Connecticut CPA

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State of the CTCPA

Championing Member Success at Every Career Stage

From students and aspiring CPAs just starting out to our most experienced members, this year's State of the CTCPA showcases the exclusive resources, robust network, and innovative programs we're providing to help you and your team thrive. page 18



Mid-Career Professionals

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Students and Aspiring CPAs



A publication of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants



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Editor's Note

Why attend the 2025 CTCPA Annual Meeting? Join us for synergy, celebration, insight, and a scrambled egg bar!

We've heard your feedback and we're bringing a fresh new format for this year's Annual Meeting – join us to meet up with old friends and make new connections as we begin with a morning networking hour over coffee and small bites.

After that we'll move into our inspiring program where we'll celebrate what makes the profession and our organization great as we honor our volunteer leadership and award winners. We'll cap off the program with engaging discussion on local and national economic trends. It's the perfect opportunity to connect, collaborate, and kick-start the day.

We can't wait to see you there!



See you next issue,

duster

Kirsten Piechota, Managing Editor

Official Notice of the 2025 CTCPA Annual Meeting

In accordance with the bylaws, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants will be held on Wednesday, May 14 at 8:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. The election and installation of the 2025-2026 Board of Directors will take place at that time.

The report of the Nominating Committee is as follows:

Mary Manfredi, CPA of General Dynamics Electric Boat, Chair-elect for 2024-2025, will be installed as Chair;

Muhammad Malloy, CPA of CohnReznick LLP for Chair-elect;

Amber Moore, CPA, MSA of Goldblatt Bokoff LLC for Treasurer;

Katherine Patnaude, CPA of PKF O'Connor Davies for Secretary;

Eliot Bassin, CPA, CFE of Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP for Advisory Council Chair;

Kariann McDougall, MSA, CPA of CBIZ, Inc. for Member-at-Large;

Michael Sabol, CPA, CFE, CFF of MahoneySabol for Member-at-Large;

Jennifer Schempp, CPA of Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger, P.C. for Member-at-Large;

Rachel Tressy, CPA, CIA, CRMA of Voya Financial, Inc. for Member-at-Large.

Other nominations may be made in accordance with Section 6.4 of the CTCPA bylaws. The full leadership slate is available at www.ctcpas.org/Nominees and on page 12 of this issue.

Sincerely,

CTCPA Secretary Amber Moore, CPA of Goldblatt Bokoff LLC

CTCPA Annual Meeting



Featuring Keynote Speaker

Jeffrey P. Thompson
Vice President and Economist –
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Research Department

Wednesday, May 14 • Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill

1 CPE Credit • Member Price \$95 • Non-Member Price \$115

Prices will increase by \$10 after May 1.

NEW This Year: Breakfast Networking Hour!

Networking Breakfast: 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Business Meeting and Keynote Speaker: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

We've switched things up this year in response to member requests: a breakfast meeting with a networking hour over coffee and small bites.

Following an engaging and interactive networking hour, we'll conduct our annual business meeting, taking a brief moment to thank outgoing CTCPA Chair **Kevin Lawlor** and welcome incoming Chair **Mary Manfredi** of General Dynamics Electric Boat, elect the 2025-2026 Board of Directors, install our new Advisory Council members, and honor winners of the Jack Brooks Leadership Award and our new CTCPA Impact Award.

Everyone's watching what's happening at the federal level right now, so we're excited to feature an economist from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston as our keynote speaker. Vice President and Economist **Jeffrey P. Thompson** will offer valuable insights into the current economic landscape. CTCPA Executive Director **Bonnie Stewart** will also share the latest updates on our CPA mobility and pathways to licensure legislative efforts designed to help the profession's pipeline efforts.

Register at www.ctcpas.org/AnnualMeeting.

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From the Executive Director and CEO



Your Voice Matters: How Small Actions Make a Big Difference in the Legislative Process

Bonnie Stewart, CTCPA Executive Director and CEO

Change is rarely driven by a single voice – it takes collective effort and a unified message. When it comes to CTCPA's regulatory and legislative efforts, your voice isn't just wanted – it's needed.

As much as I work to push for important proposals and changes, I'm far more effective when backed by our 6,000-member strong community. Your participation strengthens our impact and ensures that our concerns are heard when they matter most.

Advocacy That Works

We've seen time and time again how your voice can drive change, whether it's advocating for extended tax deadlines, adjusted audit thresholds, or streamlined regulations.

When legislators receive messages from a large portion of our membership base, they take notice and strong momentum begins. The best part? Becoming a key player in our advocacy efforts takes very little time to yield significant results.

Simple Ways to Get Involved

Your involvement doesn't need to be time-consuming or complicated – simply spending five minutes to send a message or making time for a short conversation with a legislator can have a profound effect. Here are a few easy ways to engage:

Participate in our VoterVoice grassroots action alerts each time you receive a request. We'll provide you with talking points and a prewritten message to customize, so all you'll need to do is add a bit about yourself and why the issue is important to you and hit "Send Message." You don't need to know your legislators or how to contact them – it's all taken care of by our system.

When your legislators hold a local coffee hour or town hall meeting, take the time to attend. Listen to what your legislators have to say and share your concerns.

Send a note to your legislators introducing yourself. To make it even easier, we can provide you with a template to get started.

If you already have a personal relationship with a legislator, please let us know. Sometimes a quick phone call to a key legislative committee member or leader can make all the difference in moving a proposal forward. In fact, one of our biggest legislative victories last year was secured thanks to a single member who made a phone call to a key legislator he knew personally.

Small, personalized touches make a lasting impression and help our community's voice stand out. That's why we encourage you to participate, even though much of the legislative session unfortunately fall during a very busy time for the profession.

Now Is the Time to Act to Reduce Connecticut CPA Licensing Fees

Our largest legislative challenge this year is our campaign to reduce CPA licensing fees, which is likely to be part of budget negotiations. While we were included in the General Law Committee bill, at press time we were not included in the governor's proposed fee reduction package. To ensure our concerns are addressed, we must actively push for our inclusion in the budget bill. This is an extremely important issue, and with your support, we can influence the final decision.

Now is the time to ask loudly and clearly for CPA licensing fees to be reduced. Consider taking the time to attend your legislators' town hall meetings or make phone calls to their offices to make sure they're aware of this issue.

You can find a link to talking points and a chart comparing Connecticut's astronomically high licensing fees to other states at www.ctcpas.org/Advocacy.

We Work for You – But We Need You, Too

We continue working on your behalf, but for us to be as effective as possible, we need you to stand with us. Your involvement strengthens our advocacy efforts so that together, we can make a lasting impact. Thank you for your support!



A dvocacy U_P date

By Bonnie Stewart, CTCPA Executive Director and CEO

Note: This information was accurate as of press time. Things change quickly during the legislative session. Check www.ctcpas.org/Advocacy for the latest.

Licensing Fees, CPA Mobility, Pathways to Licensure Top CTCPA's 2025 Legislative Agenda

It has been an extremely packed legislative session for Connecticut CPAs as we pursue issues vital to the profession in this budget session, which runs through June 4.

While we have been active addressing proposals regarding artificial intelligence, credit card retention, taxation, and more, three main issues are at the forefront of our advocacy efforts. Please read more and take action to help – your participation is vital to our success.



Check <u>www.ctcpas.org/Advocacy</u> for the latest on these proposals and to contact your legislators using our simple VoterVoice system.

Connecticut CPAs Pay an Exorbitantly High Annual Licensing Fee: Help Us Fight for Fee Reductions

Our top legislative priority this year is our campaign to lower CPA licensing fees. For many, many years, Connecticut CPAs have paid the highest license fee in the U.S. It's not a marginal difference either — Connecticut CPAs pay \$565 annually, nearly five times the national average of around \$97 per year.

There is a severe shortage of licensed CPAs both in our state and nationwide, threatening the availability of licensed, proven professionals to perform vital financial services and protect the public interest. Connecticut's high license fee exacerbates these issues in our state.

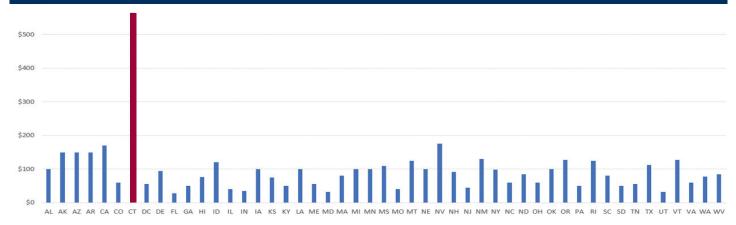
In addition, many Connecticut CPAs who retire choose to give up their licenses rather than maintain them due to the high cost of renewal, reducing the number of licensed CPAs

available to volunteer their services on nonprofit boards and commissions. Younger CPAs are also discouraged from obtaining and maintaining their licenses here, often opting to get licensed in other states if they do not perform attest work.

Thank you to the 400 members who sent 843 messages to Governor Lamont and legislators advocating for the CPA license fee to be reduced earlier in the session. To make sure our concerns are addressed, we need the other 4,600 of you to get involved and continue to actively advocate for our inclusion in the final budget!

Please call your elected officials' offices, attend their town hall meetings, and visit www.ctcpas.org/Advocacy to send messages. It is imperative that we ensure the voice of the profession is heard.

At \$565 annually, Connecticut's CPA license fee is nearly five times the national average.



CPA Mobility, Alternative Pathways to Licensure Proposals Part of Nationwide Movement to Fill Pipeline, Modernize Licensure

As part of our initiatives to fill the CPA pipeline and ensure our state's laws are aligned with the evolving needs of the profession, CTCPA is joining more than 30 states nationwide working to modernize CPA licensure and mobility laws. It is crucial that we work together as a profession to take swift and vocal action in supporting these proposals and advancing them through the legislative process.

We successfully secured the Connecticut State Board of Accountancy's support for our proposals and their request for legislative adoption this session. We are happy to report that our proposals advanced and, at press time, were included in HB 7020, An Act Concerning Certified Public Accountants.

CPA Licensure Pathways Proposal

Our proposal offers three flexible pathways to CPA licensure, expanding access to the profession while ensuring continued integrity of the credential by upholding the core principles of education, examination, and experience. Key benefits include:

- Addressing Talent Shortages by Expanding Access: Traditional requirements create financial and logistical barriers, limiting the supply of qualified professionals amid a growing talent shortage in the accounting industry.
- **Upholds Rigorous Standards:** Ensures all pathways uphold the core principles of education, examination, and experience, maintaining the profession's high standards. The CPA Exam remains the key guardrail that all must meet.
- Aligns with National Trends: To expand access to the CPA credential and attract a more diverse group of candidates, many states across the country are pursuing similar alternative pathways through legislative or regulatory action.

Automatic/Enhanced Mobility Proposal

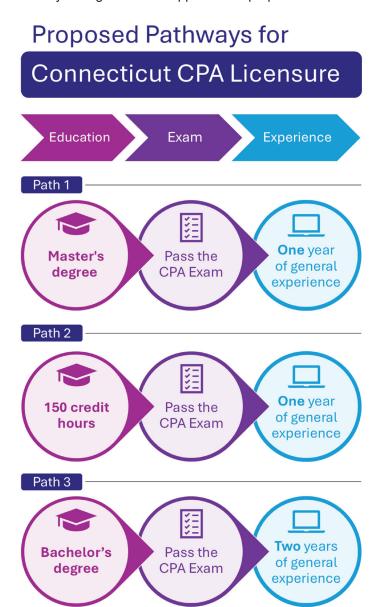
We are pursuing adoption of automatic or enhanced mobility to grant CPAs who 1) are CPAs in good standing in another state and 2) who achieved their license via an accepted Connecticut CPA licensure pathway the privilege to practice here without administrative hurdles. The proposal:

- Minimizes Disruptions as Multiple States Broaden CPA Licensure Pathways: As states across the country transition to alternative pathways to CPA licensure like those proposed in Connecticut, enhanced mobility helps minimize disruptions for CPAs and CPA candidates.
- Works Toward State-to-State Consistency and Access: With automatic mobility already implemented in six states and 30 more including Connecticut seeking it this year, CPAs can avoid the burden of obtaining licenses in each state where they practice. However, these changes require legislative or regulatory action in each state and will take

time. This approach promotes a seamless and stable professional environment, ensuring businesses and individuals can access essential accounting and auditing services, especially as many small businesses and government entities face challenges in finding the support they need.

• Maintains Safeguards and Public Protection: Automatic mobility preserves all existing protections, ensuring that CPAs practicing under this provision comply with Connecticut's laws and regulations. If an out-of-state license becomes invalid, CPAs must cease providing services and must perform certain services, like audits or reviews, through a Connecticut-licensed firm. Additionally, the State Board is authorized to cancel automatic mobility if a state fails to adequately protect consumers.

Visit <u>www.ctcpas.org/Advocacy</u> to access talking points and contact your legislators to support these proposals.





We need your help to make these proposals a reality!

Visit www.ctcpas.org/Advocacy and see how you can spend a few minutes to make a significant difference.

State Taxation Group's Proposals Address Audit Appeals, Bond Premium Amortization

The State Taxation Group brought a number of legislative proposals to the table this year, some for the first time and others as a second effort. The following two proposals were moving forward with public hearings at press time:

- Audit Appeals: Grant taxpayers the right to request that the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Services issue a final decision within 15 days of receiving the request if an administrative tax protest remains unresolved after one year.
- Bond Premium Amortization: Do not disallow bond premium amortization on non-Connecticut municipal bonds; in the alternative, provide a basis adjustment. The current computation method is excessively complex and hinders ease of filing.

When we reach out asking for your support, please be sure to act and reach out to your legislators.

Learn more about these proposals and their legislative progress at <u>www.ctcpas.org/state-tax-2025</u>.



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CTCPA Accounting Scholarship Foundation

Golf Tournament

Monday, July 21, 2025 The Farms Country Club, Wallingford www.ctcpas.org/golf

Join us as we return to The Farms Country Club for a fun day of golf, camaraderie, refreshments, and an afternoon reception while supporting scholarships for the profession's next generation.

Want to help make a great event even better? Join the Golf Committee at www.ctcpas.org/Golf!

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CTCPA Women's Awards



Pictured are honorees (back row, from left) Megan D'Alessandro, CPA of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Destiny Hartmann, CPA of Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP, Hannah Cleary of Ernst & Young, Kaitlyn Baron, CPA of CBIZ, Inc., Erin Jose of Whittlesey PC, Nicole Pelletier, CPA of Whittlesey PC, (front row, seated, from left) Melanie Ballestas, CPA of CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP), LeeAnne W. Creevy of Risk & Regulatory Consulting (an affiliate of RSM), Mary Manfredi, CPA of General Dynamics Electric Boat, and Stacey A. Curran, CPA of Whittlesey PC. Not pictured are Kariann McDougall, CPA of CBIZ, Inc. and Lauren Shugrue, CPA of The Innovative CPA Group, LLC.

View the event photos and meet our winners at www.ctcpas.org/CTCPAWomen.

The 2025 CTCPA Women's Awards celebrated female CPAs and accounting professionals making significant contributions to their organizations and the profession. Thank you to **Beth Costello** of The Hartford for joining us for an inspiring keynote interview with emcee Renee DiNino of WFSB Channel 3.

View photos from the event, read more about each honoree, and watch inspiring videos about how they selected the accounting profession, future plans, and advice to their younger selves at www.ctcpas.org/CTCPAWomen.



Keynote speaker Beth Costello of The Hartford shares advice on leading a team with emcee Renee DiNino of WFSB Channel 3.

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Member-at-Large Jennifer Schempp, CPA Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger, P.C.



Member-at-Large Rachel Tressy, CPA, CIA, CRMA Voya Financial, Inc.

About the CTCPA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors serves as the organization's senior decision-making and policy-making body.

A Nominating Committee of members determines the slate of candidates each year. Elections take place at the CTCPA Annual Meeting.





Chair Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP



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Danielle Wellington, CPA, CIA Member-at-Large Raytheon Technologies

About the CTCPA Advisory Council

During three half-day meetings each year, the Advisory Council serves as a sounding board and source of information for the Board of Directors, brainstorming on the future of the CTCPA and the profession.

The Nominating Committee appoints up to 30 members to the Advisory Council each year. At least half of those appointed are CTCPA group chairs (or their designees). The Advisory Council comprises members spanning diverse professional specializations, demographics, and geographic areas across the state.

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Learn, Connect, Thrive.

Member Meetings



Register and find more at www.ctcpas.org/MemberMeetings.



CTCPA Town Hall Meetings 9:00-10:00 a.m. • Online

Join us for this opportunity to gather with CTCPA Executive Director and CEO Bonnie Stewart and special guests to discuss hot topics and issues affecting the profession.

Wednesday, June 18 Wednesday, July 16 Wednesday, August 20 Wednesday, September 17 Friday, October 17 Wednesday, November 19 Wednesday, December 17



New and Young Professionals Events

TopTracer Golf Outing

Thursday, May 22 • 5:30-7:30 p.m. Chris Cote's Toptracer Range, Southington Members: \$30 • Non-Members: \$40

Choose to play a round of virtual golf, practice your swing, or just be a spectator - we'll have a blast hanging out in our own private bay with fellow members and colleagues.

"Elixer" Event at Elicit Brewery

Thursday, Jul 17 • 5:30-7:30 p.m. Elicit Brewing Company, Manchester Members: \$35 • Non-Members: \$45

Enjoy an included drink and appetizers while connecting with other young professionals at one of our best-attended events of the year.

Cornhole and Corny Trivia Tournament

Thursday, Oct 23 • 6:00-8:00 p.m. Nomads Adventure Quest, South Windsor Individuals: \$25 • Team of two: \$40

Join us for the ultimate cornhole challenge – where the bags are flying, cocktails flowing, and winners "all knowing" ... because just when you think you've perfected your throws, we're tossing in some "corny" trivia to keep you on your toes!



First Annual Member Appreciation Day

Thursday, May 29 • 9:00am - 4:30pm • Online • CPE: 7 hours

We're excited to introduce our first annual Member Appreciation Day! Join us for this virtual event designed to say thank you with seven hours of free CPE on today's most relevant topics. This day is all about learning, growing, and celebrating YOU - our valued member.



Governmental Accounting and Auditing Group Meeting

Discuss developments, regulations, and compliance issues.

Tuesday, April 22 • 9:00-10:00 a.m. • Online



State Tax Group Meeting

Navigate the details of Connecticut tax compliance while building relationships with fellow members and other leaders.

Wednesday, April 30 · 8:30am - 10:00am · Online



TechConneCT Roundtable

Connect with members of the CTCPA Technology Committee for a free exchange of ideas, best practices, and practical applications.

The Tax Talk: Reflect on the Good, Bad, and Ugly Thursday, May 8 • 9:00am - 10:30am • Online



Educators Group Meeting

Discuss hot topics in this candid, conversational group.

Friday, May 30 • 11:00am - 12:00pm • Online



tual Premier Member Coffee Hour

Premier Members have exclusive access to the inside scoop from CTCPA Executive Director Bonnie Stewart! If you aren't a Premier Member yet, learn more and join at www.ctcpas.org/PremierMembers.

Tuesday, June 3 • 9:00-10:00 a.m. • Online

ECTCPA Groups and Committees

Special Interest Groups

Join groups and find upcoming meetings at www.ctcpas.org/Groups.

Connect with colleagues, subject matter experts, regulators, legislators, and more. Whether you're a seasoned professional looking to give back or a young professional just discovering your path, every member is welcome to join these special interest groups.



Accounting, Auditing, Financial Reporting Group

Discuss exposure drafts and enhance relationships with standard-setters.

Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



Cannabis Group

Meet and learn together with others exploring and working in this new hot topic.

Contact: Lisa Bugryn • lisab@ctcpas.org



Chief Financial Officers Group (Exploratory)

Share best practices, industry trends, regulatory updates, and offer professional development opportunities. Contact: April DiFalco • aprild@ctcpas.org



Educators Group

Discuss hot topics in this candid, conversational group. Contact: April DiFalco • aprild@ctcpas.org



Employee Benefit Plans Group

Discuss issues affecting benefit plans, program audits, and employers.

Contact: Lisa Bugryn • lisab@ctcpas.org



Environmental, Social, & Governance (ESG) Group

Discuss and collaborate on sustainability reporting, disclosures, risk management, and more. Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



Federal Taxation Group

Discuss issues and build relationships with legislators and regulators.

Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



Financial Institutions Group

Share trends, regulatory and legislative developments, and new pronouncements.

Contact: April DiFalco • aprild@ctcpas.org



Firm/Company Administrators Group

Connect and learn about best practices and tools to help your organization grow.

Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



Golf Group

Support scholarships/grants by helping plan our annual golf tournament.

Contact: April DiFalco • aprild@ctcpas.org



Governmental Accounting & Auditing Group

Talk FASB, GASB, and single audits with public sector and audit professionals.

Contact: Lisa Bugryn • lisab@ctcpas.org



Internal Audit Group (Exploratory)

Connect with fellow industry members in audit for idea sharing and collaboration opportunities.

Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



Not-for-Profit Organizations Group

Focus on accounting, taxation, and financial reporting for not-for-profits.

Contact: Lisa Bugryn • lisab@ctcpas.org



State Taxation Group

Navigate the regulatory and legislative aspects of Connecticut tax compliance.

Contact: April DiFalco • aprild@ctcpas.org



TechConneCT Roundtable

Ask and answer questions on anything related to technology or software at our interactive roundtables. Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



Trust, Estate, and Gift Taxation Group

Discuss taxation, trusts, gifting strategies, and more. Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



Leadership Committees

Leadership committees have specific membership requirements and appointment procedures. Please contact the staff liaison for more.



Membership Committee

Help the CTCPA with recruitment as well as evaluating member benefits.

Contact: Cindy Panioto • cindyp@ctcpas.org



New & Young Professionals Cabinet

Plan programs and volunteer opportunities for members aged 35 and younger.

Contact: April DiFalco • aprild@ctcpas.org



Peer Review Committee

Stay ahead of changing standards and explore the peer review market niche. *Membership by CTCPA Chair appointment.* Contact: Lynette Lindner • Lynettel@ctcpas.org



Investment Committee

Oversee the CTCPA's investment portfolio and report to the Board of Directors.

Contacts: Bonnie Stewart, Giselle Millado • gisellem@ctcpas.org

Governance Committees

Governance committees are by election or appointment only. Please contact the staff liaison for more.



Bylaws Committee

Recommend bylaws modifications to the Board of Directors and voting members. *Membership by CTCPA Chair appointment.* Contact: Bonnie Stewart • bonnies@ctcpas.org



Nominating Committee

Nominate a slate of leadership nominees and Advisory Council appointees. *Membership by CTCPA Advisory Council election. Contact: Bonnie Stewart • bonnies@ctcpas.org*



Professional Ethics Committee

Investigate ethics complaints and maintain the Code of Professional Conduct. Membership by CTCPA Chair appointment. Contact: Lynette Lindner • lynettel@ctcpas.org



Audit-Review Committee

Recommend and oversee an independent CPA firm attestation engagement. *Membership by CTCPA Chair appointment.* Contact: Bonnie Stewart • bonnies@ctcpas.org



New and Young Professionals



Students and **Aspiring CPAs**

Mid-Career **Professionals**





Championing Member Success at Every Career Stage

From students and aspiring CPAs just starting out to our most experienced members, this year's State of the CTCPA showcases the exclusive resources, robust network, and innovative programs we're providing to help you and your team thrive at every career stage.







Exclusive Resources

Jump ahead of the curve with dynamic information and diverse learning opportunities.

A Robust Network

Fuel meaningful connections and collaborations to enhance personal and professional growth.

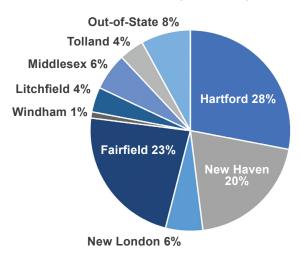
Innovative Programs

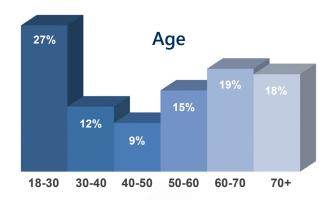
Seize emerging opportunities and elevate success in a rapidly evolving world.

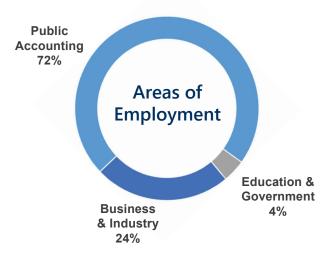
Who are CTCPA members?

Our members work in taxation, accounting and auditing, consulting, financial planning, corporate management, business ownership and entrepreneurship, education, government, and more across Connecticut and beyond.

Location by County







What Members Have to Say

We conducted a member survey earlier this year to identify our top benefits and top issues to address in the future.

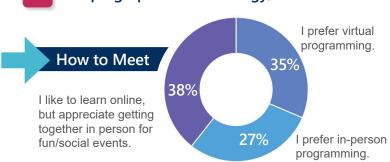
Top Member Benefits

- Advocacy efforts
 State Board of Accountancy, legislative, regulatory
- Communications
 Connecticut CPA magazine, Member eNews,
 Advocacy Updates, special alerts
- Discounts on high-quality professional development
 Webinars, in-person, self-study, etc.
- Committees and interest groups
 State Tax, Federal Tax, Technology,
 Not-for-Profit Organizations, etc.
- Networking opportunities and member meetings

 Special events, Town Halls, roundtables

Top Concerns

- 1 Staffing/recruitment/retention
- 2 Compliance with changing regulations
- 3 Work/life balance
- 4 High cost of doing business
- 5 Keeping up with technology/AI









(left photo) Ryan Sheppard of Rolleri & Sheppard CPAs speaks at Wilton High School, and (right photo) high schoolers learn about majoring in accounting at UConn.

As pipeline issues remain a pressing concern for the profession, we're working to attract candidates to CPA careers and support them on the path.

A strong and diverse pipeline is imperative to future success and growth. Our Pipeline Task Force and Accounting Scholarship Foundation are working to engage tomorrow's accounting professionals.

Inspiring the next generation.

Did someone steer you toward the finance/accounting path when you were in high school? It's your turn to guide a student. We have many opportunities to get involved, and reaching as many students as possible is our goal.

High School Speakers Bureau

Present our customizable slide deck in a high school classroom.

Career Fairs

Set up a table with your branded marketing materials and share information with students.

College Visit Presentation

Share our presentation on the CPA Exam and becoming a CPA to an accounting society or Beta Alpha Psi chapter.



Pursuing alternative pathways to CPA licensure.

This legislative session we are working with the State Board of Accountancy to pursue multiple new pathways to CPA licensure designed to broaden access to the CPA credential by recognizing diverse educational and experience backgrounds without compromising the rigorous standards of the profession.



Awarding accounting grants and scholarships.

The CTCPA Accounting Scholarship Foundation (ASF) provides scholarships to Connecticut high school and college students, encouraging a strong pipeline for years to come. This year, trustees awarded more than \$50,000 to help aspiring CPAs.





The road starts with an accounting major.

Our Pipeline Task Force has identified encouraging students to major in accounting as a critical first step to filling the pipeline. We actively engage with Connecticut high schools and are working to identify even earlier opportunities such as middle and elementary school years.







(left photo) New and Young Professional Gerald Davis of HarperWhitfield serves as a media spokesperson at the CTCPA Day of Giving food drive, and (right photo) new Connecticut CPAs are celebrated at our annual Recognition Reception.

Blaze the path to leadership and forge a professional network in an engaging, supportive environment.







Cultivate connections to grow your book of business or client base.

From referral sources to potential clients, CTCPA programs and groups engage professionals in industry, law, government, not-for-profits, and more.

Jump into groups to learn and lead.

Amplify your leadership skills by serving on a committee. As you learn and grow, you can step up to serve as a group chair or maybe even as a member of our Advisory Council or Board of Directors!

Unlock your potential with volunteer work.

Get matched with a not-for-profit seeking a financial expert to serve on its board of directors, inspire the next generation as a speaker in college and high school classrooms, or help organize a charity drive.



Making a mark at programs and special events.

Our New and Young Professionals and other specialized programs offer leadership opportunities at community service drives, diversity events, networking and educational programs, and fun competition like our dodgeball tournament and virtual golf outing.

Make the most of your membership:

- Find your perfect professional development fit with our curated course collections organized by staff level and career focus.
- Dive in and learn with fellow accountants, architects, attorneys, finance, and insurance professionals in the Connecticut Professionals' Leadership Academy.
- Navigate tax code, share CPA Exam survival tips, and get answers to tough questions in our online community.
- Get one-on-one guidance to navigate any bumps in the road during the CPA certification process.
- Tap into generous discounts on a variety of CPA Exam review courses.







Attendees at this year's Fairfield and Hartford county Attorneys, Bankers, and CPAs (ABC) events enjoy catching up and forging new connections.

Amplify your resources, broaden your reach, and accelerate your organization's growth.

Make the most of your membership:

- Learn from experts on cutting-edge tools and ready-to-implement technology.
- Set yourself apart and gain visibility as a leader on a specialized committee or leadership group.
- Engage in networking and business development in multi-industry programs.
- Join vibrant, topic-specific online communities to get answers to tough questions and swap knowledge.
- Empower emerging leaders on your team to build their skills by joining you at committee meetings or events.



Take advantage of top-rated news and publications.

From regulatory changes and technology to business strategy and management, keep on top of emerging issues and breaking news.



Get insider information and spark change at the State Capitol and beyond.

Ensure your voice is heard on critical regulatory and legislative issues and engage directly with officials on matters vital to you.



Find top-notch training for you and your team.

With a diverse array of educational programs, certifications, and conferences, get ahead in a rapidly evolving world.



Cultivating relationships and collaborations.

From special events to dinners with the Department of Revenue Services to Attorneys, Bankers, and CPAs (ABC) networking events and more, foster the connections you need.







Members make connections and share knowledge at Celebrating Diversity in the Workplace and Management of an Accounting Practice events.

Navigate rapid change, share knowledge, and help shape the future of your organization and the profession.



Sparking connections to grow and give back

Engage with a community of attorneys, bankers, financial planners, legislators and regulators, insurance and not-for-profit professionals, and more – and bring your staff to help them learn the ropes of networking and business development.

Make the most of your membership:

- Forge connections with fellow leaders in public accounting and business and industry at specialized meetings.
- Be the first to know about critical issues with exclusive news updates, Town Hall Meetings, roundtables, and more.
- Boost visibility by listing your firm in our Find a CPA online search engine.
- Tackle pipeline challenges through extensive opportunities to empower emerging leaders to grow and excel.
- Save with the member rate on your firm's peer review.



Tap into leading-edge resources to fuel growth.

Dive into the latest trends in technology, strategic planning, regulation and compliance, expansion of services, and much more to keep you ahead in a rapidly changing business environment.

Share your expertise.

Exchange knowledge and advice as a member of a specialized committee or in our private online community, serve as a member of the Advisory Council or Board of Directors, or serve as a speaker, author, or media source.

Optimize and save on professional development with leveled tracks and an in-house concierge service.

Unlock exclusive member savings on recommended tracks by experience level and bulk credit passes, or use our free concierge service to bring the perfect instructor right to your office.













Thank you to our volunteer leadership!

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Michael Ziebka, CPA Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Budwitz & Meyerjack, P.C.

Thank You, 2024-2025 CTCPA Premier Members!

Thank you to these Premier Members for their commitment to help CTCPA stay strong today and into the future. Learn more and become a Premier Member at www.ctcpas.org/PremierMembership.

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Michael A. Ziebka

Budwitz & Meyerjack, P.C.

Professional Development

Date	Title	Course Code	Member Early/Standard	Nonmember Early/Standard	CPE Hours
5/7	K2's Excel Tips, Tricks, and Techniques for Accountants	EXL-A	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
5/8	K2's Advanced Excel	ADE-A	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
	AHI: Level II – Semi-Senior Staff Training	SSST-24A	\$835/\$835	\$960/\$960	24
5/15	K2's Accountant's Guide to QuickBooks Online	QBO-A	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
5/16	K2's Case Studies in Fraud and Technology Controls	CFT	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
	AHI: Level III – Beginning In-Charge Staff Training	BIC3-24A	\$835/\$835	\$960/\$960	24
<u>5/20</u> 5/20	CTCPA's Employee Benefit Plans Conference Going Out on Your Own: Entity Types and Accounting Methods	EBPWEB	\$279/\$314 \$79/\$89	\$404/\$439 \$114/\$124	2
5/20	Top Ten Questions from Partnership Clients Regarding the Section 754 Election	TAM2 T754	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
5/21	2025 Preparation, Compilation, and Review	KHPCR-A	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
5/21	Complying with the Corporate Transparency Act: A Guide for Client Protection	CTAP	\$79/\$89	\$114/\$124	2
5/21	Understanding Partnership Taxation: Types of Basis, Contributions, and Distributions	PTB4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
5/21	Understanding S Corporation Taxation: Shareholder Basis, AAA, and Retained Earnings	SCB2	\$79/\$89	\$114/\$124	2
5/22	Annual Accounting and Auditing Update	ACAU	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
5/27	Estate and Financial Planning for Generations X and Y	EPXY	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
5/28	Auditing Complex Management Estimates	CME4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
5/28	Performing Effective and Efficient Audit Sampling and Analytical Procedures	EEA4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
5/30	Construction Contractors: Critical Accounting, Auditing, and Tax Issues	CONS-A	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/2	2025 Accounting and Auditing Update	KHAAU	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/2	Al-Driven Ethics and Data Analytics: A Roadmap for Accountants	AIE4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/2	Limited Liability Companies: Losses, Liquidations, Terminations, Continuations, and Sales	ACL4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/2	Surgent's Federal Tax Update	BFT4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/2	Unlocking AI: Fundamentals and Generative AI for Accountants	UAI4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/2-5	AHI: Level IV – Management and Leadership Essentials Training	MLE-24A	\$835/\$835	\$960/\$960	24
6/3	Optimizing IT Systems, Internal Controls, and Governance for Accountants	OIS4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/3	Securing Information Systems and SOC Compliance in the Digital Era	SIS4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/3	Surgent's Individual and Financial-Planning Tax Camp	IFCP	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/4 6/5	CTCPA's Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference Annual Update and Practice Issues for Preparation, Compilation, and Review Engagements	GAAWEB CORU	\$279/\$314 \$279/\$314	\$404/\$439 \$404/\$439	8 8
6/5	How to Settle a Client's Estate	SEAZ	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/6	Postmortem Estate Planning: Navigating Decedent's Estate Issues	PMEP	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/6	Preparing Not-for-Profit Financial Statements	ENFP	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/6	Social Security and Medicare: Planning for You and Your Clients	SSRB	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/9	A Practical Guide to Trusts: Maximizing Financial, Estate, and Asset Protection Strategies		\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/9	Evaluating Fraud Risk in a Financial Statement Audit	ARF4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/9	Surgent's Handbook for Mastering Basis, Distributions, and Loss Limitation Issues for	HMBI	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
	S Corporations, LLCs, and Partnerships				
6/9	The Most Critical Challenges in Not-for-Profit Accounting Today	CNA4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/10	Financial Statement Disclosures: A Guide for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses	GSM4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/10	Forensic Accounting: Fraud Investigations	FAFI	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/10	Introduction to Forensic Accounting	ITFA4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/10	IRS Tax Examinations and Hot Issues	EXI4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/10	Tax Research	TXR2	\$79/\$89	\$114/\$124	2
6/11	Auditing the Complex: Revenue and Leases	ARL4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/11	Evaluating Evidence and Workpapers: Is It Enough?	EEW4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/11	Integrated Estate, Financial, and Asset Protection Plannning: A Breakthrough Approach	IEFP	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/11	Real-World Fraud Found in Governments and Not-for-Profits	RFGN	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/12	Construction Contractors: Non-Revenue and Non-Lease Accounting Considerations	CCACT4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/12	Tax Basis and Other Special Purpose Framework	KHTBSPF4	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/13 6/13	Best Practices in Not-for-Profit Accounting and Reporting	BPN4 IYP2	\$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	2
6/16	Improving Your Profits: Identifying Cost Cutting Opportunities Estate Planning for 2025 and Beyond	EPXX	\$79/\$89 \$279/\$314	\$114/\$124 \$404/\$439	8
6/16	Simply Auditing Not-for-Profits Efficiently	SAN4	\$279/\$314 \$140/\$160	\$205/\$225	4
6/17	CTCPA's Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Conference	AACWEB	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/17	K2's Business Intelligence, Featuring Microsoft's Power BI Tools	BIF	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
6/17	Buying and Selling a Business: Critical Tax and Structuring Issues	SELL	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
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Register for these programs and hundreds more at www.ctcpas.org/Register.

6/18 K2's Excel PivotTables for Accountants	Date	Title	Course Code	Member Early/Standard	Nonmember Early/Standard	CPE Hours
6/18 Professional Ethics for Connecticut CPAs ETHCT \$160/\$180 \$225/\$245 4 6/19 2024 Governmental and Not-for-Profit Annual Update GNAU \$279/\$314 \$404/\$439 8 6/19 K2's Excel Best Practices K2EBP-A \$279/\$314 \$404/\$439 8 6/20 Surgent's Essential Depreciation and Expensing Update TDP4 \$140/\$160 \$205/\$225 4 6/23 Compilations, Reviews, and Preparations: Engagement Performance and Annual Update CRAU \$279/\$314 \$404/\$439 8 6/23 K2's Next Generation Excel Reporting NGE-A \$279/\$314 \$404/\$439 8 6/23 K2's Next Generation Excel Reporting NGE-A \$279/\$314 \$404/\$439 8 6/23 K2's Next Generation Excel Reporting NGE-A \$279/\$314 \$404/\$439 8 6/23 K2's Settics Sand Security Benefits SSR4 \$140/\$160 \$205/\$225 4 6/24 K2's Settics Active Setting Auditions of Practitioners with Small-Business Clients SMBP \$279/\$314 \$404/\$439 8 6/						
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	6/27	The Complete Guide to Preparing Forms 706 and 709	706X	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	8
7/14-17 AHI: Level I – Basic Staff Training BST1-24A \$835/\$835 \$960/\$960 24	6/30	A Complete Guide to the Yellow Book	CGYB	\$279/\$314	\$404/\$439	
	7/14-17	AHI: Level I – Basic Staff Training	BST1-24A	\$835/\$835	\$960/\$960	24

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Spring/Summer Conferences





CFO and Controller Conference

Presented in partnership with the Greater Washington Society of CPAs

Thursday, May 8 • Online • 6 Credits • Express Code: CCCWEB



Employee Benefit Plans Conference

Tuesday, May 20 • Online • 8 Credits • Express Code: EBPWEB



Financial Institutions Conference

Presented in partnership with the Iowa Society of CPAs **Tuesday, May 20 • Online • 8 Credits •** Express Code: FICWEB



K2's Excel Conference

Wednesday, May 21 • Online • 8 Credits • Express Code: KECWEB



Governmental Accounting and Auditing Conference

Wednesday, June 4 • Online • 8 Credits • Express Code: GAAWEB



Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting Conference

Tuesday, June 17 • Online • 8 Credits • Express Code: AACWEB



K2's Technology Conference

Wednesday, Jun 18 and Thursday, Jun 19 • Online • 16 Credits • Express Code: TECWEB



Insurance Industry Conference

Presented in partnership with the Iowa Society of CPAs

Wednesday, June 18 • Online • 8 Credits • Express Code: IICWEB



Not-for-Profit Organizations Conference

Thursday, June 26 • Online • 8 Credits • Express Code: NFPWEB



K2's Artificial Intelligence Conference

Monday, June 30 • Online • 8 Credits • Express Code: AICWEB



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We're pleased to welcome the following individuals to CTCPA membership:

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Austin Atkinson Deloitte

Goul Gamal H. Awad Tax & Accounting US, LLC

Justin J. Basilone CohnReznick LLP

Stephen G. Camarro **Baystate Financial**

Isabelle Chaple **PwC**

Glen D. Chapman Catholic Charities -Archdiocese of Hartford

Tyler Gomes RSM US LLP

Mark Harrison

MH Litigation Valuation & Forensic Services, Inc.

Jason Keller

Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP

Megan Kikosicki PwC

Adeyemi O. Konigbagbe

Newell Brands

Weizhong Luo

SRC, Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

Shannen Ogle

Deloitte

David Peters

CBIZ. Inc.

Matthew Sabol

Deloitte

Logan Vazquez BDO USA, LLP

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Matt Bradley

Bailey Scarano, LLC

Moad Chaddadi

Amideast

Dan Colton

Town of Southbury

Kevin McGee

Brown & Brown Insurance Services

Jack McOsker

Masotti & Masotti

Ryan Murphy

Nicola Yester & Company, P.C.

Erika Rosario

Courtney, Fink & Forbes LLP

Joseph P. Ullman

PwC

Cooper T. Yusko

Baruno, Hannaford, Aurello & Co.

In Memoriam



Lawrence A. (Larry) Sax. a member since March 29, 1955. passed away on January 1, 2025. He served in the U.S. Army from

1951 to 1953, working in the Army Audit Agency. He was a member of the CTCPA for 70 years, including three years of service on the Board of Governors. Larry was a founding partner of Schwartz and Sax, CPAs in 1959, subsequently a partner of Cohen, Burger, Schwartz and Sax beginning in 1999, and ultimately Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger until his passing.



Member News

Send your news to Caitlin Bailey O'Neill at caitlinb@ctcpas.org.

Visconti & Associates, P.C. has announced the admission of Peter Visconti as a member of the firm in the Assurance Division and Margaret Pittala as a member of the firm in the Tax and Advisory Division. The firm is now operating as Visconti Pittala & Associates LLC

SRC, Certified Public Accountants, P.C. in Glastonbury announced two new partners:



John W. Luo

John W. Luo has nearly 30 years of experience in public accounting. His expertise encompasses financial statement audits, review and

compilations, along with tax services for both businesses and individuals across varying levels of complexity. John serves as a certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor, helping clients streamline their financial operations.



Shawn R. Gessay

Shawn R. Gessay has more than two decades of experience in public accounting. Shawn provides assurance and tax services to pri-

vately held businesses and their owners including those in the construction and manufacturing industries.



Bill Claffev

Bill Claffey, a tax attorney and partner at Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP. was quoted in the Hartford Business Journal article, "Proposed

R&D tax credit boost 'a huge win' for CT bioscience firms."



Katie Anderson

Nicola, Yester & Company, P.C. has named Katie Anderson a partner. She has more than 30 years of experience in public and private

counting, working in a wide variety of industries including manufacturing and distribution, retail, nonprofit and governmental accounting, internal audit, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, insurance, and real estate. In addition, Kristin Lombardo joined the firm as staff. She has more than 25 years of experience in public accounting.

CohnReznick LLP announced the election of new partners:



Jay Civitollo

Jay Civittolo specializes in alternative investment vehicles. including private equity funds, hedge funds, and real estate funds. His primary

area of expertise lies in Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) funds, where he provides extensive guidance and support to both established and newly formed funds.



Christopher Nardone

Christopher Nardone focuses on employee benefit plan audits, manufacturing distribution, and retail and consumer with a specialty in dealerships.

Innovative CPA Group (ICG) announced mergers with T.M. Byxbee Company, P.C. of Hamden as well as Robert J. Creamer. P.C. in Ridgefield. The combined firm will offer an expanded suite of accounting, tax, audit, advisory, and consulting services and will operate under the name The Innovative CPA Group, LLC.

Whittlesey has welcomed two new managers:



Dale C. Boutot

Dale C. Boutot is a Senior Tax Manager who brings more than 20 years of experience in public accounting. Specializing in closely held

businesses and their owners, Dale provides comprehensive tax, assurance, and consulting services tailored to their unique needs. He serves on the Board of Directors at Seabury, Inc. and participates in the Watch D.O.G.S. program at Greene Hills School, promoting student success through family engagement.



Sarah O'Neill

Sarah O'Neill is a Tax Manager with more than five years of public accounting experience, including time at a global firm. Sarah specializes in

federal and state tax compliance, serving clients in the consumer products, manufacturing, and professional services industries.



Amanda Bristol

Baker Tilly US, LLP welcomed Amanda Bristol as a Senior Tax Manager. In this role, she will provide tax planning, preparation, and account-

ing services to individual clients as well as businesses in various industries. Amanda is a board member of The Center for Empowerment and Education in Danbury, whose mission is to break the cycle of interpersonal violence through empowerment, education and support services.

The Innovative CPA Group Volunteers in Local Community





The Innovative CPA Group (ICG) gave back to the community through a series of volunteer initiatives. Employees partnered with Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel and Spooner House in Shelton to package and organize goods in preparation for distribution among local families. The firm also collaborated with TEAM Inc. to support their Toys 4 Kids toy drive and supported the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Danbury.

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Help Wanted

Senior Accountant with Auditing Experience - Simione Macca & Larrow LLP is seeking a Senior Accounting Professional with 5+ years experience in auditing to join our certified public accounting firm. Our offices are located in Wallingford and Wethersfield. We are currently hiring in both locations. This opportunity includes working on overhead audits and project closeout audits. You will be part of a team that performs yellow book audits as well as preparing tax returns and working on accounting engagements. The ideal applicant will be a CPA with auditing experience, be able to work well as part of a team, be proficient in Microsoft Office and experience with ProSytem fx Engagement software and Yellow Book experience is a plus. Simione Macca & Larrow LLP offers a diverse clientele, growth potential with fast track to partnership, compensation above our competitors, a 401(k) company match and a flexible work schedule. If you are a dedicated accounting professional, conscious of quality and looking to grow your career please email dawn@maccacpa.com. AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY **EMPLOYER** Simione Macca & Larrow LLP is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities.

General

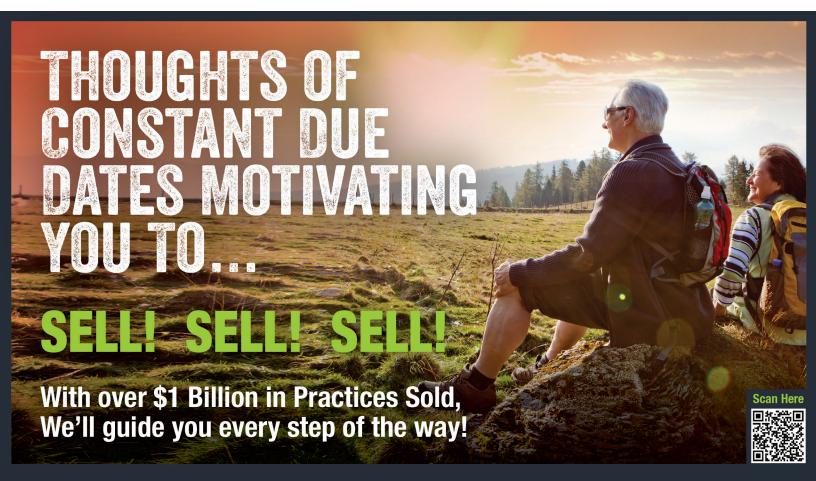
Consulting Assistance Audit Representation, Assistance and Planning. IRS and Corporate Consulting Assignments, available as well. Call. Text or Email for a free consultation, 860,984,5501 Mark@GoBrainStormers.com. Mark A. Hightower, CPA, PC, MST, CFE, CFF.

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