



California Society
of Tax Consultants

CSTC Reporter e-Newsletter

CSTC Newsletter

July 2024

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From the New CSTC President



As I sat down to compose this first President's Message of my term as the new CSTC President, I couldn't help but look back over the last 12 years of my membership in this organization.

It began with the 60 hour CTEC course, which was where I first met the inimitable Ruth Godfrey and Shari Hardy, both of whom became amazing role models for me as I set out on my journey into tax.

At the not-so-gentle prompting of my godfather and mentor Steve Bruce, I joined CSTC. Over the course of the last decade I have met so many incredible people, many of whom I am privileged to call friends. The relationships that I have formed go so far beyond a shared profession, and I know that I have made friends for life with so many of my colleagues.

I am always struck by the generosity of our members, who are so willing to share their knowledge and support. I have had countless mentors from John Jack Murrill, who was so instrumental to my success with his support and encouragement; to

Nikki LeBrun, who nudged me to take the leap and create my first CE presentation; to Rod Coutts, who voluntold me right onto the Society Board. There have been so many over the years that if I listed them all this article would be thirty pages long.

It is without hyperbole that I say that I would not have the career that I have today without CSTC, and for that I am so grateful.

This is a really long-winded way to say that I am so excited for the opportunity to serve this organization that has given me so much over the years. I am so thrilled with our Board for this year, and I know that we are going to do great things.

I look forward to taking this next year to meet as many of you in person as I can! If you are attending our Summer Symposium in just a few weeks (and if you aren't, why not? There's still time to register!) please come find me!

I, of course, have to thank Linda Dong, who has left some pretty big shoes to fill and who I am very lucky to continue to work with as Past President.

Thank you for this opportunity. Let's make this a great year for CSTC!

Shannon Hall, EA



CSTC's 2024 SUMMER TAX SYMPOSIUM



I am so happy to announce that registration for the Summer Symposium is open!

I know, I know, it's kind of late this year, but when you see the line-up of speakers and topics we have this year I think you'll forgive the tardiness.

We have some new faces joining our roster of speakers, and we even managed to drag an old favorite out of retirement for a special guest appearance. This year truly is the MOTHERLODE of tax education!

It's only fitting that we strike it rich at the Silver Legacy in Reno this year, where, if you're anything like me, you'll be pleased to learn that the rooms STILL HAVE COFFEE MAKERS!

Your registration includes not only all of the amazing sessions (you can get all of your CTEC hours in one three-day conference), but also includes our Sunday welcome reception, breakfast each day, lunch-and-learn sessions, and a special exhibitor reception where you can mingle with our fantastic sponsors (there might be themed drinks, I'm just saying).

And hey, did you know that Reno has a bar called Death and Taxes? I think you know where you can find me after the sessions end for the day...

To help you get ready for the Gold Rush, here is me and a handful of the Symposium Committee, Speakers, and CSTC leaders (and also my family) getting in the spirit! Yes, I forced them to do this.

Can't wait to see you in Reno!

I wish you a smooth and prosperous tax season!

Shannon Hall

Summer Symposium Chair

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EVENT AND REGISTER!

Upcoming CSTC Chapter Events

July 3, 2024

1031 Exchanges and Delaware Statutory Trusts
Temecula Valley Chapter In-Person Meeting
2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 9, 2024

Tax Controversy 101
Joint Meeting: San Diego and San Diego - East County Chapter In-Person Event
2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 10, 2024

1031 Exchanges
San Gabriel Valley Chapter In-Person Meeting
2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

CDTFA Preparing for the Sales Tax Audit
Orange County Chapter In-Person Meeting
2 California hour(s) (Topics covering California law issues)
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

Employee Retention Credit Update
San Francisco Bay Chapter Virtual Meeting
2 Federal Tax Update hour(s) (Topics covering new tax law)
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 11, 2024

ETHICS AND SAFEGUARDING TAXPAYER DATA PER WISP
A Joint Meeting with the Palomar Chapter of EA's
North County San Diego Chapter In-Person Meeting
Please note this is a ONE-TIME change of time and location
2 Ethics hour(s) (Topics meeting the ethics requirements under Cir 230)
[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 17, 2024

Tax Implications of Exercise and Sale of Employee Stock Purchase Plans (ESPP) and Restricted Stock Units (RSU)

San Jose Chapter Virtual Meeting

2 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

Audit-Proof Your Schedule C

Inland Empire Chapter In-Person Meeting

2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 19, 2024

Round Table (Part two of a three part series)

Temecula Valley Chapter In-Person Meeting

2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)

1 California hour(s) (Topics covering California law issues)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

Military Tax Provision and IRS Audits

Orange County - South Chapter In-Person Meeting

1 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)

1 California hour(s) (Topics covering California law issues)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 23, 2024

1031 Exchanges Part One and Two

Central Valley Chapter In-Person Meeting

4 Federal Law hours (Topics covering existing tax law)

1 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)

1 California hour(s) (Topics covering California law issues)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 27, 2024

California Collections from Start to Finish

San Jose Chapter Virtual Meeting

2 California hour(s) (Topics covering California law issues)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 29, 2024

Depreciation On It's Entirety

Orange County - South Chapter Virtual Meeting

2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

July 31, 2024

What Tax Preparers Need to Know from Inception thru Dissolution of a Corporation

Wine Country Chapter In-Person Meeting

Please note: Due to the CSTC Summer Symposium, we have moved this meeting to the fifth Wednesday in July.

2 Federal Law hour(s) (Topics covering existing tax law)

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

[Click here](#) to view the CSTC calendar

Beware of Phishing!

How to Avoid Email Scammers

Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information. They may try to steal your passwords, account numbers, or Social Security numbers. If they get that information, they could gain access to your email, bank, or other accounts. Scammers launch thousands of phishing attacks like these every day – and they're often successful. Scammers often update their tactics, but there are some signs that will help you recognize a phishing email or text message.

What is phishing? When scammers (phishing scammers) use ghost/fraudulent emails, texts, phone calls, and remote access attacks to get the unknowing public to share personal information including account numbers, login information, Social Security Numbers, financial information, gain access to your computer or network. They use a number of tools to steal money, identities, or both.

Here are other tips to help safeguard against phishing scammers:

- Be cautious about opening attachments or clicking on links in emails. Many times the fraudulent emails will look like they are from someone you know. Such links can contain malware or ransomware that can lock you out of your computer or worse. A remote attack targets an individual computer or network as the cybercriminal exploits weaknesses in security settings to access the devices. Another line of attack uses malware to download malicious code that gives criminals access to the network. Especially vulnerable are wireless networks, including mobile phones, modems, and router devices, printers, fax machines and televisions that retain their factory-issued password settings. Sometimes, these devices have no protection at all.
- If a person or organization emails you a link, search online for the Website or other information contained in the email to verify it is not a scam.
- Do not respond to emails requesting personal or financial information without picking up the telephone and verifying with the person or entity making the request.
- Keep your security up to date and run periodic deep scans to search for viruses or malware.
- Turn on two-factor authentication for accounts that support it and strengthen passwords.
- **Always check the email address!!! Typically spammers will use a familiar name, but when you look at the email it has nothing to do with that person. That is an easy way to know it is spam.**

Report phishing:

- Report all unsolicited email - including the full email headers - claiming to be from the IRS or an IRS-related function to phishing@irs.gov. If you've experienced any monetary losses due to an IRS-related incident, please report it to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration \(TIGTA\)](#), the [Federal Trade Commission](#), and the [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#). People can also forward the email to your internet service provider's abuse department.
NOTE: You can get help with most tax issues [online or by phone](#).

[What to do if you receive a suspicious IRS-related email \(updated Jan. 19, 2024\)](#)

If you receive an **email** claiming to be from the IRS that contains a request for personal information, taxes associated with a large investment, inheritance or lottery.

1. Don't reply.
2. Don't open any attachments. They can contain malicious code that may infect your computer or mobile phone.
3. Don't click on any links. Visit our [identity protection](#) page if you clicked on links in a suspicious email or website and entered confidential information.
4. Send the [full email headers](#) or forward the email as-is to phishing@irs.gov. Don't forward screenshots or scanned images of emails because this removes valuable information.
5. Delete the original email.

[How do I verify contact from the IRS?](#)

Go to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and search on the letter, notice, or form number. Please be aware fraudsters often modify legitimate IRS letters and forms. You can also find information at [Understanding your notice or letter](#) or by searching [forms and instructions](#). For additional information please see [How to know it's really the IRS calling or knocking on your door](#).

If it is legitimate, you'll find instructions on how to respond. If the completion of a form is required and it's provided by a questionable contact, you should verify the form is identical to the same form on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) by searching [forms and instructions](#). If you don't find information on our website or the instructions are different from what you were told to do in the letter, notice or form, please use the appropriate [online resources](#).

Once you have determined that it is not legitimate, report the incident to [TIGTA](#) and phishing@irs.gov.

[What if I receive a phishing email that is not IRS or tax-related? \(updated Jan. 19, 2024\)](#)

Phishing emails that are not IRS, Treasury and tax-related should **not** be sent to phishing@irs.gov.

If you receive a suspicious phishing email not claiming to be from the IRS, forward the email as-is to reportphishing@antiphishing.org, your internet service provider's abuse department, and to the [Federal Trade Commission](#).

If you receive an **email** you suspect **contains malicious code** or a malicious attachment and you **HAVE** clicked on the link or downloaded the attachment, visit [OnGuardOnline.gov](https://www.onguardonline.gov) to learn what to do if you suspect you have malware on your computer.

If you receive an **email** you suspect **contains malicious code** or a malicious attachment and you **HAVE NOT** clicked on the link or downloaded the attachment, forward the email to your internet service provider's abuse department.

Welcome New CSTC Members!

Central Valley Chapter

Heidi Baxley

San Diego-North County Chapter

Karen Bayliss

San Diego-East County Chapter

Laurence Brandon

Central Valley Chapter

Jonathan Cronan

Orange County- South Chapter

Annamaria Dugan

Central Valley Chapter

Frankie Edwards

San Francisco Bay Chapter

Zdenka Kolarik

San Jose Chapter

Marla Lambert

Central Valley Chapter

Chao Lee

Central Valley Chapter

Maria Cecilia McLintock

San Diego-East County Chapter

Roger Newman

San Diego-North County Chapter

Mike Song

Inland Empire Chapter

Kari Stewart

Sacramento Chapter



LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Legislative Advocacy

CSTC has been the leading Association in supporting legislation to provide protection for our profession, to support our profession, and to enhance our profession. CSTC continuously leads our industry through legislative advocacy, educational opportunities, and professional inclusion.

CSTC works closely with a Legislative Consultant to keep an eye on important bills that would affect taxpayers and small business owners.

[Please click](#) here to view the bills that CSTC is currently monitoring.



NEWS FROM THE IRS

[Treasury and IRS announce final regulations on how to report and pay the corporate stock repurchase excise tax](#)

IR-2024-179, June 28, 2024 – The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued final regulations that provide taxpayers and tax professionals with guidance on how to report and pay the 1 percent excise tax owed on corporate stock repurchases.

[Treasury, IRS issue final regulations requiring broker reporting of sales and exchanges of digital assets that are subject to tax under current law, additional guidance to provide penalty relief, address information reporting and other technical issues](#)

IR-2024-178, June 28, 2024 – The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today issued final regulations requiring custodial brokers to report sales and exchanges of digital assets, including cryptocurrency.

[IRS: Marijuana remains a Schedule I controlled substance; Internal Revenue Code Section 280E still applies](#)

IR-2024-177, June 28, 2024 – Until a final federal rule is published, the Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers that marijuana remains a Schedule I controlled substance and is subject to the limitations of Internal Revenue Code.

[IRS provides tax relief for taxpayers impacted by severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding in Mississippi; various deadlines postponed to Nov. 1, 2024](#)

IR-2024-176, June 27, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today tax relief for individuals and businesses in Mississippi that were affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding that began on April 8, 2024.

[Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report includes recommendations to Congress and IRS](#)

IR-2024-175, June 26, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee (ETAAC) released its 2024 annual report today with a total of 12 recommendations – three to Congress and nine to the IRS.

[IRS sending settlement offer letters in July to certain taxpayers who participated in Syndicated Conservation Easement transactions](#)

IR-2024-174, June 26, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced the mailing of a time-limited settlement offer for certain taxpayers who participated in Syndicated Conservation Easements (SCE) and substantially similar transactions that are under audit in the IRS's Large Business & International and Small Business and Self-Employed divisions.

[National Taxpayer Advocate issues mid-year report to Congress; highlights filing season challenges and focuses on strategic priorities](#)

IR-2024-173, June 26, 2024 – National Taxpayer Advocate Erin M. Collins today released her statutorily mandated mid-year report to Congress.

[IRS statement as part of the resolution of Kenneth C. Griffin v. IRS, Case No. 22-cv-24023 \(S.D. Fla.\)](#)

IR-2024-172, June 25, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service sincerely apologizes to Mr. Kenneth Griffin and the thousands of other Americans whose personal information was leaked to the press.

[IRS releases revised draft Form 6765, Credit for Increasing Research Activities, following public comment](#)

IR-2024-171, June 21, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced the release of draft Form 6765, Credit for Increasing Research Activities, also known as the Research Credit.

[Retirement plan distributions: IRS provides guidance on certain exceptions from 10% additional tax for emergency personal or family expenses and for survivors of domestic abuse](#)

IR-2024-170, June 20, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today issued Notice 2024-55, which provides guidance on exceptions to the additional tax when taking early permissible retirement plan distributions for emergency personal expenses and for victims of domestic abuse.

[IRS enters next stage of Employee Retention Credit work; review indicates vast majority show risk of being improper](#)

IR-2024-169, June 20, 2024 – Following a detailed review to protect taxpayers and small businesses, the Internal Revenue Service today announced plans to deny tens of thousands of improper high-risk Employee Retention Credit claims while starting a new round of processing lower-risk claims to help eligible taxpayers.

[Treasury, IRS release guidance on the prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements for increased credit and deduction amounts under the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

IR-2024-168, June 18, 2024 – The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service issued final regulations today on the prevailing wage and apprenticeship (PWA) requirements related to increased credit or deduction amounts for certain clean energy incentives, enacted as a part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

[Treasury, IRS issue frequently asked questions regarding educational assistance programs](#)

IR-2024-167, June 17, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today issued frequently asked questions related to educational assistance programs.

[IRS announces new steps to combat abusive use of partnerships; agency's focus intensifies as new guidance closes loopholes worth tens of billions](#)

IR-2024-166, June 17, 2024 – As part of ongoing efforts to focus more attention on high-income compliance issues, the Internal Revenue Service announced today a new series of steps to combat abusive partnership transactions that allow wealthy taxpayers to avoid paying what they owe.

[IRS updated careers website aims to better connect with job seekers; part of larger agency recruiting efforts to serve taxpayers, the nation](#)

IR-2024-165, June 13, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced the updated IRS Careers website is live and ready to connect job seekers with IRS opportunities.

[IRS warns against scams targeting seniors; joins other federal agencies to recognize special awareness day](#)

IR-2024-164, June 12, 2024 – As part of continuing efforts to protect the senior community, the Internal Revenue Service today issued a warning about the rising threat of impersonation scams.

[2024 IRS Nationwide Tax Forum: Educational seminars, special events announced focusing on tax security, scams, practice management and beneficial ownership information](#)

IR-2024-163, June 12, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today announced the continuing education agenda for the 2024 Nationwide Tax Forum featuring 45 seminars on a wide array of topics that will help tax professionals serve their clients.

[IRS has options to help people who missed the April filing deadline](#)

IR-2024-162, June 10, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today highlighted a number of options available to help taxpayers who missed the April deadline to file their 2023 federal income tax return.

[IRS reminder: June 17 estimated tax payment deadline fast approaching](#)

IR-2024-161, June 10, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers whose income is not subject to withholding that the second quarter estimated tax payment deadline is June 17.

[IRS: West Virginia storm victims qualify for tax relief; various deadlines postponed to Nov. 1](#)

IR-2024-160, June 7, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today tax relief for individuals and businesses in parts of West Virginia affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flooding, landslides and mudslides that began on April 2, 2024.

[IRS: Kentucky storm victims qualify for tax relief; various deadlines postponed to Nov. 1](#)

IR-2024-159, June 7, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today tax relief for individuals and businesses in parts of Kentucky affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, landslides and mudslides that began on April 2, 2024.

[Treasury, IRS update procedures for qualified manufacturers, dealers and sellers of certain qualified clean vehicles under the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

IR-2024-158, June 7, 2024 – The Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service issued Revenue Procedure 2024-26 today for the submission of information by qualified manufacturers of new clean vehicles and dealers and sellers of new clean vehicles and previously-owned clean vehicles.

[Treasury, IRS release guidance for the Energy Community Bonus Credit under the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

IR-2024-157, June 7, 2024 – The Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service today issued Notice 2024-48 that publishes information taxpayers may use to determine whether they meet certain requirements under the Statistical Area Category or the Coal Closure Category in Notice 2023-29 for purposes of qualifying for the Energy Community Bonus Credit.

[IRS: Many payments to individuals affected by East Palestine train disaster are tax-free; new guidance could help those in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia](#)

IR-2024-156, June 5, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today that in many cases payments received by individuals affected by last year’s train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, are not taxable.

[Document Upload Tool reaches key milestone; 1 million submissions received](#)

IR-2024-155, June 5, 2024 – The Internal Revenue Service announced today reaching another key milestone in the agency’s transformation work with the Document Upload Tool accepting its one millionth taxpayer submission.

[News release and fact sheet archive](#)

Find previous year news releases and fact sheets from 1997 through last month.

Join the California Society of Tax Consultants!

[Click here to fill out an online application.](#)

CSTC advances professionalism within the tax industry by:

- Providing quality education
 - Creating networking opportunities
 - Advocating professional standards
-

CSTC Member Benefits



CSTC members have access to benefits such as free payroll processing services for your tax practice, and the opportunity to earn new revenue through their flexible partnership options.



CSTC is pleased to include the VeriFyle Pro™ premium secure online document and message sharing service at no cost to CSTC members!



Wolters Kluwer: Discounts on Tax, Accounting & Audit Resources, Software, Information & Services.

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We are a professional full-service tax advisory firm in San Diego. Our goal is to provide a level of service for our clients that will exceed expectations in every possible way. We strive to offer a diverse level of services to meet the needs of the diverse community we have been working in for more than 30 years.



CSTC members receive the TaxBook WebLibrary at a special price. Other Member Benefits Include:

Savings on all Society Educational Events / Savings on Contact, Correspondence & Self Study Education / Savings with member specialty CSTC Connects (previously yellow Pages) list / Savings with E&O Insurance, plus specialty coverage relevant to your profession / Online CSTC Find-a-Tax Consultant search to help promote your business! / CSTC Member Listserv



Office Depot has partnered with us to provide exclusive savings in-store and online, plus fantastic additional benefits. This program is all about providing preferred pricing to our clubs, and the savings extend to almost every item.

Savings include 20% to 55% off item office supply core list, 20% to 55% off retail on cleaning & break room items, 10% off branded; 20% off private brand ink & toner core list, Average 10% off retail on 200 technology core items, Free next-day shipping on orders of \$50 or more, and SIGNIFICANT savings on copy & print. Become a CSTC member to sign up for our Office Depot Small Business Savings Program, administered by Excelerate America.



TaxMama's® EA Exam Course prepares tax professionals to do so much more than just pass the IRS' Special Enrollment Examination. This is an in-depth course that teaches tax law from the ground up. It explains how tax returns work, with examples of basic 1040s, Schedule Cs, 1065s, 1120s, and 1120Ss; you learn tax law, tax research, client representation for audits, appeals and collections.



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