



7 OF THE MOST COMMON EXPENSE SCAMS (AND HOW TO STOP THEM)

By Barbara Doane



May 2022 | Volume XXXIV | No. 03

Most employees are inherently honest. They realize that the risk of imperiling their career over a couple of hundred more dollars in their pocket isn't worth it. However, a small section (about five percent, studies show) of your employees don't agree. They maybe feel entitled, aggrieved, or simply think they can get away with swindling the company by turning in false expense reports.

If your organization is still using spreadsheets and hard-copy receipts to submit and process expenses, finding fraudulent expenses can be almost impossible. It often requires the finance team to spend hours reviewing each expense report to cross-check each transaction.

Organizations that deploy expense automation solutions can easily stop fraud in its tracks, by using smart technology to prevent false expenses from being submitted, and providing intelligent solutions for spotting potential fraud. Here is a selection of the most common ways that employees try to commit expense fraud, and how they can easily be prevented with an expense management solution.

THE MILEAGE MISCHIEF SCAM

Few expense approvers want to go the length of verifying that a personal vehicle mileage submission is correct. An extra 58 cents per mile may not seem much, but it can easily add up to hundreds of dollars for road warriors who inflate the amount of miles they drive.

How to stop it: An expense automation system can be integrated with Google Maps, so employees simply need to enter their start and finish addresses. It then calculates

the distance to automatically create an expense line item. In addition, an image of the map (and the route) is included with the expense item. This level of automation makes it difficult to try and "pad" the mileage claim without the map clearly showing the deviation.

THE MINI-BAR "MISTAKE" SCAM

Unless you have the money (but not the brains) of Warren Buffett, buying drinks from the hotel mini bar is rarely a good choice. For that reason, many companies prevent hotel mini-bar purchases from being reimbursed. That's why many people try to sneak it by their finance teams by simply submitting an un-itemized hotel bill.

How to stop it: Mandate that all hotel folios are fully itemized when being submitted. This was previously a huge headache, which involved breaking out a calculator and typing

"If your organization is still using spreadsheets and hard-copy receipts to submit and process expenses, finding fraudulent expenses can be almost impossible."

in multiple line items for each hotel folio. That's no longer the case. Employees can now be prompted to itemize hotel bills, and can do so with a single click. The expense solution can automatically read and parse data from HTML or PDF hotel folios, and create individual line items for easy approval (or in this case, denial).

THE DUPLICATE RECEIPT DODGE SCAM

The employee submits their meal receipt the week they buy the meal. Then, two months

later... oops they "forgot to submit it on time" so resubmit the same receipt. Finance will never notice, right? Wrong.

How to stop it: Don't rely on sharp-eyed and elephant-memorized finance staff to remember that they have already approved that expense. An expense management solution can automatically detect if a receipt has already been submitted for reimbursement, and flag to the employee that they've already done so. If the dastardly diner still tries to press "submit," it will simply block the user from doing so.

IN THIS ISSUE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we've been talking about it for a while and it's finally here. You may be thinking to yourself, spring is FINALLY here. But do you know what else is here? June 30, 2022.

This is a big day for North Dakota as it's a day that represents all of us getting just a little bit smarter. Effective June 30, 2022, and going forward, licensees performing accounting, auditing, management or financial advisory, consulting, bookkeeping, or tax services, for a client or an employer's client, while holding out to the public as a CPA licensee in North Dakota, must report 6 credit hours of ethics CPE over a rolling 3-year period. The requirement to complete 120 credit hours of qualified CPE (with a minimum of 20 credit hours in each year) that has been in place in the past does not change. All others who in any way hold out as a CPA or LPA in North Dakota, except those on "retired" status, will now be held to the same requirements.

Said more simply, if you are in public accounting, you have a net new requirement to complete 6 hours of ethics training over a rolling 3-year period. Those not in public have the same ethics requirement as those in public accounting, and they now must also complete the same 120 credit hours as those in public accounting (previous requirement was 60).

If you are reading this and going "awe crap", we are here for you! The ND CPA Society is proud to offer a variety of high-quality CPE offerings to both members and non-members. If you flip (or scroll if you're #fancylike) a few pages, you'll see a section in this newsletter titled "Upcoming CPE Opportunities" that lists a variety of upcoming offerings. If you're a member, be sure to check out our free ethics CPE offering on May 19th from 9-11am titled "Ethics: How to Ensure Zombie Ethics Won't Kill Your Business." This course qualifies as CPE and meets the ethics requirement. Did I mention it's free for members? We also have our Management Conference June 21-22 in Fargo (also a virtual option) and our Summer Variety Pack June 6-7 in Bismarck.

If you need more information on the reporting requirements, or what qualifies as CPE, visit the North Dakota Board of Accountancy website at <https://www.ndsba.nd.gov/licensees/cpa-renewal-faq>. Now put on your sweatpants, grab your favorite blanket (you'll need them for in person CPE too, because, you know, the temperature can never be just right) and let's get learning!

Michelle
Schumacher
President



LICENSE RENEWAL DUE JUNE 30

Your CPA License is due for renewal! If you haven't already renewed, head over to the State Board of Accountancy's website at <https://www.ndsba.nd.gov/> to report CPE and renew your license. They have a new system this year which will require a login. Watch your email or contact pdemaster@nd.gov or call 701-775-7100 for more information



MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Clarence Sitter Named Chief Operating Officer, Emily Klym Becomes Chief Financial Officer of TRMF

(Medora, ND) - The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF) is happy to announce new positions for two longtime leaders of our organization. Former Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Clarence Sitter has assumed the role of Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the organization—and previous Controller Emily Klym has taken the mantle of CFO. Sitter and Klym began their new roles on January 1st, 2022.



Clarence Sitter grew up in Drayton, North Dakota. He earned his bachelor degree and his MBA from the University of Mary in Bismarck, where he was invited to join the Harold Schafer Emerging Leaders Academy. It was there that he became acquainted with members of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. After an eleven-year career as a Certified Public Accountant with Eide Bailly, he joined TRMF as Chief Financial Officer in June of 2012.



Emily Klym grew up in Edgeley, North Dakota. She says her "Medora story" began in her childhood. "We traveled here as a family every summer. I absolutely loved it." Klym enrolled at Dickinson State University, where she was admitted to the Theodore Roosevelt Honors Leadership Program. She graduated in 2012 with degrees in accounting and business, then became a Certified Public Accountant in 2014. After a multi-year career at Brady Martz & Associates in Dickinson, she joined TRMF as Controller in July of 2018.

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Amanda Colebank, CPA

Current Job: Tax Services, Lee Suess, LLC; Williston, ND

Hometown: Fairview, MT

Alma Mater/Degree: Montana State University / Masters of Professional Accountancy

Any current Professional and Community Activities? I am the Treasurer on the Williston Community Builders Board. Volunteering for WCB allows me to help with the Festival of Trees, Reindeer Games, Back to School BBQ, Marketplace for Kids, Summer Nights on Main, and support other groups and events in town. I am a member of the Pool Action Committee that has come together to fundraise and build a new outdoor pool in Williston, which has been a very exciting new venture for me. I am currently the Chair of the Membership Committee for the ND CPA Society. I also have served on the InverWood Homeowners Association Board, volunteered for the Salvation Army, and served in the Legion's Community Feed the past couple of years.

What or who inspired you to become a CPA? I would have to say my Lee Suess family, very encouraging and provided the resources I needed to attain the goal.

What was your first job? Lifeguard

Tell us about your family: My husband, Brett Colebank, and I have been married for about a year and a half. We recently had a baby girl named Quinn Leslie. She is the light of our lives.

Tell us about a book or quote that influenced you: Work hard, play hard.

What do you like to do in your free time: My favorite thing to do is play golf. I also play softball and volleyball in the rec leagues in town. I enjoy reading, traveling, boating and camping.

Favorite Vacation or Dream Vacation: I would love to backpack through Europe one day.

Favorite Food: Stuffed Peppers

Something most people don't know about me: I have been skydiving twice and will continue to go whenever possible, such a thrill!



Kelsey Olson, CPA

Current Job: Controller at Dot's Pretzels

Hometown: Noonan, ND

Alma Mater/Degree: Minot State University, BS in Accounting & Finance

What is your favorite thing about your job? I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Dot's growth from small start-up to being owned by a publicly traded company. It is fast paced, challenging, and I learn something new every day!

What was your first job? I was a fry cook at the local Moose Lodge

Tell us about your family: I live in Fargo with my husband Dustin, one-year old daughter Charli, and our bulldog Norm.

Tell us about a mentor or a book or a quote that influenced you: My mentor told me "Your to-do list is perpetual. Focus on the things that will drive the business forward this week". That has helped me get through some of the crazy times.

What do you like to do in your free time: Not much free time with a toddler, but I like to go antique shopping with my husband, read, or decorate if time allows.

Favorite Food: Lefse



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jill Andera	Fargo
Diane Anderson	Fargo
Tonna Chikukwa	Fargo
Jacob Freed	West Fargo
Pami Garden	Bismarck
Shelly Gustafson	Fargo
Leatha Hoffman	Golden Valley
Nicholas Johnson	Harwood
Krista Lambrecht	Williston
Stacy Lorenz	Bottineau
Elizabeth Mohan	West Fargo
Andrew Sandvik	Fargo



I made a note last month to talk about the changes to the CPA Exam in this month's newsletter. Since that time, the AICPA came out with the following article that does a much better job than I could! If you hire interns for your business or your firm – this is worth a read!

Locally, we are ramping up our efforts to strengthen the CPA pipeline. We are converting the Society's part-time membership manager into a full-time position. This will allow for some focused efforts on reaching out to local universities and high schools. We have also sent a letter to the State Board of Accountancy with a recommendation to change our laws and rules to allow accounting students to sit for the exam at 120 hours instead of 150 hours. The majority of other states already allow for this. More to come as we explore and expand our reach!

CPA EVOLUTION WILL IMPACT TODAY'S INTERNS. HOW CAN FIRMS PREPARE? BY CARL MAYES

For the past few years, the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) have collaborated with stakeholders to reimagine CPA licensure through the joint CPA Evolution initiative, an effort to transform the CPA licensure model. The organizations have now reached the critical implementation phase of this initiative, which addresses the rapidly changing skills and competencies required of a 21st Century CPA.

Many of the students slated for Spring and Summer 2022 internships will sit for the new, CPA Evolution-aligned CPA Exam, which is expected to launch in early 2024. This has implications for firms in a variety of areas, from recruiting considerations to engagement with academia. The time to start plotting out your firm's strategy is now.

CPA Evolution will bring about some of the most substantive changes to licensure in decades, including a new Core + Disciplines licensure model, increased coverage in areas like information systems and data analytics, and the addition of personal financial planning.

But what does it all mean for your firm? Here are some top considerations to aid your hiring and recruitment strategies.

Students are more interested in pursuing CPA under the new licensure model.

In a Fall 2021 AICPA-NASBA survey of accounting students, 85% of respondents indicated the new approach to licensure either increases their interest in pursuing CPA or keeps their interest at a very high level. In discussion groups with students, common themes surrounded their heightened interest in areas like data analytics, cybersecurity and information privacy, all of which are expected to be addressed in the new CPA Exam based upon preliminary practice analysis research.

This may represent an opportunity for firms when recruiting new staff. In addition to highlighting the earnings power of CPAs and the impact they can have on society, consider discussing the impending changes to the licensure model and how they reflect the exciting work firms are doing in emerging areas. For students interested in technology, there has never been a better time to pursue CPA.

Universities are changing their curricula to incorporate emerging topics.

In another Fall 2021 pulse survey, the AICPA and NASBA asked accounting faculty about their plans relative to CPA Evolution. Here's what they heard:

- 88% of respondents indicated their accounting program will be making curriculum changes based on CPA Evolution.
- 81% said they expect to make curricular changes by Fall 2022.

To inform hiring decisions, firms may want to reach out to the universities they recruit from to determine what, if any, curriculum changes are being made. Practitioners may also consider aiding the academic community in the transition, as nearly half of the faculty that won't be making curriculum changes cited challenges in finding qualified personnel to teach emerging topics. Subject matter experts at your firm might consider serving as guest lecturers or adjunct professors to ensure the next generation of CPAs has the skills and competencies they need to be successful.

Many accounting program graduates will have different skillsets.

As academic programs evolve, students are expected to pursue learning tracks aligned with their interests. In a 2020 AICPA-NASBA

survey of students:

- 54% of respondents indicated they plan to pursue the Business Analysis and Reporting discipline
- 24% plan to pursue Information Systems and Controls, and
- 22% plan to take Tax Compliance and Planning.

To pass these disciplines, students will need more knowledge and skills in the related subject matter, and firms will be the beneficiaries. In fact, in an April 2021 AICPA-NASBA survey of firm hiring directors, 83% of respondents from firms with 11 or more personnel indicated that if accounting programs were aligned with CPA Evolution, their hiring of new graduates from accounting programs would likely increase, accounting program graduates would be considered more valuable than they are today, or both.

Firm leaders may want to engage with the firm's HR team to consider how CPA Evolution will impact their approach to talent acquisition moving forward.

Next steps

The AICPA is currently conducting a practice analysis to determine the knowledge and skills required of newly licensed CPAs that should be assessed in the CPA Evolution aligned Exam. An associated CPA Exam Blueprint, which will detail content eligible for testing in each of the Core and Discipline sections, is expected to be issued for public comment in mid-2022 and published in final form in early 2023, with the launch of the new CPA Exam planned for January 2024. As CPA Evolution continues to progress, please check back for updates at [EvolutionofCPA.org](https://www.evolutionofcpa.org). If you have any questions, please reach out to the AICPA and NASBA at Feedback@EvolutionofCPA.org.



UPCOMING CPE OPPORTUNITIES



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SPRING EVENT: CAREERS THROUGH CHANGE

Tuesday, May 10 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Watch Parties and virtual options available!

Join us for a panel discussion between Jason Dunn, director of internal audit, Titan Machinery; Jenni Huotari, a partner at Eide Bailly LLP; Barry Maring, President of Sonmar Management, LLC. This panel will talk about how their career paths formed and how the pandemic has affected their careers. There will also be a question and answer portion of the event. If you have questions you want to send in prior to the panel, send them to cpe@ndcpas.org.

FREE CPE FOR MEMBERS:

ETHICS: HOW TO ENSURE ZOMBIE ETHICS WON'T KILL YOUR BUSINESS

May 19 | 9:00 - 11:00 am | Virtual

The walking dead aren't the only threat to your business. So are several dangerous, even terrifying myths about what ethical leadership is and is not. This fun and distinctive webinar will present what Forbes contributor Bruce Weinstein, The Ethics Guy, calls "zombie ethics"—myths about accounting that hinder your ability to serve your clients and enjoy a thriving business.

Bruce Weinstein
2 CPE Behavioral Ethics

K2 SUMMER

CLASSES

MAY 9-20

Register now for a variety of K2 courses in the month of May. They include hot topics like Blockchain, Power BI, QuickBooks, Cryptocurrency, and more!

4 hour courses: \$150 Member
\$170 Nonmember

8 hour courses: \$250 Member
\$270 Nonmember



SUMMER VARIETY PACK

PRESENTED BY THOMAS NEWELL AND DAVID PETERS

JUNE 6

ACCOUNTING & AUDITING UPDATE

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM | 4 CPE

This course is designed to provide an overview of recent accounting matters including FASB accounting standards updates, broad and narrow issues, current FASB activities, and private company financial reporting. It covers relevant pronouncements, exposure drafts, and other guidance recently issued in the accounting arenas. It covers a full array of topics including current environment and implications for audit planning, pronouncements, and other standard setting activities affecting audit and attestation engagements.

IRS DISPUTES - TAX STAFF ESSENTIALS

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM | 4 CPE

Want to help your client save money and avoid potential trouble with the IRS? This CPE course explains what may trigger an IRS audit, how to negotiate, settle on appeal, qualify for an IRS collection program and evaluate your client's best options for dealing with the IRS. You will also learn about IRS audit techniques, how to handle requests and appeal rights so you can represent your clients with confidence.

PREPARATION, COMPILATION, AND REVIEW ENGAGEMENTS: UPDATE & REVIEW

12:30 PM - 4:00 PM | 4 CPE

If you supervise preparation, compilation, and review engagements, this course will help you comply with the professional standards by informing you of the latest developments and issues relevant to these engagements. Learn about the U.S. business economy, peer review, FASB updates, and other areas affecting preparation, compilation, and review engagements.

SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE: MAXIMIZING RETIREMENT BENEFITS

12:30 PM - 4:00 PM | 4 CPE

Attend this course to learn about FICA, the Medicare tax, and more. You will cover real-world situations and use the tools provided to advise your clients to make optimal decisions when it comes to Social Security and Medicare.

JUNE 7

INTERPRETING THE NEW REVENUE RECOGNITION STANDARD

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM | 4 CPE

The effective date of FASB ASC 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, is upon us! Do you know which contracts are within the scope of the standard and when revenue should be recognized at a point in time or over time? This course answers those questions by providing a basic understanding of the five-step process for recognizing revenue under FASB ASC 606. Recent updates to this course include the latest guidance from FASB, industry specific examples taken from the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide Revenue Recognition, as well as disclosure illustrations.

REVIEWING S CORPORATION TAX RETURNS: WHAT ARE YOU MISSING?

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM | 4 CPE

Join us as we discuss the common errors practitioners make on S corporation tax returns that are often missed by review staff. The intent is to sharpen skills for reviewers by examining case studies and discussing issues where additional information from the client may be warranted and areas of tax law where proper treatment requires additional analysis and information.

THE BOTTOM LINE ON THE NEW LEASE ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

12:30 PM - 4:00 PM | 4 CPE

Which leases are within the scope of FASB ASC 842, Leases, and what are the basic accounting, financial reporting and disclosure requirements? This course addresses those questions by focusing on the basic core principles of this new major standard. Discussion includes basic identification, recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure requirements. Case study exercises are included to illustrate application of the standard.

TAX PLANNING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES - TAX STAFF ESSENTIALS

12:30 PM - 4:00 PM | 4 CPE

This course identifies tax planning strategies for small business clients throughout the different life cycles of the business. We will use a case-study approach to explore opportunities for businesses and how the tax practitioner can continue to add value for their clients. Discussions will include traditional and new planning opportunities as a result of the latest tax legislation and IRS guidance.



JUNE 6-7 | BAYMONT INN & SUITES - MANDAN



BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE

June 20, 2022

8:00 - 9:30 am Welcome & General Session: The Intangible It, *Jack Stahlmann*

9:40 - 10:55 am Breakout Sessions

FASB Update	Achieving Life Balance	Mastering Advanced Excel Functions & Formulas	Remote Work Panel
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11:10 - 12:00 pm Breakout Sessions

Internal Controls	How to Use Psychology to Enjoy Work More	Run Microsoft Office in the Cloud	Round Table Discussions
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1:00 - 2:15 pm Breakout Sessions

Leases - The Time is Now to Implement	10 Keys to Create Customer Satisfaction & Get Referrals	Power Query Tips & Tricks	Ransomware
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2:25 - 3:40 pm Breakout Sessions

Preparing for Audits & Reviews	The Best Tools for Professional Growth	Windows 11 - What users Need to Know	Distribution Options for Work Transitions
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3:50 - 4:40 pm Closing General Session: ABC - Awareness Begins Change, *Shayla Rivera*

June 21, 2022

8:00 - 9:15 am Opening General Session: Leadership Integrity, *Jeff Lanza* *Ethics Credit*

9:25 - 10:40 am Breakout Sessions

Financial Statement Shenanigans: Stop Them From Fooling You	The Behaviors of Inclusive Leadership	Employment Law	How's and Why's on Data Analytics
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10:55 - 11:45 am Breakout Sessions

Fraud Prevention: Loss Prevention and Control	Winning at Work as a Working Parent	General Concepts & Overview of Sales	Accounting Automation
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1:00 - 2:15 pm Breakout Sessions

Developing your Company's Scorecard	Mastering Difficult Conversations	Tax Update	Data Loss Prevention for Better Security & Privacy
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2:25 - 3:40 pm Breakout Sessions

Aligning Budgets to Strategy: The Key to Long-Term Profitability	The Four Phases for Growing an Engaged Team	Accounting For Endowments	Cybersecurity Risks & Solutions
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3:50 - 4:40 pm Closing General Session: Courage in the Storm, *Stephanie Decker*

UPCOMING CPE WEBINARS

MAY WEBINARS

- 11 What Every Auditor Needs to Know about Data Analytics
- 13 New Board Member 101
- 16 Surgent's Ethical Considerations for the CPA
- 17 Taking a Global View on Professional Ethics
- 23 MNCPA Audits of Employee Benefit Plans Conference
- 27 Creating & Deploying Flexible Work Options

JUNE WEBINARS

- 1 Surgent's Time Management for Professionals
- 2 Common Yellow Book & Single Audit Deficiencies
- 9 Advanced Management Skills
- 15 Risk Management Techniques and Tools
- 16 Key Tax Issues Facing Business and Industry
- 24 Tactical Cash Management
- 28 Ethics: Get Rich, Lose Weight, and Enjoy True Love
- 29 Surgent's Taxation on the Mobile Workforce

Webinars are added frequently, check the website for additions.

SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS!

We are looking for exhibitors and sponsors for our 2022 conferences. If you or your business are interested in sponsoring or advertising at one of the events below go to ndcpas.org/exhibitor to register.

EVENTS TO SPONSOR:

Management Conference | June 20-21 | Fargo
Farm Tax Conference | August 15-16 | Grand Forks
Annual CPA Convention | September 18-20 | Bismarck
Tech Conference | December 12-13 | Fargo

Please reach out to cpe@ndcpas if you have any questions.

CPE PACKAGES

Surgent's Unlimited Webinar Package

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FARM TAX CONFERENCE

AUGUST 15 - 16 | ALERUS CENTER | GRAND FORKS

Featuring Roger McEwen



The Case of Stan Patt on the Move

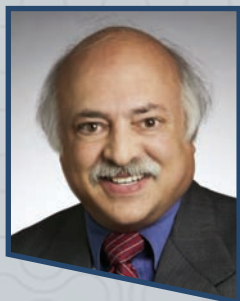
Stan Patt, CPA, was contacted by his audit client, Whammer Jammer & Co., a manufacturer of jellies and jams using North Dakota buckthorn and berries. They want Stan and a team to do an investigation as to whether, and if so, how much their controller pilfered from the Company.

Q. Does the engagement come under the concept of a NOCLAR (Non Compliance with Laws and Regulations) engagement?

A. No – PEEC (Professional Ethics Executive Committee) met in February and although new NOCLAR rules still have not been issued, an engagement where the assignment is to find, conclude or respond to a known or potential NOCLAR is scoped out of the NOCLAR rules.

Charles Selcer, CPA

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.



REGIONAL COUNCIL SUMMARY

The AICPA Regional Council meetings were held virtually the week of March 21. Along with the state of the profession update and summary of the tax and advocacy efforts, the meeting focused on the pipeline of graduates entering the profession and taking the exam. The demand for CPAs stays high and due to numerous macro demand and supply influences, the recruitment pool is shrinking. Since the pandemic, there are record numbers of CPAs changing positions. Finally, the number of CPA exam candidates taking at least 1 section each year is at its lowest mark since 2007.

The AICPA named 5 stakeholders with specific roles that can positively impact the pipeline. During the meeting, members were put in small groups to discuss how 2 of the 5 stakeholders can be contributing to increasing the number of graduates entering the profession and the number of candidates taking the exam. From these discussions, the AICPA will develop a roadmap on addressing the issues that are affecting the pipeline.

Look for more information to come from these discussions over the next year!

Tracee Buethner, CPA



IS IT TIME FOR...



Family



Life



A Change

Time to SELL?



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Before you invest, consider whether your or the beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in that state's qualified tuition program.

The College SAVE Plan (College SAVE) is a 529 plan established by the State of North Dakota. Bank of North Dakota (Bank) acts as trustee of College SAVE Trust, a North Dakota Trust, and is responsible for administering College SAVE Trust and College SAVE. Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, LLC ("ABD"), the Plan Manager, and its affiliates, have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations of College SAVE, including recordkeeping and marketing. The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Vanguard) provides underlying investments for the Plan. College SAVE's Portfolios, although they invest in mutual funds, are not mutual funds. Units of the Portfolios are municipal securities and the value of units will vary with market conditions.



Tax reduction attributable to tax relief credit on North Dakota residents' 2021 returns. With the 2022 filing season deadline behind us, acknowledging you likely had clients requesting extensions, you undoubtedly noticed the significant impact the North Dakota income tax relief tax credit had on resident clients' state returns.

As of April 14, the total reduction in North Dakota residents' 2021 tax liabilities due to the credit was sitting at just over \$81.1 million. This amount was claimed on 216,409 returns, which is about 84% of the total eligible returns filed. The other 16% of eligible returns filed did not have a tax liability to offset. Of the 216,409 returns on which the credit was claimed, the credit offset 100% of the tax on 111,272 (or 51.4%) of them.

Also at the time of this writing, our office had processed approximately 320,000 returns, or about 67% of the total number of individual income tax returns expected for tax year 2021. The total tax reduction attributable to the credit for the 2021 tax year won't be fully known until after October 15 of this year, when the returns with extensions are processed.

The total tax reduction for the first year of the two-year credit program is estimated to be around \$104 million for the 2021 tax year and \$107 million for 2022.

Reminder: New electronic filing requirement for 2022 passthrough entity income tax returns. Starting with the 2022 tax year, North Dakota Forms 38, 58, and 60 must be electronically filed if the trust, partnership, or S corporation has 10 or more beneficiaries, partners, or shareholders. If this requirement applies, any tax due on the return must be paid using one of the accepted electronic payment options.

Office of State Tax Commissioner website has new look and functionality. If you haven't been to our website, or haven't used it for some time, it has a completely new look and much improved functionality. The upgrade to its design, layout, and functionality will provide users with a better online experience. Visit www.tax.nd.gov and take a look. We welcome any questions or comments from users that we can use to make our website as useful and informative as possible.

Brian Kroshus
Tax Commissioner



Continued from the front page

THE RESTAURANT TIP SNIP SCAM

Just because the submitted restaurant receipt has a handwritten 20 percent tip on it doesn't mean that the employee actually left that. They could have left 10 percent or even nothing, and the approver would never know. Over the course of a year, this could quite easily add up to hundreds of dollars if left unchecked.

How to stop it: Automatically match credit card transactions with receipts submitted in the system. Therefore, if the receipt shows a 20 percent tip but the credit card shows less, this can be automatically flagged to approvers.

THE SNEAKY TICKET CANCELLATION SCAM

Many companies allow their employees to buy refundable, changeable, full-fare air tickets, in order to maximize flexibility. Travelers have been known to take advantage of this by purchasing both cheaper, restricted tickets and high-priced unrestricted tickets for the same flight. They then submit the expense for the high-priced ticket, get it refunded, and travel on the cheaper ticket. For a cross-country flight this can be a \$1,000 or more difference.

How to stop it: Mandate that air tickets are purchased using corporate credit cards. Not only can this provide valuable rebates for the organization, but it also makes it impossible for employees to benefit personally from canceling an expensive ticket.

THE MEAL FOR TWO SWITCHEROO SCAM

One of your managers and their team member go out for dinner, while on a business trip. This ends up being somewhat more "liquid" than your policy allows. To try and cover their tracks, the manager just says "you submit this, I'll approve it, and nobody will ever know."

How to stop it: Expense solutions can integrate with HR systems so that managerial hierarchies can be configured into the system, and also mandate that the cost of any meal be allocated between diners. As a result, organizations can implement a "boss' rule," whereby the most senior person at a meal is required to submit the expense, in order to eliminate possible approval collusion. If a junior employee tries to submit the expense and allocate part of it to a manager, this will automatically be flagged.

THE TELL-TALE THRESHOLD TRICK SCAM

Many organizations don't require a receipt to accompany an expense under a certain threshold – often \$25 or \$50. Sneaky employees can try to exploit this loophole by submitting receipt-less expenses for just under the limit, claiming that they lost the receipt.

How to stop it: Leading expense automation solutions contain sophisticated analytics capabilities. These allow finance teams to drill down into expense items and easily spot patterns and anomalies in visual dashboards. Finance teams can use these tools to spot trends such as receipt-less expense submissions, and then investigate these with the individuals.

So, while your employees may think they are smarter than their approvers, they certainly aren't smarter than a sophisticated expense management system.

Barbara Doane is Senior Director at Emburse, a global leader in expense management and AP automation solutions.

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POTENTIAL FARM/RANCH SUCCESSION COORDINATOR TRAINING

This program is for agricultural professionals, service providers and organizational leaders who work with farmers and ranchers on farm succession issues.

Expanding the number of professionals in North Dakota who are available to assist farmers and ranchers to develop a succession plan for their business is one important piece of helping to assure a strong ag economy in the future. NDSU Extension is training professionals to help these families. NDSU is reaching out to agricultural professionals, service providers and organizational leaders who work with farmers and ranchers (owner and successor generations) on farm succession issues. These include attorneys, estate planners, accountants, ag lenders, farm management instructors, financial advisers, retirement planners and anyone who will be working with farmers and ranchers as they transfer their business to the next generation. The goal is to see if there is enough interest in hosting another Farm Succession Coordinator training as there is significant cost to bringing in the International Farm Business Transition team to conduct the training. After the training participants will be designated as certified succession coordinators. NDSU Extension maintains a list of professionals with the certification and will share the list with farm and ranch families across the state. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/prmzc3j> to see the list of coordinators. If interested in this opportunity please contact Crystal Schaunaman at 701-288-5180 or crystal.schaunaman@ndsu.edu

HOW HAS YOUR CPA LICENSE HELPED YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

My CPA license has helped in my career in many ways. My current position requires a CPA license. The continuing education requirement keeps me informed of relevant changes to the professional standards. This has been very beneficial whenever I changed positions. Being a CPA has opened other doors for me that would not have been available without my license. When I became a CPA, I wanted to demonstrate my commitment to the profession by getting involved in a volunteer capacity. I have had the privilege of serving on many CPA-related boards and committees including NASBA, the AICPA, NDCPAS and North Dakota State Board of Accountancy. The friendships I have made & support I get from my colleagues are invaluable.



Faye Miller

Faye Miller has spent her career working in industry and currently is the chief auditor of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. She was elected director-at-large of NASBA's 2021-2022 Board of Directors. Miller been a member of NASBA's Administration and Finance, Audit, Relations with Member Boards, Communications and CPE committees. In addition, she has served as NASBA Central Region Director and chaired NASBA's Audit and Communications committees.

Miller previously served on the North Dakota CPA Society Board of Directors as President and chaired the CPE and Industry committees and is also a past board member of the North Dakota State Board of Accountancy. She has also served on the AICPA Board of Directors, AICPA Council as a member-at-large, and member of the AICPA Business & Industry Executive, Audit, Political Action committees and the BEC subcommittee.





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AICPA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY APPLICATIONS WANTED

The leadership academy is scheduled for Oct 23-27, 2022 in Durham, NC. The academy exposes the next generation of CPAs to strong leadership ethics and service while providing them with the strategies to forge relationships, to expand their competencies and empower them to become a leader within their organization, community, and the CPA profession.

The CPA Society will sponsor the conference fee plus travel expenses up to \$500 for a ND candidate who is accepted. Applications are due by May 31, 2022. Apply online at [AICPA.org](https://aicpa.org)

NEW MEMBER BENEFITS RECENTLY ADDED

Your membership just became more valuable! Get access to discounts on office supplies from Office Depot, rental cars from Avis and Budget and laptops / technology products from Lenovo.

Explore all the benefits that come with your ND CPA Society membership on our website: ndcpas.org

2022 SOCIETY AWARDS

Nominate someone exceptional today! The Society is looking for nominees for the following awards:

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD

This award is to recognize long-standing Society participation. The recipient must be a CPA and retired (not employed full time, and must be 60 or older). Generally the award will be presented to a CPA who has been actively involved over a number of years. To nominate or apply for life membership, simply prepare a brief recommendation letter and email it to the Society office, mail@ndcpas.org. Nominations due May 15.

THE MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

This award is available to recognize significant contributions in community service or within education, or service to the CPA Society. Recipients must be a CPA and a Society member. Nomination forms are available at ndcpas.org/awards and due July 31.



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