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Bonnie Stewart stands ready to take on the next chapter as CTCPA's new executive director.

Meet Bonnie on page 6.

A publication of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants



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Editor's Note

A new face around the CTCPA watercooler

The new year will bring a new face to the helm of the CTCPA as **Bonnie Stewart** takes her place as our next executive director. We don't tend to see a lot of major personnel changes here at the CTCPA. Executive Director **Art Renner** was here for 20 years, and his predecessor **Jack Brooks** was here for 32 years before that.

Even at the staff level, when people come to work here and they're a good fit, they tend to stay for a long time. Every year at our office holiday luncheon we hold a "Secret Santa" gift exchange. Traditionally the office newbie opens his or her gift first, and we work our way up to the more tenured staff. We're usually only a few gifts in before we get to the people around the table who have spent 15, 20, or even more than 30 years of their career working with Connecticut's CPAs.

That longevity is a testament to the CTCPA and its members, who continue to inspire us, challenge us, and help us have a good time while doing our best to advance the profession and, to quote Public Affairs Director **Mark Zampino**, "make the world safe for CPAs."

Special thanks to everyone who came out to raise a glass to Art at his retirement reception in December. I can't imagine a more fitting send-off for Art than a night filled with so many colleagues and friends and a huge spread of his favorite Mexican dishes. See photos from the event on page 10.

Art will be enjoying a well-deserved vacation at the beginning of the new year and then will continue to be available to help Bonnie whenever he's needed, answering questions and ensuring the transition is a smooth one.

I know you'll all welcome Bonnie and make her feel at home in true CTCPA fashion. Assistant Editor **Caitlin Bailey O'Neill** and I had the opportunity to meet up with her for a photo shoot and interview a few weeks before her official start date. If you haven't met her yet, she is energetic, fun, and has a rock-solid track record working with the members of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

If you'd like to reach out and introduce yourself to Bonnie, you can get in touch with her at bonnies@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0214. In addition to the official announcement on the page at right, please get to know her a little better by reading our feature story on page 6.



See you next issue,

Kirsten Piechota, Managing Editor

CTCPA Appoints New Executive Director



It's official – the CTCPA has found our next executive director!

We're delighted to announce that Bonnie Stewart is joining the CTCPA staff beginning in early January 2017.

Bonnie succeeds current Executive Director **Art Renner**, who is retiring after 20 years of service to CTCPA. Bonnie comes to CTCPA from the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), where she served as vice president of government and public affairs and general counsel.

"We are delighted to announce that Bonnie will join with the membership and staff of the Connecticut Society of CPAs as we face our future," said CTCPA President **Bob Boudreau**. "Bonnie brings a wealth of relevant experience and talent to our organization, and we're confident she will hit the proverbial ground running in working with the great team we already have in place here at the CTCPA."

The CTCPA Executive Search Committee, headed by Chair **Vanessa Rossitto**, conducted the extensive search process alongside executive search firm J. Morrissey & Company.

"We spent a lot of time with the Search Committee and appointed stakeholders to evaluate the true needs of the Society for the future and identify the profile of the ideal candidate," explained CTCPA member and J. Morrissey Executive Recruiter **Erik Morrissey**. "This 90-day process helped us identify a final slate of candidates and ultimately the selection of Bonnie Stewart."

"I am thankful for this opportunity and excited to join such a well-recognized organization," said Bonnie. "I look forward to working with the board and staff to further the CTCPA's advocacy, community, and educational efforts."

Bonnie joined the CBIA staff in 1988 and has previously held the positions of counsel, associate counsel, assistant counsel, and staff attorney there. She earned her Juris Doctor, Law from the Franklin Pierce Law Center and her Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Relations from the University of Connecticut.

"At the same time we welcome Bonnie, we thank Art Renner for his 20 years of faithful and productive service and we wish him the very best as he enters the next phase of his plans," Bob added. "Under Art's stewardship, we enjoyed many positive accomplishments, including a streamlining of our leadership model, legislative advances, two physical relocations into superior facilities, and a number of meaningful public service campaigns. We're proud of our accomplishments with Art, and he should be proud as well."

Read "Getting to Know Bonnie Stewart" on the next page for more on CTCPA's new executive director.

Special thanks to the Executive Search Committee, who completed the extensive interview process alongside executive recruiting firm **J. Morrissey & Company:**

Vanessa Rossitto, Chair
Partner, BlumShapiro
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Greg Lainas
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Branford

Getting to Know Bonnie Stewart



By Caitlin Q. Bailey O'Neill, Assistant Editor

Hometown: Colchester

Family: Husband Alberto, a welder with the aerospace industry, son Alex, 25, and daughter Amanda, 19

Pets: Two dogs, Killer and Kobe

Favorite movie: *White Christmas*

Favorite book: *Harry Potter* (In order to keep her kids engaged in conversation, Bonnie has always read the books her children read. The *Harry Potter* series, which Alex discovered when he was seven years old, has stayed a favorite.)

The app or website that changed her life: Hopper, which tells travelers when and where to buy plane tickets at the best rate, is a must for the frequent flier.

In the car, she's listening to: A book to teach her conversational Italian, in preparation for an upcoming trip.

When she's not working, she's: Watching lacrosse (New England Black Wolves, Boston Cannons, or high school), reading, hiking, traveling (particularly on adventures like whitewater rafting and ziplining through the forests of Puerto Rico), learning about new things like essential oils, and spending time with her family.

Something people would be surprised to know about her: She's traveled to all 50 states, as have her children, and is bilingual (English and Spanish).

Three words to describe her are: energetic, innovative, and adventurous.

People can find her on: Twitter and LinkedIn (although she dabbles in SnapChat with her kids and nephews!).

While Bonnie Stewart was climbing the ladder from staff attorney to vice president of government and public affairs at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), she was already honing the skills that would eventually make her the fourth CTCPA executive director – and the first female to serve in the position.

She may not have known it at the time, but she was also meeting a *lot* of CTCPA members, which became abundantly clear in the days following the announcement of her new position.

CBIA happens to be housed in the same downtown Hartford building as CohnReznick, so she knew there'd be friendly faces there. She's worked with a number of tax specialists over the years on legislative issues, and knew they were CTCPA members.

After her last presentation to a manufacturing council, though, three people approached her to congratulate her on her new position and share that they were CTCPA members and looking forward to working with her. A board member wrapped her up in a bear hug when he heard of her new position – and followed up by emailing a PDF of the letter he received welcoming him to the CTCPA 31 years ago.

"The fact that people are sharing their stories and are very impressed by the organization, that always makes you feel better when you're leaving one place to go to another!" Bonnie said.

When Bonnie came into the CTCPA office in mid-December for this interview, three weeks before her official start date, she was stunned to hear that she had mail waiting for her. "Already?!" she laughed.

The handful of greeting cards sent to the office, however, has been just the tip of the iceberg.

"The welcome I have received in the last three weeks has been so heartening," she marveled. "I always felt appreciated at CBIA – I rose very quickly, but when the announcement went out, within three days, I had more than 300 emails, text messages, I got Shari's Berries, I got flowers at home, I got phone calls nonstop, I got Edible Arrangements ... From your members who are CBIA members, and from your members I haven't met yet."

"Nobody sends anything in writing anymore, but above my desk, I have one card after another like this," she said, gesturing to the cards fanned out on the desk in front of her. "The well wishes and welcome wishes have been incredibly appreciated."

Climbing the Ladder at CBIA

Bonnie started at CBIA 28 years ago as a staff attorney, and rose to counsel within the first 10 years.

In 2000, an opportunity presented itself in the form of the human resources services department – a department in charge of many educational programs that happened to be facing some challenges. With her background in labor and employment matters, Bonnie was asked to step in.

"I love strategic planning," she shared. "And for that to work, for that to serve the employees well, to serve the organization well, to serve the members well, it has to be a collaboration."

The team was asked to put their heads together to come up with ideas about what the members needed that they weren't doing, what they were doing that the members didn't care about, and what were they doing that could be done "smarter."

"I love strategic planning. And for that to work, for that to serve the employees well, to serve the organization well, to serve the members well, it has to be a collaboration."

Within a year and a half, the department was able to better serve its members and become more profitable.

When asked for her proudest moment with CBIA, however, that financial achievement wasn't at the top of her list.

"Passing the workers' compensation reforms," Bonnie answered without hesitation. "That was a big issue. We had a lot of companies leaving the state in the early 80s, literally citing the cost of workers' compensation. It was sad."

Armed with a "really good team of people" at the Capitol, Bonnie and her CBIA associates joined forces with other businesses and business ►

(continued)

organizations to identify problems with the existing workers' compensation system that they could propose solutions to, got pricing on what it would save by implementing their proposal, drafted the language, and then worked "really hard" to get it passed.

"It was the first time we had sweeping reforms like that within workers' compensation," she said. "It passed in 1993, and workers' compensation rates today are still lower than they were in 1992 as a result of those reforms."

In recent years, Bonnie's focus shifted to member outreach and engagement. She spent a tremendous amount of time on the road meeting members, learning about their issues and priorities and, when appropriate, working to draft, pass, or oppose regulation and legislation. As an attorney with a specialization in tax law, Bonnie often found herself working alongside the CTCPA on issues such as sales tax

on services (most recently successfully opposed in 2015) and mobile workforce legislation. [See page 12 for more on our work on the mobile workforce legislation.]

After years of lobbying at the Capitol, often until 2 a.m., however, Bonnie was ready for a change.

"When this opportunity came up, I thought, oh my goodness, between my advocacy, the community, a lot of the outreach and engagement, and the education, there are a lot of synergies," she said. "One of the things I was told [in the interview process] was that getting out there, raising the profile of the organization was key for me, and I did that for CBIA."

A New Chapter

Once Bonnie settles into her new office and learns her way around, she'll be hitting the road again.

"One of the things I was told [in the interview process] was that getting out there, raising the profile of the organization was key for me, and I did that for CBIA."

"I'm excited to get out, meet the membership, and learn how we can serve them best," she said. "I'm curious to find out if there's a difference between the older people and the younger people ... As much as people say they want to be inclusive, do they want any of those homogeneous groups? Do members in manufacturing want to have manufacturing accountants groups? Do the women want to have a women's get-together? What types of mixed group meetings between members in public accounting and members in business and industry should we have? I want to hear from people."

She plans to start her road trip with public accounting firms in early January, before switching to industry associates (many of whom she knows from her CBIA days) in the thick of tax season.

Just don't look for her for a week in mid-March.

"I'm most excited about a spring vacation!" said Bonnie. "For the last 28 years, I've not been able to take a spring vacation. I can't be on vacation if the legislature's in session. So I'm very much looking forward to that vacation. I told my daughter Amanda, I don't care where I'm going, but in March, during your vacation, we're going away."

If you'd like to introduce yourself to Bonnie and welcome her to the CTCPA, contact her at bonnies@ctcpas.org or 860-258-0214.

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Charitable Contributions Are NOT Considered in Domicile Determinations, According to New DRS Policy Statement

As people plan their annual giving, some may be reticent to give to Connecticut charities or join Connecticut boards in fear that their gift of time or assets may jeopardize their non-Connecticut domicile.

On September 21, 2016 the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) issued Policy Statement 2016(3). The statement reiterates the Connecticut regulation, stating “DRS does not consider charitable contributions in determining whether you are domiciled in Connecticut.”

It goes on to further define contributions to include money, personal property, and uncompensated time.

If an individual comes to Connecticut solely to participate in charitable ac-

tivities (donations of uncompensated time), “the day will not be considered for purposes of determining Connecticut domicile.” Such days will still count, however, for purposes of the 183-day statutory resident test.

Charlie Lenore, Esq., a partner at Day Pitney, worked with the DRS on crafting the policy statement. Charlie considers the clarifying language “very positive for Connecticut charities. It follows the New York treatment of charitable activity and provides certainty.”

The CTCPA thanks DRS Commissioner **Kevin Sullivan** and all those who worked on this policy statement for providing detailed guidance to Connecticut’s charities, citizens, and their advisors.



“DRS does not consider charitable contributions in determining whether you are domiciled in Connecticut.”

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Celebrating 20 years of service

Thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate **Art Renner's** retirement after 20 years of service to the CTCPA! We had a great night of friends sharing memories, enjoying great food (including a Mexican buffet – Art's favorite!), and toasting the man of the hour.



Art (right) with CTCPA lobbyist Craig Leroy of Roy & Leroy.



Attendees sign a commemorative photo collage.

A retirement reception honoring

Arthur J. Renner,
CPA



Art poses with his wife Theresa and other family members.

The CTCPA staff.



The CTCPA past presidents in attendance.



CTCPA member Tracey Golden, a member of the AICPA's governing Council, presents Art with a book entitled "Luck."

Special thanks to the following who helped honor Art during a brief presentation:

John Turgeon, Master of Ceremonies
CTCPA Past President, Partner – CohnReznick

Tracey Golden
Senior Partner – Deloitte, Stamford
Former Member – AICPA Board of Directors
Member – AICPA Governing Council

Terri Polley
President and CEO – Financial Accounting Foundation

John Schuyler
Chairman – Connecticut State Board of Accountancy

Jodi Ryan
Director of Student and Academic Relations –
Institute of Management Accountants



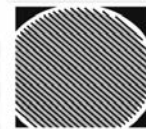
Master of Ceremonies
John Turgeon kicks off
the evening's program.

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Connecticut Organizations, Blumenthal Advocate for Passage of Mobile Workforce Legislation

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) recently joined Connecticut business and CPA profession leaders in calling for passage of legislation to simplify and standardize state income tax collection for employees who travel out of state.

Blumenthal is among 51 Senate sponsors of the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act of 2015 (S. 386), bipartisan legislation that would bar states from taxing workers who spend fewer than 30 days performing duties in that state.

At an event in Hartford in October, Blumenthal was joined by officials



(from left) U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, then-Connecticut Business and Industry Association Vice President of Government and Public Affairs and General Counsel Bonnie Stewart (who has been appointed CTCPA's next executive director), The Hartford Chief Human Resources Officer Marty Gervasi, and CTCPA Public Affairs Director Mark Zampino support the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act of 2015 (S. 386) in Hartford.

The bipartisan legislation would bar states from taxing workers who spend fewer than 30 days performing duties in that state.

including CTCPA Public Affairs Director **Mark Zampino**, The Hartford Chief Human Resources Officer

Marty Gervasi, and then-Connecticut Business and Industry Association Vice President of Government and Public Affairs and General Counsel **Bonnie Stewart**, who has been appointed CTCPA's next executive director.

Connecticut-based employees are required to file income tax returns even if they spend just a few days performing duties in another state – an unfair system that penalizes workers and businesses, and threatens to stifle innovation and collaboration.

“We believe the 30-day threshold is fair, consistent, and predictable, and those are the three basic components of sound tax policy,” Mark remarked, “so we thank Senator Blumenthal for his strong leadership on tax simplification.”

Stressing that travel is a vital part of our business economy – “something we should support, not stifle through arbitrary and conflicting state tax policies,” Senator Blumenthal explained that “workers who meet with clients, vendors, or colleagues out of state should not be required to file multiple state income tax returns – a waste of time and money better spent growing jobs and strengthening the local economy.”

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2017 CPE Calendar

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Date	Title	Express Code	Location	CPE	Member Standard/Early	Early Bird Good Through
January						
1/3	Advanced Individual Income Tax Workshop	AIITW-A	Trumbull	8	\$320/\$285	12/20/2016
1/4	Advanced Individual Income Tax Workshop	AIITW-B	Plantsville	8	\$295/\$260	12/21/2016
1/6	Advanced Corporate Income Tax Workshop	ACITW	Plantsville	8	\$295/\$260	12/23/2016
1/9-11	Professional Staff Growth Level 1	PSG1	Rocky Hill	24	\$595/\$560	12/26/2016
1/11	The Best Federal Tax Update Course by Surgent	BFTU-B	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	12/28/2016
1/12	Getting Ready for Busy Season: A Guide to New Forms, Filing Issues, and Other Critical Developments	NFFI	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	12/29/2016
1/13	Surgent's Advanced Individual Income Tax Return Issues	STRI	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	11/29/2016
1/17	The Complete Guide to the Preparation of Form 1041	1041-B	Rocky Hill	8	\$295/\$260	1/3/2017

WEBINARS Can't leave the office for a seminar? Try a webinar.

Date	Starts	Ends	Title	Express Code	Member/Nonmember	CPE Hours
January						
1/9	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	Detecting and Preventing T&E Fraud	CPAX1653	\$79/\$114	2
1/9	9 a.m.	11 a.m.	Ex-CPA, Ex-County Auditor Kay Rogers Shares Her Downfall	CPAX1654	\$79/\$114	2
1/9	10 a.m.	12 p.m.	Expense Management via the Cloud	CPAX1655	\$79/\$114	2
1/9	12 p.m.	2 p.m.	Increase Revenue with Time Management	CPAX1656	\$79/\$114	2
1/9	1 p.m.	3 p.m.	Internal Control's New Muscles	CPAX1657	\$79/\$114	2
1/9	3 p.m.	5 p.m.	Office 2013 and 2016: New Features Review	CPAX1658	\$79/\$114	2
1/9	9 a.m.	5 p.m.	Surgent's Best Federal Tax Update	BFTU0109	\$239/\$364	8
1/9	1 p.m.	3 p.m.	Surgent's Monthly Tax Update	TUJM0109	\$89/\$124	2
1/9	11 a.m.	1 p.m.	Video Interview with Embezzler Amy Wilson	CPAX1659	\$79/\$114	2
1/10	1 p.m.	3 p.m.	Surgent's Preparing the Decedent Final 1040 Return: Key Elections and Compliance Issues	PDFR0110	\$89/\$124	2
1/11	10 a.m.	2 p.m.	Adobe Acrobat Advanced Tips, Tricks, and Techniques	CPAX1660	\$129/\$179	4
1/11	9 a.m.	11 a.m.	Critical Thinking Skills for Finance and Accounting Professionals	CPAX1661	\$79/\$114	2
1/11	3 p.m.	5 p.m.	Ethics: Information Privacy Regulation Overview	CPAX1662	\$79/\$114	2
1/11	12 p.m.	2 p.m.	Ethics and Trust: Become a Trustworthy Leader	CPAX1663	\$79/\$114	2
1/11	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	Financial Accounting for Related Party Transactions	CPAX1664	\$79/\$114	2
1/11	1 p.m.	3 p.m.	Internet of Things for Accountants	CPAX1665	\$79/\$114	2
1/11	11 a.m.	1 p.m.	Travel and Entertainment Expenses: Review and Update	CPAX1666	\$79/\$114	2
1/12	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	2-Phase Deal: The Perfect Succession or Acquisition Solution	CPAX1667	\$49/\$69	1
1/12	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	Business Tax Update and Recent Developments	CPAX1668	\$79/\$114	2
1/12	3 p.m.	5 p.m.	Ethics Interview: Heinz Ickert CFE Exposes CPA's Misconduct	CPAX1669	\$79/\$114	2
1/12	1 p.m.	3 p.m.	Excel Data Analysis Series: Introduction to BI	CPAX1670	\$79/\$114	2
1/12	9 a.m.	11 a.m.	Excel Formula Expert Series: Financial, Stats, and Math	CPAX1671	\$79/\$114	2
1/12	11 a.m.	1 p.m.	Individual Tax Update and Recent Developments	CPAX1672	\$79/\$114	2
1/12	12 p.m.	1 p.m.	Key Integration Issues that Inhibit a Successful Merger	CPAX1673	\$49/\$69	1
1/12	9 a.m.	5 p.m.	Surgent's Advanced Technical Tax Forms Training: LLCs, S Corporations, and Partnerships	ATFB0112	\$219/\$344	8

Ready to register?

Go to www.ctcpas.org/register, enter the express code to find your course, and register!





MEMBERS-ONLY Meetings

Stay tuned for our next season of members-only meetings coming this spring!



Technology Breakfast Roundtables

Locations rotate • CPE credit not available.

Get expert advice from members of the Technology Interest Group in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. No registration necessary. Members purchase their own breakfasts.

Thursday, January 19

New York Pickle Deli, Rocky Hill • 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 16

Cristy's Luncheonette, Westbrook • 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 15

Riverdale Diner, Shelton • 8:00 a.m.

Show your member pride with the 'Member of CTCPA' logo!

One of the many CTCPA member benefits is the right to display the "Member of CTCPA" logo on your website, stationery, social media profiles, and more.

www.ctcpas.org/logo

This is a members-only benefit, so you'll need to log in.

Peck, Galamgam Talk State Taxes at Torrington CONNECTION

Members **Milo Peck III, JD**, a manager with RSM US and **Cynthia Galamgam, JD, LLM**, a manager with CohnReznick, gave a 2016 state tax update for businesses to a packed room at the Torrington Chamber of Commerce as part of the Torrington CONNECTION series. To request a copy of the handouts from the program, email **Phyllis Roche** at phyllisr@ctcpas.org.





State Tax 360° Conference Draws Sell-Out Crowd

It was a full house at the CTCPA Education Center for the annual State Tax 360° Conference, which focused on taxation in the virtual economy, DRS collections, new state considerations, a post-election political snapshot, and more. Participants heard from DRS officials including Commissioner **Kevin Sullivan** (pictured at left) and other local experts.



INTEREST GROUP Meetings

IRS Working Together Conference Convenes IRS, Tax Preparers



Almost 100 CPAs and enrolled agents seized the opportunity to meet and greet IRS representatives at the IRS Working Together Conference. The one-of-a-kind program, held at the CTCPA Education Center in Rocky Hill, provided updates and insider tips from IRS personnel and tax practitioners. The program continues to promote the positive, ongoing relationship between the tax practitioner community and the IRS.

Whether you're just looking to explore a new niche or you're an expert in your field, CTCPA interest groups are a fantastic way to expand your network, get answers ... and have a little fun in the process.

Federal Income Taxation

Member in Action



Jon Collett

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 • 8:30 a.m.
CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill
K-1 Hedge Funds
Presented by: **Jon Collett**, CPA and
Robert Richardt, CPA, CohnReznick

Trust, Estate, and Gift Taxation

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 • 8:30 a.m.
CTCPA Education Center, Rocky Hill
**Federal and Connecticut Estate Tax Audits:
Prevention and Cure**
Presented by: **Paul L. Bourdeau**, JD, LL.M.,
Cummings & Lockwood and **Barbara Collins**,
Department of Revenue Services

Learn more and register for these programs
at www.ctcpas.org/interestgroups.



Did you know?

- ✓ You can join most interest groups at any time.
- ✓ You can attend any open interest group meeting to try it for yourself.

Mingling & Merriment




The New and Young Professionals Holiday Party

A crowd of 180 new and young professionals celebrated the season in style at the ninth annual Mingling & Merriment holiday party at the Society Room of Hartford on December 8. The flagship event featured networking, a fun “photo booth” and formal company photos, appetizers, wine and beer tastings, a baked potato bar, a pasta station, a carving station, and even a doughnut hole bar with dipping sauces and toppings for dessert. To cap off the evening, each attendee went home with a gourmet caramel-and-chocolate-covered apple or pretzel rods.

This year, for the first time, the party was only open to CTCPA members (who could each bring one guest). We had more than 30 people join in order to attend the event!

Guests tipped their wine servers – members of the New and Young Professionals (NYP) Cabinet – for a great cause: Button Up Connecticut, an organization that distributes new and gently used coats to residents in need all across Connecticut.

NYP Cabinet Chair **Katherine McNair** also presented awards to the CTCPA 2016 New and Young Professionals to Watch: **Sarah Stover** of Edwin R. Muenzner, CPA and Three Rivers Community College, **Mindyleigh Vail** of Nicola, Yester & Company, and **Kenneth Healy** of Diversified Financial Solutions (see page 18 for more).

 View more photos at www.ctcpas.org/photos.



Thanks to the New and Young Professionals Cabinet!

Special thanks to the New and Young Professionals Cabinet members, who plan the Mingling & Merriment holiday party along with many other events throughout the year.

Back row from left: Shelby Dumond (CohnReznick), Mitch Insero (CohnReznick), Kevin Kiss (RSM US), Andy Cole (Grant Thornton), Gregory Zoll (Marcum), Matthew Boughton (PKF O'Connor Davies), Christopher Petersen (Marcum), Timothy Rooney (Filomeno & Company), Evan Kalish (Friedman Kannenberg & Company), Maggie Kish (KPMG), and Victoria Lipsky (PwC). Front row from left: Kate Donovan (Whittlesey & Hadley), Lana Ensling (CohnReznick), Katherine McNair (PKF O'Connor Davies), Katy Showalter (Fiondella, Milone, LaSaracina), and Benjamin Gardner (Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski). Unable to attend were: Alicia Accousti (CohnReznick), Donna Figueiredo (PwC), Kevin Harris (Mahoney Sabol & Company), Paul LaBelle (SS&C Technologies), Michael Maksymiw (Filomeno & Company), Christopher Marion (Barron, Yanaros & Caruso), Stephanie O'Keefe (CIGNA), Kevin O'Keefe (Evolution1), Patrick Ritter (Deloitte), and Alaina Umbach (BlumShapiro).



Thank You, Sponsors!

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J. Morrissey & Company

MSA at CCSU

PKF O'Connor Davies

Post University

Robert Half

RSM US

UConn MS in Accounting

Western New England University



New and Young Professionals Cabinet Chair Katherine McNair (right) presents 2016 New and Young Professionals to Watch awards to (from left) Mindyleigh Vail, Kenneth Healy, and Sarah Stover at Mingling & Merriment: The New and Young Professionals Holiday Party.

Meet This Year's Class of Up-and-Comers!

In this fourth annual CTCPA New and Young Professionals to Watch feature, we're introducing you to three up-and-comers, aged 35 and younger, who have set themselves apart as emerging leaders in the accounting profession.

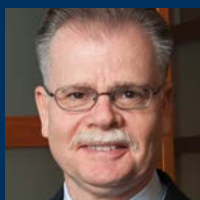
Following a call for nominations this fall, a panel of accounting professionals selected these go-getters based on pro-

fessional or workplace contributions, community service, and CTCPA involvement.

Winners were recognized at the ninth annual Mingling & Merriment new and young professionals holiday party at the Society Room of Hartford on December 8. (See page 16 for more about the event.)

The Selection Panel

Selection of the 2016 New and Young Professionals to Watch was made by a blind review of written nominations by a panel of accounting professionals. Thank you to our panelists!



Paul N. Iannone
Rogin Nassau, Hartford



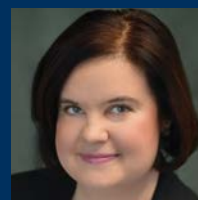
Lany Pfeifer
Barron, Yanaros & Caruso, Wethersfield



Robert Stoddard
KPMG, Stamford



Pamela Weaver
Pamela Q. Weaver, CPA, Burlington



Mary Wisenski
Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina, Glastonbury



▶▶ Mindyleigh Vail, CPA, CGMA

Manager – Nicola, Yester & Company, Glastonbury

“Study for and sit for the CPA Exam as soon as possible. It is a great accomplishment and will be a huge weight off your shoulders.”

The aspect of my work that I find the most challenging is: time management when you are being pulled in all different directions.

The aspect of my work that I find the most fun is: getting to work on and help so many different clients and people.

If I weren't a CPA, I would be: a teacher.

My first job was: a cashier at Stop & Shop Supermarket in Enfield.

Something people would be surprised to know about me is: I enjoy knitting.

When I'm not at work you can find me: reading a book or cooking in my kitchen.

The app or website I can't live without is: OverDrive; it is where I get all my library's audible books for download for my morning commute.

My favorite quote is: “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
– Maya Angelou

My favorite getaway location is: my reading corner.

The word that best describes me is: easygoing.

The most interesting/adventurous thing I've ever done was: climb Mount Washington.

The best gift I've ever received was: my dog Max, a soft-coated wheaten terrier, from my husband.

At Karaoke Night I would sing: “Happy” by Pharrell Williams.

In the four years Mindyleigh Vail has worked at Nicola, Yester & Company, she's certainly made her mark on the firm.

New staff members are welcomed into the firm with a staff training/orientation program co-developed by Mindyleigh and another manager at the firm; once young staff members are welcomed into the firm, she's responsible for supervising and mentoring them on all things accounting (and non-accounting, for that matter!).

One of the staffers responsible for developing a WOW Committee to promote firm holiday events, wellness, and morale, Mindyleigh also schedules and leads the firm's monthly staff meetings.

“Mindy's recent ‘NYPs to Watch’ recognition, hard work, and dedication to the firm is admirable and only adds to the firm's success,” said nominator **Steven Prigionieri**, a partner at the Glastonbury firm. “She is a great role model for the younger staff!”

Outside of the office, the avid reader is often out and about with her Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (HYPE) associates, volunteering for Camp Courant, Habitat for Humanity, and America Recycles. The Glastonbury resident is active with her local Chamber of Commerce and the popular Glastonbury Apple Harvest Festival. She also spends part of her holidays volunteering for the Manchester Soup Kitchen.



This CPA climbed Mount Washington.



▶▶ Sarah Stover, CPA

Tax Consultant – Edwin R. Muenzner, CPA, Franklin
Adjunct Professor – Three Rivers Community College, Norwich

“Surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you. Keep in touch with those who have made a difference for you; study their lives, ask their advice, and emulate the character you admire in them. You become like the people you spend time with.”

The aspect of my work that I find the most challenging is: coordinating all the opportunities that life presents to learn new things, champion improvements, branch out into new specialties, give back in the community, broaden my network, and so much more. There are countless opportunities to grow and give back!

The aspect of my work that I find the most fun is: working alongside clients to help them understand the financial aspects of their business. Business owners handle so many responsibilities; knowing that they trust my advice and that my expertise has made their life a little easier is very gratifying.

If I weren't a CPA, I would be: an interior designer

My first job was: working in my father's construction business

Something people would be surprised to know about me is: I come from a homeschooling family with nine children!

When I'm not at work you can find me: volunteering with friends in the community

The app or website I can't live without is: ...well...I'm still alive...

My favorite quote is: Opportunities don't just happen; you have to make them.

My favorite getaway location is: my friend's home in Vermont.

The word that best describes me is: thoughtful.

The most interesting/adventurous thing I've ever done was: complete a high-element obstacle course.

One of the best gifts I've ever received was: the job offer from my current firm.

At Karaoke Night I would sing: “Day by Day.”

When Sarah Stover, CPA isn't working at Edwin R. Muenzner, CPA in Franklin, you can likely find her at school. Or a number of schools, really.

Sarah got her start in business with an associate's degree from Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) and has spoken on the “Facts and Faces” panel for current students at the school several times. This fall, Sarah stepped in front of the whiteboard for the first time at TRCC as an adjunct professor teaching basic accounting. She also serves on the school's Business Advisory Board.

“I love hearing my students say, ‘It's so easy when you explain it on the board!’” Sarah said. She spends countless extra time mentoring, tutoring, and advising all of her students, remarked nominator **Ed Muenzner**.

When she's not in front of her students' desks, she's behind one herself. Sarah is just a few classes away from finishing her master's in taxation degree from the University of Hartford – with a 4.0 GPA.

“Sarah is a brilliant, humble team player with a can-do attitude,” Ed wrote. “Her work ethic raises the bar of excellence for other staff members as she is a mentor and teacher to others.”

Sarah also enjoys spending time with her eight(!) siblings, attending CTCPA's new and young professional programs, and serving on the Community Accounting Services Board of Directors.



Sarah (middle row, center) and her eight siblings.



▶▶ Kenneth Healy, CPA

CPA – Diversified Financial Solutions, PC,
Naugatuck and Southbury

“Having an accounting background opens up many different avenues you can pursue. Try to find out early on in your career which path keeps you excited to go to the office every day, and spend your time working in that specialty.”

When nominator **Janet Walker** talks about NYP to Watch Ken Healy, she’s speaking from experience. After all, Ken has worked for her at Diversified Financial Solutions for 15 years! He started working part-time at the firm in high school, returned for summers throughout college, and is now a CPA at the firm.

“Ken is a very conscientious co-worker and take-charge employee with a calm demeanor and a real asset to Diversified Financial Solutions, PC,” Janet wrote. “He mentors and develops new employees and is always willing to assist anyone within the firm.”

“He’s also dedicated to the community and is involved in a number of community organizations,” she continued.

That’s an understatement – Ken’s community service titles run the gamut from president of the St. Francis School Foundation to deputy treasurer of the Naugatuck High School Alumni Association.

This year, Ken chaired the St. Francis School Foundation’s annual appeal and raised money to replace 11 exterior doors and install a video security system to take advantage of matching funds offered through the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, to better protect students, teachers, and faculty members from possible threats and hazards.

Ken also volunteers his accounting skills for the United Way of Naugatuck and Beacon Falls and the Naugatuck YMCA – the latter of which honored him with the 2014 Robert Whittemore (Unsung Hero) Award.

The aspect of my work that I find the most challenging is: identifying solutions for small businesses that not only eliminate inefficiencies or improve business processes, but will actually be implemented and utilized.

The aspect of my work that I find the most fun is: determining the applicability of rapidly changing pending and approved tax laws and regulations for my clients and planning with them to minimize the tax impact to their families and businesses, while focusing on maximizing profitability to help them meet their short- and long-term goals.

If I weren’t a CPA, I would be: an attorney.

My first job was: working as a basketball referee and scorekeeper.

Something people would be surprised to know about me is: in my free time I manage and invest in rental properties.

When I’m not at work you can find me: fixing up rental apartments.

The app or website I can’t live without is: Pandora.

My favorite quote is: faith, family, friends.

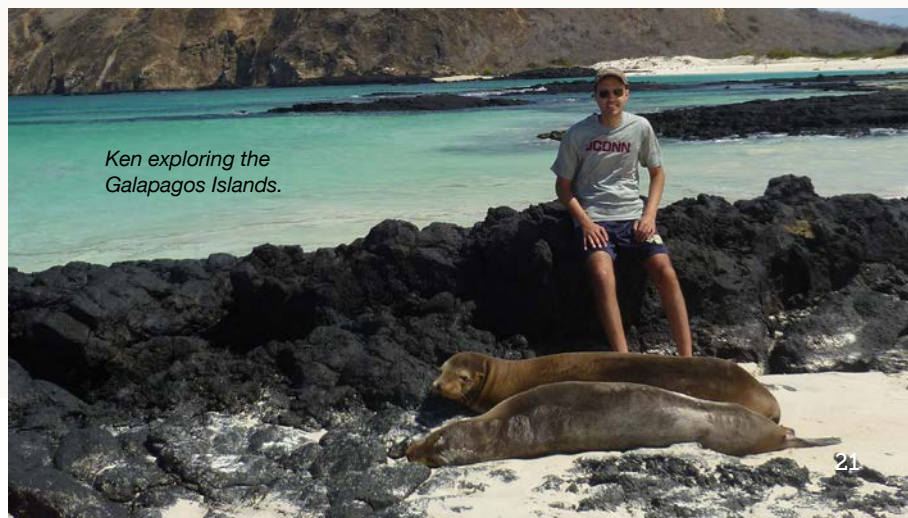
My favorite getaway location is: Wildwood, New Jersey. My father is from a large family and they have been going there annually since before I was born.

The word that best describes me is: determined.

The most interesting/adventurous thing I’ve ever done was: stayed on a boat for a week while exploring the Galapagos Islands.

The best gift I’ve ever received was: a gold pocket watch that was owned by my great-grandfather and passed down to my grandfather, then to myself.

At Karaoke Night I would sing: Frank Sinatra.





Firm Moves and Promotions

Send your news of firm moves and promotions to Assistant Editor **Caitlin Bailey O'Neill** at caitlinb@ctcpas.org. Headshot photographs will also be published as space allows.

Member in Action



Jeffrey W. Bliss

Jeffrey W. Bliss was promoted to manager at Burzenski & Company, PC in East Haven. He has been with the firm for 12 years.

The Bethel-based firm of **Equale & Cirone, LLP** and the Bridgeport-based firm of **Friedberg, Smith & Co., PC** have combined their practices to form **CironeFriedberg, LLP**. **Anthony W. Cirone Jr.**, former managing partner of Equale & Cirone, and **David M. Zieff**, former managing principal of Friedberg, Smith & Co., will serve as co-managing partners of the combined firm. CironeFriedberg has more than 40 staff and eight partners.

Member in Action



David J. Grindle

David J. Grindle joined Simione Macca & Larrow as a principal. He specializes in accounting, auditing, advisory, and tax services for businesses and individuals, providing services to manufacturers, distributors, real estate professionals, and service providers.

Alpha Financial Group, LLC in Rocky Hill has acquired **Delucia & Company, LLC**.

Bailey Murphy + Scarano in Branford is now **BAILEY SCARANO**. The Bailey family has been providing accounting services for three generations. The firm is under the leadership of **David Bailey** along with partners **Andrew J. Errato**, **Dominic Scarano**, **Michael Bailey**, and **Christine Gromala**.

UHY Advisors and **UHY LLP** acquired **Pratesi, Salemi & Company LLC** and the valuation firm **Brentmore Valuation Advisors**, located in West Hartford. The acquisitions mark a return to Connecticut for UHY, which last maintained a practice in Hartford in 2010. All 10 associates of Pratesi, Salemi & Company LLC and Brentmore Valuation Advisors are expected to continue in their roles. The firm's office will remain at 18 North Main Street in West Hartford.

Charlie Smith announced the formation of **The Innovative CPA Group**. The firm, which will be located at 35 Nutmeg Drive, Suite M275 in Trumbull and at www.innovativecpagroup.com, will perform tax and accounting services with a specialization in real estate.

New and Young Professionals Leadership Conference Engages, Inspires

This CTCPA-designed conference specifically addresses the skills that new and young professionals need to become successful leaders in the accounting profession including networking, communication, team building, and more.



"I walked away with meaningful ideas."

"Very helpful and relevant to my job!"



"I enjoyed meeting so many people."



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CCSU

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Member News

Send your news to Assistant Editor **Caitlin Bailey O'Neill** at caitlinb@ctcpas.org. Headshot photographs will also be published as space allows.

Professional Activities



Brent Wargo

Brent Wargo of GitlinCampisePrendergast, with offices in West Hartford, Vernon, and Springfield, has been selected by Wolters Kluwer, CCH for the Emerging Leaders Program and as a result participated in the 2016 User Conference held this past October in Washington, DC. Brent is one of 20 tax and accounting professionals from across the nation selected to participate in a variety of sessions. Participants of the Emerging Leaders Program are recognized for "exceptional teamwork, being innovative contributors, and for adding to their firms' overall value on a variety of levels."



Joe Bazzano

Joe Bazzano, a principal with Beacon Exit Planning in Hartford and Bazzano & Rosenbloom in Hartford, recently gave a presentation on business exit planning at the National Electrical Contractors Association Convention in Boston, MA and at the Independent Electrical Contractors Association in San Antonio, TX, both in October. Joe also wrote an article published in *Roofing Contractor Magazine*, "A Landmine in Your Business Exit: The Buy/Sell Agreement."



John Mezzanotte

John Mezzanotte, partner-in-charge of Marcum's Greenwich office, spoke with BioSpace.com about international tax considerations for pharma companies.

Honors and Awards



Erum Randhawa

Erum Randhawa, a senior manager with BlumShapiro in West Hartford, was one of 25 CPAs under age 40 recognized by the AICPA's Standing Ovation program for their contributions to the areas of forensic accounting and business valuation. The young CPAs were honored in November at the AICPA 2016 Forensic and Valuation Services Conference in Nashville.

Members in the Media

Marcum's article series in *Construction Accounting & Taxation* continued in October with a focus on public/private partnerships, by Construction Group Leader and New Haven Office Partner-in-Charge **Joseph Natarelli** and Chief Construction Economist **Anirban Basu**.



Tom Wood

Tom Wood, an audit manager with Whittlesey & Hadley in Hartford, wrote the November 15 column, "Succession Planning for Nonprofits: The Best Time to Start Thinking About It Is Now" for BusinessWest.com, the business journal of Western Massachusetts.



Ryan Sheppard

Ryan Sheppard, a partner with Knight Rolleri Sheppard CPAs in Fairfield, wrote "Partnership Abandonment: Why It Still Works and What to Watch Out For" in the October issue of the *CPA Journal*.



Lainas Gives Career, Networking Advice on *Improv Is No Joke* Podcast

CTCPA Past President **Greg Lainas**, senior vice president and division director at Robert Half Management Resources in Hartford, recently appeared on the podcast *Improv Is No Joke: Helping Business Leaders Become More Effective Communicators by Embracing the Principles of Improvisation*. The program is

hosted by **Peter Margaritis**, a CPA and CGMA who met Greg when he taught an eight-hour CPE seminar for CTCPA last year.

"Whether you're a student looking for your first job or a professional who hasn't had to look for a job in over 20 years, Greg has a lot of really useful information," said Peter.

Find a link to listen to the podcast at www.ctcpas.org/Lainas or look for Episode 22 of *Improv is No Joke* on iTunes.

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Save money on popular events in Bridgeport, from concerts to sports.



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Member Snapshots

We're looking for your snapshots of interest to your fellow CTCPA members! Items submitted should relate to Connecticut's professional accounting community. Send your submissions to Managing Editor **Kirsten Piechota** at kirstenp@ctcpas.org.

Filomeno & Company Celebrates 50 Years in Business

Filomeno & Company in West Hartford recently celebrated 50 years in business with a cocktail reception and a tour of the New Britain Museum of American Art for more than 200 guests.



Pictured at the event are Filomeno & Company team members (top row, from left) Tim Rooney, Anthony DeLucia Jr., Mike Maksymiw, Mark Piatkowski, Tina Faggaini, Dominique Senah, (middle row, from left) April Schaefer, Anne Harney, Kat Plourde, Ruth Brown, George Thomson, (bottom row, from left) Tom Filomeno, Judie Saunders, Julie Castro, Mary-Anne Baldassarre, and Giustina Lamoureux. Not pictured are Tracy Gibbons, Pat Small, Chris Nadeau, Aish Patel, Ozal Ajmal, Kelsey Gaudet, and Kristen Sopolak.



Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski Participates in Thanksgiving Basket Collection

Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski partners and Kiwanis Club members **Mike DiPiro** (left) and **Chris Conley**, along with firm staff, participated in the annual Thanksgiving turkey basket collection for families in need in Middletown.

BlumShapiro Thanksgiving Campaign Provides More Than 2,300 Bags of Food



Volunteers at the BlumShapiro Thanksgiving Food Basket Campaign bagging event included (from left in right photo) Christian Community Action Executive Director Rev. Bonita Grubbs, BlumShapiro Chief Marketing Officer Tom DeVitto, BlumShapiro Shelton Office Managing Partner John Zinno, and Christian Community Action Director of Development John Noonan.

Just before Thanksgiving 50 BlumShapiro volunteers, their families, and friends joined Christian Community Action (CCA) to prepare 2,300 bags of food for distribution to New Haven seniors and families in time for Thanksgiving

Day. The annual BlumShapiro Thanksgiving Food Basket Campaign has provided more than 10,000 Thanksgiving meals to individuals and families served by CCA.

Borgida & Company Holds Annual Food Drive



(from left) Borgida & Company employees Laura Young, Gary Willard, and Maria McEvoy load food donation in preparation for delivery to the Manchester Area Conference of Churches Food Pantry.

Manchester's Borgida & Company recently held its 11th annual Fall Food Drive to help the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) Food Pantry. Along with more than 1,000 pounds of food, the firm and its clients donated more than \$750 in monetary contributions as well. On the day that the firm made its delivery, the pantry had stocked up 50 families.



FML Battles It Out in Annual 'Tax vs. Audit' Football Game

Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina recently held its annual staff flag football game, complete with a tailgate party catered by Big Green Truck's pizza truck. After an intense battle, returning champions Team Tax maintained their title and bragging rights.

CTCPA, Fairfield County Bar Association Co-Sponsor Event with DRS Commissioner Kevin Sullivan

Connecticut Department of Revenue Services Commissioner **Kevin Sullivan** recently spoke to CPAs, attorneys, and their associates on “Current Developments and Hot Topics in Connecticut Tax Law” at a joint program sponsored by the Fairfield County Bar Association and the CTCPA. Attendees enjoyed networking and lunch before the program, held at Giovanni’s in Darien.



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CPAs Head Back to School for Interactive High School Program

Newington High School Business Education Teacher **Ally Miller** knew she had some myths to dispel with her accounting class.

“Since all we have been doing are debits and credits, they think all accountants are hidden in a back room crunching numbers,” said Ally.

On November 10, she brought 13 accounting professionals from all walks of financial life in to work with her 26 students. Students interviewed their mentors-for-a-day on everything from college and advice to a typical day in the office before introducing their mentors to their peers.

With career discussions behind them, the students got down to business. They’d previously played Monopoly and prepared accounting records for their real estate businesses, which their peers had audited to identify errors and “fraud.” This time, however, the “real-life” CPAs audited their records, and the students had to articulate why and how they’d made decisions they had!

The volunteers were tapped again a month later, when they stepped into the role of “the banker.” The students needed to practice their business email etiquette to answer a number of

the banker’s questions; the accountants then “graded” the emails on content and professionalism.

“Students who are normally quiet were highly engaged in conversations, the students for whom accounting comes easy were challenged with higher level discussions, and key messages from the professionals truly resonated with the students,” Ally continued.

“The accountants I spoke with were very informative and truly let me explore the career and all of the fascinating things they do on a day-to-day basis,” added student **Danielle Marino**.

CTCPA Membership Manager **Alicia Strong**, who helped coordinate volunteers for the program and was on hand that day to capture it, was also thrilled at how the day unfolded.

“It was great to see the students connecting and learning from our mem-

bers,” she said. “You could tell that not only were the students excited to have CPAs look over their work, but the CPAs were happy to do it.”

Thank you to our members who volunteered their time for this program!

Tim Rooney, Filomeno & Company

Steve Fuller, BlumShapiro

Maggie Kish, KPMG

Greg Lainas, Robert Half Management Resources

Daniel Mauriello, BlumShapiro

Richard Massaro, United Technologies

Donna Figueiredo, PwC

Kristen Palombizio, PwC

Alison Flynn, PwC



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Accountant/Tax Preparer – Brierley, Cadwell & Possidente, LLC. Accountants/tax preparers for growing CPA firm in Guilford. Minimum two years experience. Part-time or full-time, flexible hours. Superior compensation and environment. Please email resume to dcadwell.cpa@snet.net.

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