. Accordingly, independence would be impaired.

Paragraph .03 notes that if other services yield cost savings they can be considered.

This interpretation is effective January 1, 2025 with early implementation permitted.



Charles Selcer, CPA, has over 30 years of audit and business consulting experience. His areas of specialization include audits of distribution companies, SEC registrants, not-for-profit organizations & charities, including organizations subject to Circular A-133.



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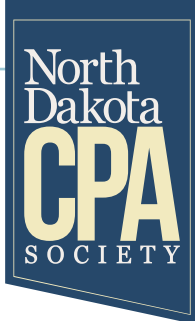
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