Pictured Above - Exam Passers attending the 2023 Annual Convention

AICPA FALL COUNCIL

By Clarence Sitter, ND Council Representative

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IN THIS ISSUE

The AICPA Council met in Pasadena, California on October 18 and 19 for its annual fall meeting. Your North Dakota delegation consisted of Robert Dosch, Brittany Dunn, Randy Heller, Sherre Sattler and Clarence Sitter. The meeting focused on updates in three main areas of our profession: 1) Pipeline Challenges & Opportunities; 2) Tax Issues; and 3) Artificial Intelligence.

As is tradition with all AICPA Council meetings, it started with Barry Melancon (President/CEO of AICPA & CIMA) and Sue Coffey (CEO – Public Accounting of AICPA & CIMA) giving an in-depth summary of the state of the profession. They highlighted some of the work that is being done to tackle our profession's recruitment and retention of CPAs (Pipeline Project), noted that the three top advocacy issues right now involve the PCAOB, DOL and Government Auditing, and discussed the transition around the new CPA exam that will start in January 2024.

The AICPA shared that the PCAOB is being really aggressive right now from everything to standards setting agendas to enforcement resolutions to a lack of willingness to compromise to increasing the number of inspections. Deficiency rates seem to be increasing which is leading firms to question whether or not they want to be doing work for public companies.
The self-governance peer review process that our profession utilizes is indicating that the quality of work is improving in many areas (i.e. employee benefit plans). However, the profession is continuing to wait for the DOL to issue its final audit quality study to confirm that the quality of our profession's work in specialized areas is improving.

The lack of governmental auditors and firms providing governmental audit services is making it very difficult for small municipalities and government bodies to complete its reports to the public in a cost effective and timely manner. The AICPA is conducting focus groups and developing best practices materials in the next few months to assist in this challenge through a joint working group with the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers. The AICPA also shared that OMB has a proposal out for comment to change the single audit threshold from $750,000 to $1 million which should provide some relief.

The most interesting data the AICPA shared was around compensation for accounting professionals, how it compared to other professionals and the impact it is having on our pipeline of CPAs. The most recent Department of Labor information indicates that the median annual compensation in 2022 for STEM professionals was $98,000 compared to accounting professionals at $78,000. Another study that was published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers survey compared the median average starting annual compensation in 2022 for graduates in engineering was $75,000, graduates in business was $62,000, and graduates in accounting was $50,000.

Pipeline Project Update
An update on the AICPA's Pipeline Acceleration Plan was shared which includes various initiatives aimed at promoting the accounting profession, raising awareness of careers in accounting, and assisting those pursuing a CPA license. The AICPA shared a lot of data that indicated lots of work is needed to address the recruitment of accounting students, getting accounting students to sit for and pass the CPA exam and also retain CPAs once they are in the profession.

The most significant initiative in the plan is the Experience, Learn, and Earn (ELE) Program which is continuing to be developed by the AICPA and NASBA. This program integrates education and work experience, enabling students to earn up to 30 educational credit hours while employed. Tulane University is set to pilot the ELE program in 2024, with more than 100 CPA firms expressing interest in participating. There was good discussion regarding the

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MEET OUR PRESIDENT
BRITTANY DUNN, CPA

Current Position: Tax Partner and Dealership Industry Leader at Eide Bailly

What is your background as a CPA? I started in public accounting at Eide Bailly, fresh out of college, 15 years ago. When I accepted the position as a tax intern, I remember telling my father that "I wasn't going to do people's taxes the rest of my life!" Wow, was I ever wrong! What I did understand, though, was that it was a good opportunity to gain experience and they were paying $17/hour! What I did not understand that this career would be more than just "doing people's taxes." By the end of my internship, I had learned so much more about what this career really is and the vast number of opportunities that a career as a CPA could provide, and I have not looked back.

What are the biggest challenges facing the accounting profession today? The CPA profession's biggest challenge is our pipeline shortage. The next generation of "would be" accountants have challenged those industries vying for their talent to adapt and change and provide them with the careers that meet their interests and needs. That not only means a career that has career advancement and rewarding pay, but also, and maybe more importantly to some, the opportunity to do work that interests them and integrates with their life goals, whether that may be from a financial perspective, family perspective or social impact perspective. The good news is that I believe the CPA profession can compete for that talent because we can provide opportunities that meet all those needs, but we have not done an adequate job telling that story, yet. The CPA profession has some growing and adapting to do to catch up to other industries, like technology and finance, which have moved more quickly and illustrated more clearly why they should be the career of choice for the next generation of talent.

You have a free weekend. What are you doing? I love music, especially live music, so hopefully you would find me at a concert. I also like to relax by reading, shopping, playing piano or messing around with my flowers out in the yard.

Tell us about your family: I live in West Fargo with my two children Rocco and Raleigh, who are 9 and 6.

What excites you most about being on the Society Board of Directors? The biggest reason I am involved in the CPA Society is my belief that it is our responsibility to participate in our profession to continue to make it successful. There are challenges, like the pipeline issues addressed earlier, that will not fix themselves. It is up to us to step up and help to address these challenges. By being part of the Society Board of Directors, I have the opportunity to take action and become part of the solution, side by side with other great professionals that I can learn a great deal from, and that is exciting.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

HARRIS WIDMER (POSTHUMOUS)

Harris was a founding partner of Widmer Roel, CPAs & Advisors. He joined the Society in 1965 and served on 8 different committees. Harris became a member of the Society's Board of Directors in 1973 and soon became President in 1977. He also served three 5-year terms on the North Dakota State Board of Accountancy, including as its president. As a member of the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA) he served on the Taxation and Small Business committees, as well as a 3 year appointment to the AICPA Council.

PETE HOISTAD

Pete has been a member of the Society for over 40 years. He also served on the Peer Review Committee from 2009 - 2012 and was a Trustee for the ND CPA Society Foundation from 1999-2001 along with many other Committees. Pete was a Shareholder with Brady Martz in Grand Forks. He served on the North Dakota Board of Accountancy for 5 years from 2013 to 2018.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

TAMMY GERSZEWSKI, CPA

The Making a Difference Award is to recognize contributions made by a society member in such areas as community service, education or the CPA Profession. Tammy Gerszewski, qualifies in all of these areas. As a Clinical Associate professor for the UND Accountancy Department, Tammy is known as a tough, yet well liked, professor. She has been awarded the UND CoBPA Meritorious Teaching Award, CoBPA and the Milton E. Larson Teaching Excellence Award, Dept of Accountancy.

She has been a longtime volunteer of the Society, serving on following committees: Convention, Membership, Nextgen, Nominations, Public-Relations and the Strategic Planning. In addition has also she served on the Society Board from 2019-2021. Currently, Tammy is a member of the ND State Board of Accountancy.

As part of her service commitment at UND, she has served on the Accounting & IS Dept Scholarship Committee and as a Faculty Advisor for several groups. She also served on the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee for 3 years.

Her service to her community includes serving on the Board of Directors for Spectra Health. She also served as Lay Director/ member of St. Michael's Finance Council.

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Hometown: Fargo, ND

Alma Mater / Degree: University of North Dakota, Bachelor of Accountancy

Current Job / Company / Location: Partner – Transaction Advisory, Eide Bailly (Fargo)

Employment History / Background: I've been with the firm for 11 years, straight out of college. I started in the audit practice and transitioned over to our transaction advisory group a little over 5 years ago.

Any current Professional/ Community Activities: Member of the AICPA Student Recruitment Committee & volunteering with Junior Achievement

What was your first job? Range Attendant at Edgewood Golf Course

What inspired you to become a CPA? My professors at UND. They were instrumental at making it known how important obtaining that license was not only to your career but also to uphold the profession.

What I like about the Society: I enjoy all the different events and the ability to meet so many wonderful people. I also appreciate all the effort the Society puts in towards advocacy for our profession that a lot of times can go unnoticed but is of utmost importance.

What would surprise people about me: I am double jointed!

Tell us about your family: I have a wife, Elise, who is also a CPA, and we have two cats, Birdie and Freddie Mercury.

What do you like to do in your free time? You'll find me on the golf course quite a bit in the summer, otherwise traveling with Elise, and relaxing at home with our two kitties.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

The Society has been doing a lot of surveying lately. We are still in the process of gathering your opinions on pipeline issues and the 150-hour requirement to become a CPA. More to come on this as we collect information.

In July we sent out a survey to members to gather some data about the newsletter and social media. We also took the opportunity to ask some general questions. We had a 21% response rate to the survey.

Here are some of the results:

- Facebook is the most used social media, followed closely by snapchat and Instagram. YouTube and LinkedIn are also widely used.
- 55% like having something physical to hold rather than viewing on a screen
- 91% try to read the newsletter when a new issue comes out and 93% find the newsletter content engaging
- 44% felt that not much is lost with virtual meetings

When asked about what type of content we should add some suggestions included profiling our retired members, emerging technical skills and practice specialization examples. Members also asked for more information on the Board of Accountancy updates and information on standard changes.

Threats

When asked what threats you saw for the profession, over 60% of the comments surrounded the pipeline of new CPAs coming into the profession. The next concern was artificial intelligence with about 20% of the comments. Other threats included threats to licensure, universal licensing, government regulation and political issues. Cybersecurity, less in-person interaction with clients and keeping up with technology also were mentioned.

Opportunities

When asked what opportunities there are for the profession, artificial intelligence and new technologies were the top mentions with about 39% of comments mentioning these two areas. Another common response for opportunities, with about 24% of comments, revolved around the profession's reputation as being a trusted advisor. Several commented that with added complexity and technology there was more need for consulting services and the analytical capabilities of CPAs. Many noted new opportunities for expanded services and reduced competition. Other areas listed were improved wages and more work life balance as well as opportunities for remote work.

What can we do better?

When asked how we could better serve our members we saw comments about continuing to help support the pipeline, offering CPE, and advocacy efforts. We also learned that there are still a lot of people who confuse us with the Board of Accountancy! Just a reminder that you report your CPE and are licensed through the Board of Accountancy. We are happy to help answer questions when possible but the Board is located in a different office with different staff.

We are incorporating the survey results into action plans for the Society and staff. We also feel the responses enforced our priorities in the areas of the pipeline and improved communication to members.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. If you disagree or want to add your thoughts - please send me an email or give me a call!

Sherre Sattler
Executive Director

Continued from page 1 - AICPA Fall Council

150-hour requirement, mobility and substantial equivalency during a roundtable discussion where feedback was gathered from those in attendance through polls and feedback sheets that we were asked to complete. The AICPA had a third party (Convergence Coaching LLC) lead this discussion and also has formed a National Pipeline Advisory Group of various CPAs to help shape the Pipeline strategies. More information will be provided in the spring during the regional meetings from this group.

The Pipeline plan also addresses firm culture and business model challenges to address the retention of CPAs. The profession is seeing the greatest amount of turnover in professionals with 3-5 years of experience, specifically those in public accounting firms. The AICPA's "Transforming Your Business Model" project focuses on five key areas: strategy, talent, service offerings, technology, and governance with resources located at https://www.aicpa-cima.com/resources/landing/transform-your-business-model.
The AICPA provided updates on various other aspects of the plan including the following notable items.

- A 30-Hour Communication Campaign is developed that provides resources such as videos and blogs to help students make the most of their final credit hours.
- NASBA has extended the CPA exam credit rule period from 18 to 30 months, easing the transition for candidates.
- Work continues on many specific strategies for high school and college engagement including adding accounting into the Advanced Placement Business Principles course starting in 2025; reaching 100 AICPA Academic Champions by the end of 2023; conducting the second annual Accounting Opportunities Experience Week in November 2023; continued advocacy efforts on including accounting as a STEM career pathway.

Tax Issues
Many of the presentations touched on the challenges businesses are having with submitting their claims for the Employer Retention Credit (ERC). They noted that the IRS issued a moratorium on processing any more claims until after December 31 in early October – an unprecedented announcement based on history. The best thing we can do right now is to continue to be knowledgeable and be advocates for clients. The IRS also announced a withdrawal program on October 19 that allows clients to back out of the process if they felt like they didn't have a valid claim without incurring any penalties. The AICPA also indicated that the IRS will be announcing a settlement program for valid claims in the ERC process. Not much is known about the possible settlement program at this time. For the most up to date information on this topic, utilize the resources on the AICPA's ERC Resource Library at https://www.aicpa-cima.com/resources/toolkit/employee-retention-credit-guidance-and-resources.

Several of the speakers also discussed how the AICPA is advocating for an extension on the implementation of the Beneficial Ownership Interests (BOI) compliance that the IRS is scheduled to implement beginning January 1, 2024. Studies have shown that currently 90% of the businesses in the U.S. are not aware of the BOI compliance and it is estimated that 33 million businesses will need to file forms in 2024. While this is an area of compliance that presents opportunities for tax work, accounting firms are encouraged to understand their risks in this specific environment, their capabilities and their capacity. There is a lot of good information and resources available on this topic both on the FinCen website (https://www.fincen.gov/boi) and the AICPA's website (https://www.aicpa-cima.com/resources/landing/beneficial-ownership-information-boi-reporting).

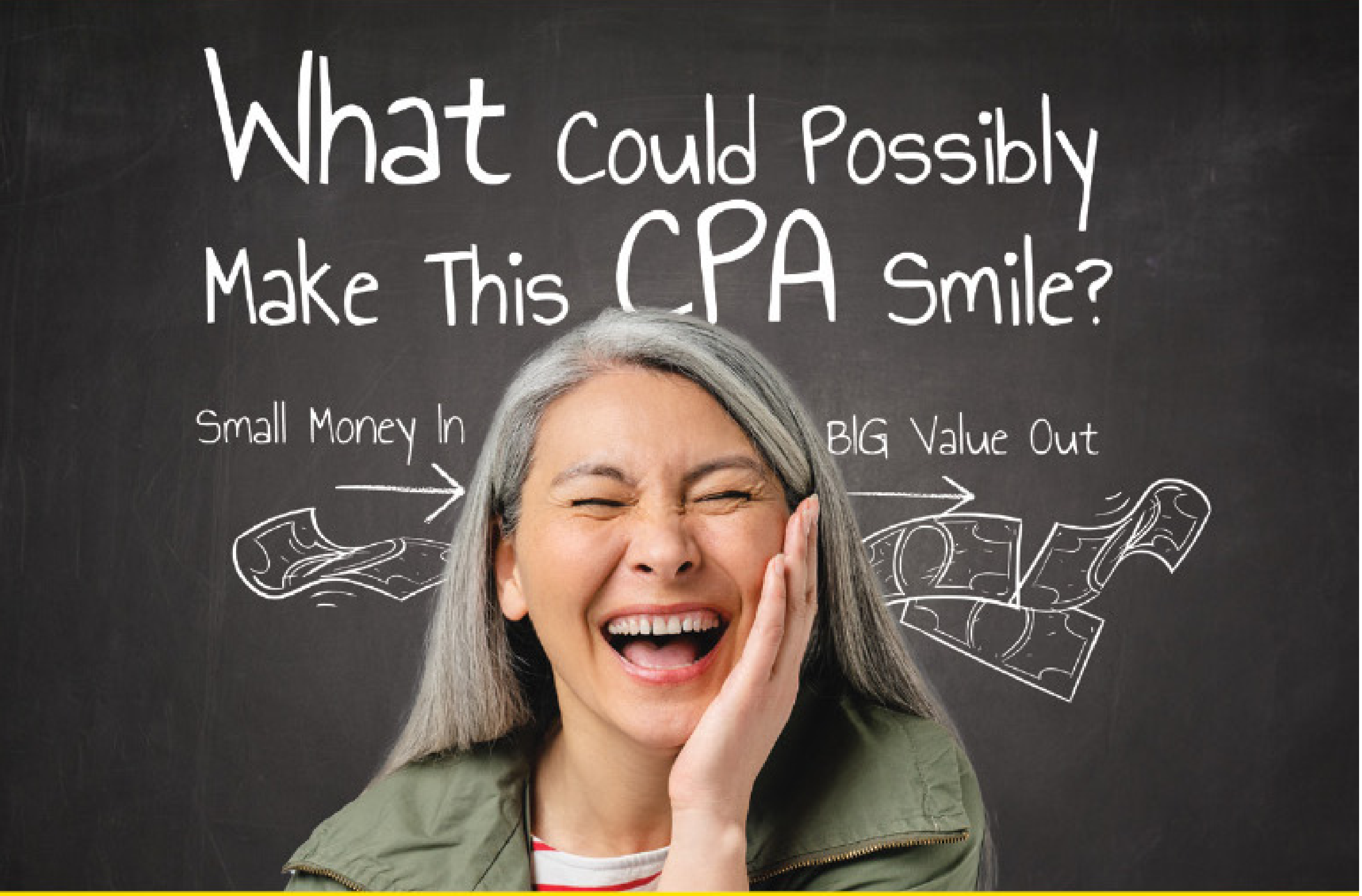
Software for this BOI compliance work is being worked on by at least one company and it is in testing currently with a scheduled availability date of January 1. It is not anticipated to be available any earlier as the IRS still has not issued a final form for the BOI compliance.

A few other topics in the tax area were:

- The IRS has a contingency plan if the government shuts down where 2/3 of its employees would be furloughed and the remaining employees would still continue to process filings, claims and answer phone calls. We all know that it will just take them that much longer to get things done.
- Momentum is building in the advocacy for the SAFE act which would allow extensions to be filed without any work done by relying on a safe harbor payment of 125% of the prior year tax liability. The legislation may be delayed due to the potential government shutdown.
- The IRS announced on October 17 that e-signatures will now be permanently accepted on filings, whereas previously they were only allowed temporarily.

Artificial Intelligence
Paul Zikopoulos, Vice President of IBM's Competitive & Big Data Analytics Team, provided a very interesting presentation on artificial intelligence (AI). He shared where we are at today with this technology and some of the tools that are available. He encouraged that we all need to become familiar with its capabilities, explore what tools are available and start small. Generative AI is going to continue to grow in its use and become more embedded in software that we are already using today. He also stated that generative AI, like most technologies, is going through the adoption curve. Like most technology innovations, we will overestimate how much will happen in the next two years, but we will underestimate what will happen in the next eight years. He also shared that the most common generative AI tasks being done today can be summarized as tasks in following categories: classification; translation; summarization; content generation; named entity recognition and sentiment analysis.

What's Next
The next AICPA Council meetings are a regional meeting in March and the Spring Council meeting in May 2024. I look forward to providing you an update on the topics after that meeting. If you have any feedback or questions, please contact me at your convenience as I will happily pass them along to the AICPA leadership team. Enjoy the rest of the year and the upcoming holiday season!



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MEET OUR MEMBERS

New Retired Profile
REX CARLSON

Brief synopsis of work history: I began my career in public accounting, working with a small firm in Edina, MN and eventually moving to KPMG in Minneapolis. I left KPMG in the fall of 1993 to attend to my needs of my family back in ND. I became a tax partner with Eide Bailly. In late 1998, I was hired by Ron Offutt to join his company and assist with his personal tax and estate planning and the tax strategy for RD Offutt Company. In 2006, I began to also provide management services to other companies, many of which were in the process of preparing for sale. Eventually, I was asked to join Edgewood Group and Edgewood Real Estate Investment Trust as the full-time CFO for each entity. I retired on January 1, 2021 after more than ten years with Edgewood.

Current Residence: Our primary residence is in Fargo, ND

Alma Mater: UND - BBA Accounting - 1983, University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) - Master of Business Taxation - 1990

Any current Community Activities? I serve as the President of the Endowment Fund for the Northern Lights Council of the Boy Scouts of America. In addition, I am a Board member for the Northstar Shooting Sports Club in Walker, MN. I serve on the Boards of John T. Jones Construction and Edgewood Holdings, LLC and also serve on the Board of Directors of the National Finance and Housing Corporation for Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

Favorite thing about your career as a CPA. As a tax consultant, I was always in the "room" for the big transactions and big decisions. I made it a point to stay abreast of changes in tax law and kept in almost daily contact with the businesses and individuals we served so, for me, being a CPA was a very intellectually challenging and communications-oriented profession.

Words of advice for those currently in the profession. Be patient and learn as much as you can. Stay active: Get out with your attorney, banking and client peers and start young. Take every assignment, no matter how insignificant you think it might be. Small seeds can grow into big trees.

Any comments or thoughts on how the Society…. The Society provided opportunities to network with peers and to learn about law changes, etc.

Tell us about your family. I am married to Theresa. Together, we have three children and four grandchildren. We split time among Fargo, Walker, MN and Phoenix, AZ and we're always on the go.

Something most people don't know about me: As the client chief tax lead, I signed the tax returns for the Minnesota Vikings Football Club in the early 1990's.

MAXINE BONDESON

Current Position: CPA with Point CPA in Bismarck

Hometown: Plentywood, MT

Alma Mater/Degree: Montana State University – Bachelor of Science in Business Accounting

Current Professional and Community Activities?

- Treasurer of Central Dakota Human Resource Association
- Treasurer of ND Society of Human Resources
- Past President of Missouri Valley Quilt Guild

Favorite thing about your job? Meeting with clients

What was your first job? Babysitting

Tell us about your family: 3 children, 4 grandchildren

What do you do in your free time: quilting and reading

Favorite / Dream Vacation: Alaskan Cruise & Maldives

Favorite Food: Nachos

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Students and Exam Candidates apply now for the Board of Directors Scholarships! The deadline is December 31st. Ten $1,000 Scholarships will be awarded. Apply at ndcpas.org/scholarships

CONGRATULATIONS Exam Passers

(7/1/2023-9/30/2023)

Leilei Bao	Ankita Katoch	Kimberly Shappell
Rashmi Bapat	Coven Kautzman	Shivam Sharma
Shelby Bjornstad	Rahul Koshika	Geetha Srinivasan
Poojan Desai	Binoy Mamachan	Patrick Stalboerger
Rahmi Elkhatib	Manthan Mehta	Walter Stephens
Klay Frappier	Natalee Monasmith	Rajesh Vaddi
Brooke Goven	Prisha Prabhulkar	Bethany Warbitsky
Deepak Goyal	Sunita Rakholiya	Faith Wolla
Adrienne Harris	Sumanth Rao	

20 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

30 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

40 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION IN PHOTOS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00 - 9:40 am	General Session: Tech Update 2023 |Brian Tankersley	
10:00 - 11:40 am	B1. CPA Firm Update | Brian Tankersley	B2. Now is the Time to Automate! | Steve Yoss
11:40 - 12:40 pm	Lunch	
12:40 - 2:20 pm	C1. Collaboration - Portals, Payments & Signatures | Steve Yoss	C2. Shredding Your Servers and Going Virtual | Brian Tankersley
2:40 - 4:20 pm	General Session: The Best Kept Secrets of Microsoft 365 | Brian Tankersley	

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:00 - 9:40 am	General Session: Ripped from Headlines - Outrageous Tales of Cybercrimes | Brian Tankersley	
10:00 - 11:40 am	F1. The Digital Home | Brian Tankersley	F2. Top Ten Outlook Tips | Steve Yoss
11:40 - 12:40 pm	Lunch	
12:40 - 1:30 pm	G1. Accounting Solutions: Mid-Market | Brian Tankersley	G2. Simplifying & Economizing Your Tech Stack | Steve Yoss
1:40 - 2:30 pm	H1. Kicking it up a Notch with KPIs | Brian Tankersley	H2. Understanding Your Ransomware Risk | Steve Yoss
3:40 - 4:30 pm	General Session: Ten "Must Know" Features in Excel | Steve Yoss	

LOCATION: Virtual

CPE: 16 credits

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:
Full refund if cancellation is received by December 1st. No refunds after December 8. $50 admin fee if canceling less than 10 working days prior to event.

FEES:
Add $50 if registering after Monday, November 28.

$425 Society Member
$475 Nonmember
$325 One Day Society Member
$375 One Day Nonmember

UPCOMING FREE MEMBER WEBINARS

Overcome Overwhelm with Strategic Management

Wednesday, November 29

1.5 Credits with Susan Stuzel

LinkedIn Profile Secrets for CPAs

Tuesday, May 14

2 Credits with Sandra Long

More to be announced!

UPCOMING CPE OPPORTUNITIES

ND TAX PRACTITIONER'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, November 15 - Wednesday November 16 | Live Webinar & Fargo
8:00 AM - 4:45 PM | 17 CPE hours
$375 Two Day In-Person | $350 Two Day Webinar
$250 One Day In-Person | $225 One Day Webinar
Registration deadline is November 1, add $50 after that date for a late fee.

Tuesday, November 15 | Live Webinar & Fargo
5:00 - 7:00 PM | 2 CPE Ethics hours
$ 125 In-Person | $115 Webinar
Registration deadline is November 1, add $50 after that date for a late fee.
Each participant will receive the Federal Tax Workbook which is published by the University of Illinois.

To Register for the Institute:
Go to https://und.edu/conferences/nd-tax-institute/ or call 701-777-4894.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

NOVEMBER WEBINARS

- 13 Staff Training: Advanced Mgmt & Leadership (Level 4)
- 15 2023 Year-End Payroll Update
- 16 Becoming a Great Leader with Situational Leadership Styles
- 20 Don Farmer's Corporate Income Tax Workshop
- 21 Advanced Cost Accounting
- 27 Real World Business Ethics Scenarios
- 28 Self-Motivation, Inspiration & Drive for Yourself & Team
- 30 Federal Tax Update: Individual & Business Current Developments

DECEMBER WEBINARS

- 1 K2's Advanced Excel
- 4 Don Farmer's Individual Income Tax Workshop
- 6 K2's Business Intelligence, Featuring Microsoft Power BI Tools
- 8 Surgent's Taxation on the Mobile Workforce
- 13 Governmental GAAP Update
- 15 Surgent's Choosing the Right Business Entity
- 19 Understanding the New Forms K-2 & K-3

Webinars are added frequently, check the website for additions.

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UPDATES FROM THE STATE TAX COMMISSIONER

Primary Residence Credit
The North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner is working diligently to have the Primary Residence Credit application available on their website by January 1, 2024. To qualify, North Dakota residents will have to provide their name, the address of the property (house, mobile home, town home, duplex or condo) they are claiming as their main residence and show two forms of identification confirming that the address is indeed their place of residence. Unlike the Homestead Tax Credit, the Primary Residence Credit has no age or income restriction. The credit also differs in the fact it is administered by the state rather than the applicant's local assessor or county director of tax equalization. Homeowners will have until March 31 to apply for the credit through the agency's website. The Primary Residence credit was part of House Bill 1158, one of the largest tax relief packages passed in state history during the 2023 Legislative Session.

New Tax Reports
The Office of State Tax Commissioner is featuring three new tax reports on their website. In August, the agency released their very first Monthly Statistical Report, which provides a fiscal overview of the net tax collections for both the current month and overall fiscal year. The net tax collections represent dollars that will be deposited into several local and state funds. Taxes highlighted in the report include Sales and Use Tax, Oil Production Tax, Oil Extraction Tax, Individual Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax. Following the release of that monthly report, the agency developed a property tax Power BI and an Individual Income Tax Power BI for their website. Power BI is a tool developed by Microsoft that breaks down complex data for viewers by utilizing visualizations, such as charts and graphs. The Property Tax Power BI combines more than 8 years of Property Tax data into a single report, and it breaks down the overall tax totals per year as well as county specific details. The report will be updated once a year. The Individual Income Tax Power BI displays the Individual Income Tax numbers by year for cities and counties throughout the state. The report will be updated multiple times a year. Those interested in viewing the reports can find them under the News Center tab at tax.nd.gov.

Business Incentives Guide
North Dakota business owners can learn more about new tax incentives for their profession by reading the Office of State Tax Commissioner's updated Business Incentives Guide. The booklet lists state tax incentives that affect new or expanding industries and is a great resource for accountants and tax professionals who work directly with clients. Several additions were made to the publication after the 2023 Legislative Session. Some of the changes include expanded Renaissance Zone incentives and workforce recruitment credits. The publication is also available under the News Center tab at tax.nd.gov.

Cigar Lounges
The Office of State Tax Commissioner began accepting applications for certifying Cigar Lounges this fall. Upon the passing of House Bill 1229, which enabled cigar lounges to operate in the state after an application is approved by the agency. It also required these types of businesses to have a humidor and be equipped with an exhaust ventilation system. To be approved for a permit through the agency, a business has to prove that at least 15 percent of their annual gross income is generated through the sale of cigars. Applications are available at tax.nd.gov and are due before February 1 of each year.

Brian Kroshus
Tax Commissioner

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shilpa Arudra	Bismarck
Creighton Barrett	Fargo
Katie Beehler	Grand Forks
Skylar Belgarde	Grand Forks
Luke Bullinger	Grand Forks
Bernadette Burch	Phoenix, AZ
Hunter Campbell	Vergas, MN
Sean Davidson	Grand Forks
Margaret Fontana	High Point, NC
Dylan Henry	Fargo
Anna Holloway	West Fargo
Xiaoling Hou	Ottawa, ON
Andrew Hulm	Bismarck
Amber Huseth	Fargo
Christian Johnson	Menahga, MN
Sean Larson	Phoenix, AZ
Olivia Mages	Moorhead
Rebecca Mankie	West Fargo
McKenzie Matteson	Garrison
Ashley Motschenbacher	Fargo
Srinivasan Muniyappan	Chennai, India
Megan Ogle	Berthold
Isaac Patzer	Jamestown
Grace PerDue	Bismarck
Devan Praska	Grand Forks
Jake Purdy	Bismarck
Ross Sandven	Fargo
Mason Schroeder	Bismarck
Tucker Schye	Bismarck
Caitlyn Seng	Grand Forks
Arpit Sharma	Jaipur, India
Manohar Singh	Jaipur, India
Shannon Smith	Fargo
Scott Sorvaag	Fargo
Bikki Thakur	Kolkata, India
Katrina Thompson	Fergus Falls, MN
Alec Tolson	Fargo
James Ulvog	Williston
Maxine Wagner	Fargo
Kim Wahl	Fargo
Roxanne Woeste	Bismarck


PAYMENT RECEIVED
YOUR FIRM LOGO HERE
Client Invoice #0123-A
Your Client
**** **** **** 9995
***
TOTAL: $3,000.00
VISA
AM EX
eCheck
DISCOVER
POWERED BY CPACHARGE
PAY CPA
Get started with CPACharge today
cpacharge.com/ndcpas
866-327-0321
CPACharge is a registered agent of Synovus Bank, Columbus, GA., and Fifth Third Bank, N.A., Cincinnati, OH.
AffiniPay customers experienced 22% increase on average in revenue per firm using online billing solutions

CLASSIFIEDS

North Dakota Practices for Sale (with gross revenues): Reduced- Southeastern ND CPA $905K; Southwestern ND $430K; Southeast ND (within an hour of Fargo) $335K. East Central ND Practice $740k; Coming Soon - Fargo Area Practice $300k; For more information call 800-397-0249 or view listing details and register for free email updates at www.APS.net.

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR PRACTICE? Accounting Practice Sales is the leading marketer of tax and accounting practices in North America. We have a large pool of buyers, looking for practices to purchase. We also have the experience to help you find the right fit for your firm, negotiate the best price and terms and get the deal done. We welcome the opportunity to talk to you about our risk-free and confidential services. For more information, call Trent Holmes at 800-397-0249 or email Trent@apsholmesgroup.com.

Fargo North Dakota CPA Practice for Sale.
Gross Revenue $360,000. Call 701-237-6650.

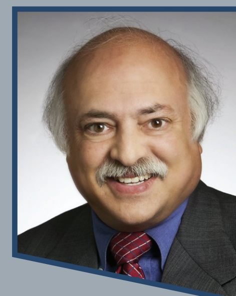
ETHICS CORNER
The Case of Cavalier Graft

Skrym Shaw runs a small CPA firm in Cavalier, North Dakota. Skrym and his firm have been known to take quite aggressive tax positions. In fact they publicize this as the “Cavalier attitude”. Just recently Skrym gave his client, the Grafton Graph Company. an aggressive piece of advice: “Put the deduction here instead of where it should go because it is an area the IRS does not audit”

Question: Is this against “ Standards” set out for our profession?

Answer: Yes. The new Statements on Standards for Tax Services were issued by the Tax Executive Committee and are effective January 1, 2024. Because the SSTSs were authored by the Tax Executive Committee, a body that promulgates standards, running afoul of them means “standards” are not followed

At SSTS 2.1.8 it says: “A member should not advise a taxpayer to take a tax return position or prepare or sign a tax return reflecting a tax return position that the member knows “a.Exploits the audit selection process of a taxing authority”



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