



The Bulletin

East Bay Association of Enrolled Agents

*A Chapter of the California Society of Enrolled Agents
Affiliated with the National Association of Enrolled Agents*

July - August 2016

NEXT MEETING: **Wed, July 20, 2016**

Place: **Dublin Holiday Inn**

6680 Regional St., Dublin, CA 94568
(go to <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/dublin/dubrm/hoteldetail#Directions>) **or take BART!**

5:00 Board Meeting

6:15 Networking (meeting room & bar area)

6:45 Dinner Buffet

7:15 Program: **“Risk Management:
Engagement Letters”**

Cost: \$40.00 with reservation by Monday, July 18
\$50.00 with reservation after deadline

Course numbers and credit:

IRS: None for this session

CTEC: None for this session

CSEA/NAEA: 1 hour on Practice Management, self-reported when renewing NAEA membership

Sign up online at:

<https://www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=ebaea>

(Please print out your confirmation to ensure that you clicked all the right buttons to register) Questions: email ebaead@ebaead.org (preferred) or call 800-617-1040.

July Session: **“Risk Management for Accounting & Tax Professionals: Engagement Letters”**

**Speaker: Carol Lara, Senior Claim Executive,
Travelers Insurance Company**

by Robert L. Seymour, EA

Enrolled Agents (and other Circular 230 professionals) face increasing responsibilities and liabilities, not only under Circular 230, but other laws as well.

We may face liability related to reporting errors, missed deadlines, failure to protect data, conflicts of interest, work scope, etc.

Ms. Lara is a specialist in dealing with claims under “Errors and Omissions” (E&O) insurance policies for tax and accounting professionals, and will give us guidance on the insurance protection that is available and, more importantly, how we can deal with or avoid creating liability, with a focus on Engagement Letters. Her topics include:

1. Accountants Errors and Omissions Coverage. What is it? How does it work? Why do you need it?
2. The role of Risk Management in protecting your firm.
3. Elements of an Engagement Letter - Fourteen Key Elements including:
 - a. Non - Engagement Letter
 - b. Disengagement Letter
 - c. Data Security / Client Confidentiality / Protected Health Information
4. Claim Examples:
 - a. "He said / She said"
 - b. "Who's the boss?"
 - c. "Forgetful Client"
5. Wrap Up:
 - a. Additional Engagement Letter consideration
 - b. The Claim Landscape
 - c. Claim reporting and what to expect

Following her presentation, Ms. Lara will take our questions.

Our speaker is Carol Lara, Senior Claim Executive, Traveler's Insurance Company, specializing in professional liability claims including Accountants E & O and Real Estate E & O Claims.

With 1 hours of CE on Practice Management, the target audience is: Enrolled Agents, CPAs, and others in accounting or tax practice.

The Bulletin Notice: The next issue of this Bulletin is planned for September, 2016.

August Session Preview: “Clients with Foreign Assets”

Speaker: Steven L Walker, Esq.

by Peggy Hall, EA Program Chair

This topic can be complex, so to do it right will take TWO HOURS. You will get credit for 2 CPE hours for the price of one!

Major questions to be addressed:

What foreign assets need to be reported?

What forms need to be filed, and when?

Does the foreign house get included?

How about retirement accounts and foreign pensions?

What if I have a house in a Mexican Trust?

What happens if a deadline is missed?

Steven L. Walker is a tax attorney in San Jose, California at the Law Office of Steven L. Walker, A Professional Law Corporation. His practice focuses on civil and criminal tax controversy work involving both federal and state tax agencies.

Mr. Walker is a former IRS Trial Attorney at the Office of Chief Counsel, where he furnished legal advice and representation to the IRS on all matters relating to the administration and enforcement of the Internal Revenue laws, including audits, administrative appeals, collections and federal and state litigation.

With **2 hours** of CE on Federal Tax Law Topics, the target audience is: Enrolled Agents, CPAs, CTEC Registered tax preparers, and unenrolled preparers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Aida Q. Torres, EA, President, EBAEA

This year, the CSEA 40th Annual Meeting was held in Ontario, CA from July 6th to 10th. Our Chapter was represented by your new President (Aida Q Torres, EA) and our CSEA Director and 1st Vice President, Ms. Sharon Hinchman, EA. We attended the General Session and Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, July 7th, and in the evening, the Grand Banquet Celebration, including a Reception, Dinner, Awards and Installation of CSEA Officers and Directors for the new fiscal year to June 30, 2017. The new CSEA Officers and Directors from all 19 Chapters were responsible for voting at the Annual Board Meeting held on July 10th, 2016. Chapter Presidents can only introduce motions, and seek points of information and clarification.

The Los Angeles Chapter was chosen “Chapter of the Year” for 2015-2016 (the fiscal year that just ended)! We have to make it our goal to be the next Chapter to earn this recognition!

The two of us from EBAEA tried to cover all the Committee Events! I attended the PIA (Public Information & Awareness), Ethics & Professional Conduct (E&PC) and Education Committee Meetings. Sharon attended the Legislative Affairs, ByLaws, Membership Committee and the Chair & Directors Council! We both attended the Executive Committee and the Finance &

Budget (F&B) Committee Meetings, both of which are important in relation to our Chapter! Our CSEA Director is the voice of our Chapter in CSEA.

One of the valuable benefits of our membership in our Chapter, CSEA and NAEA, is the peace of mind that comes from knowing that we have the help of fellow professionals, should the need arise, as well as from having our E&O coverage! NAEA is offering an enhancement to our memberships, by joining the “Find an EA” on-line, nationwide directory for \$199.00 annually! This enhanced visibility will help our profession move to the next level!

We also have great educational benefits: CSEA online offers CALCPA live webinars, DigiTax, CSTAR, Federal Representation Workshop and Pen to Paper Tax Intensive; to get more info, login to CSEA.org.

Within our Chapter, members can join our on line networking groups, and get reliable answers to tax questions, from other members with years of experience!

There’s more good news from CSEA on technology: they have a new Membership Database System, which will likely correct some membership issues.

Please make a commitment in your calendars to attend our “EBAEA Annual Retreat”, Saturday, July 30th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Chapter office, 6400 Village Parkway, Suite 201, Dublin, CA 94568. This is the annual planning meeting -- to set our goals and get better acquainted, especially with the incoming officers and directors!

Coming in August, we also have the 22nd Annual IRS Practitioner Fall Seminar on Tuesday, August 30th also at the Dublin Holiday Inn. There’s an “early bird” discounted fee of \$150 through August 15th. See the flyer included with this Bulletin.

Finally, I want to thank our Chapter members for nominating and electing me as President of EBAEA. It’s a great honor, and I assure you with all my heart that I will do my best for the good of our Chapter! Thank you very much for all your help!

NEW EBAEA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Here are the new Officers and Directors, being sworn in at the July 20th dinner meeting:

President:	Aida Q. Torres, EA
1 st Vice President:	Sharon Hinchman, EA
2 nd Vice President:	Gail Stan, EA
Secretary:	Peggy Hall, EA
Treasurer:	Carolyn Krieg, EA
Immediate Past President:	Patty Pringle, EA
Continuing 2017 Director:	Katherine Judd, EA
Directors for 2017 – 18:	Mary M. Geong, EA, CPA Mirasol Neufeld, EA

These Officers and Directors serve through the fiscal year to June 30, 2017. The “back page” of this Bulletin has been updated.

DINNER / CE DISCOUNT

There is not much time remaining to take advantage of this offer, but you can still save money on dinner meetings with the Chapter. We are offering the popular Monthly Dinner Subscription, until the August meeting.

If purchased before the July meeting, this plan grants you automatic reservations at the eleven (July 2016 through June 2017) EBAAEA Chapter dinner meetings for the price of \$360. Or, if you purchase the plan after the July meeting, you get the remaining ten dinner meetings. This price is equal to the cost of nine meetings at the current price of \$40 each, but you will still get all the remaining dinners, without facing any price increases due to venue, CE content or price changes. This plan is ONLY available through the August 2016 meeting. (April is always dark (due to no meeting, not due to any filing deadlines).)

There is no refund for missed meetings. You may send a substitute if you are unable to attend a specific meeting. Please call the Chapter Office and cancel if you cannot attend.

For the Dinner Subscription offer, go to <https://www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=ebaea>

EBAAEA MEMBER PARTICIPATION

by Sharon Hinchman, EA

Most of us pay our dues to CSEA and NAEA, attend a few meetings and don't think much about the other member services our Chapter passes on through its various media functions. Most benefits are taken for granted.

With the increase in competition for your continuing education dollar, both the Chapter and CSEA have new challenges to entice you to choose them.

Before the Super Seminar, there were few options for our CE. (Yes, some of us have been around that long!) It was not unusual for East Bay's "November Seminar" to host 300+ in a classroom environment. There were few resources offering the knowledge needed to equip us for the tax season. Now we are bombarded through a multitude of media outlets.

Our Chapter is one of the few that has remained self-supporting. Our income is derived from our educational offerings. Without your participation, other ways to support the chapter would have to be found.

You will notice a dues increase in your annual bill from CSEA, effective October 1. In addition, each chapter had to pony up approximately \$3.60 per member to cover last year's shortfall at the state level. East Bay is one of only seven chapters that do not collect chapter dues. It will stay that way as long as you support our meetings and seminars. Thank you! Your continued support is vital.

EAs AVAILABLE TO SPEAK

There are a number of chapter members who welcome the opportunity to speak on a variety of tax topics.

If you know of a group that would like a guest speaker, please contact Andy Rogers, EA, or Mark Bole, EA for suggestions.

SELL YOUR PRACTICE TO LOCAL EA

Experienced EA looking to purchase an EA tax practice in the Tri-Valley area. Ready to retire? I am ready to deliver excellent service to your clients. Option for on-going, P/T employment. Call Greg at 925-218-2301 or email to taxpro@adaptax.com.

Small Group Tax Meetings

Antioch /Brentwood Fridays 8:00am
Brentwood Café, 8500 Brentwood Blvd, Brentwood
Ken Seamann EA (925) 634-8297

Danville Area 4th Tue 9:30am
Pascals French Oven, 155 Railroad Ave, Danville
Michael Power EA (510) 366-8836

Oakland Area (Near BART) 4th Tue 9:00am
Buttercup Café, 229 Broadway, Oakland
Andy Rogers EA (510) 332-0401

Livermore Area Fridays 8:45am
Shari's Restaurant, 1116 East Stanley Blvd, Livermore
Jerrilynn Krebs EA (925) 606-8181

Castro Valley 3rd Tue 8:30am
Dino's Restaurant, 20390 Lake Chabot Rd, Castro Vly
Dagmar Bedard EA (510) 537-3883

Email-only Group as needed
Send an email to halloftaxes@gmail.com
Peggy Hall EA (925) 388-1040

TAX PRACTICE CLIENTELE FOR SALE

Retiring EA seeking personable, knowledgeable, and organized EA or CPA to buy clients. Please be located in Berkeley, Oakland, or other No. Alameda Co. city. Returns are straight forward schedule C and/or E (including some with schedules A and/or D) prepared on Lacerte (proformas provided if requested). Approximately 50 clients. Buy some or all. Purchase cost is 50% of the fee you charge the client the first year. If interested, please contact JanZtax@aol.com. Serious inquiries only, please.

EBAAEA EMAIL LISTS

EBAAEA sends news to Members via two one-way (send-only) email distribution lists. Subscription is free and completely voluntary, and you can subscribe or unsubscribe to either list any time you wish. For more information and to subscribe, visit:

<https://secure.clientwhys.com/?cid=4942east&subscribe=1>

CSEA DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JUNE 2016

By Aida Q. Torres, EA

SuperSeminar Success: CSEA reports that for the Las Vegas location, we had 614 participants, and in Reno, 497 attended. Truly “super”! I went to the Las Vegas seminars, and participated as one of the volunteers, and was pleased to see fellow EBAEA member Monty Lee, EA, there as well. Sorry if I missed others of you who attended! We strongly encourage you to participate, both in learning and volunteering, to move your career to the next level. SuperSeminar faculty is excellent at both locations, including Frank R. Acuna, Esq., Karen Brosi, EA, CFP, David Du Val, EA, Claudia Hill, EA, MBA, Lisa Ihm, EA, Carik W. Thompson, EA, Vicki L. Mulak, EA, CFP, Alice Orzechowski, CPA, CMA, CA, Alan Pinck, EA, Ron Roberson, CPA, and Mark F. Seid, EA, CPA, USTCP.

Reports to CSEA: Our President, Patty Pringle was required to submit an “Annual Evaluation of the EVP”, in preparation for the new fiscal year starting in July. As 1st V.P. of our Chapter, I have to report on the CSEA Policy Governance, regarding part of the Manual.

Coming up in July: CSEA 40th Annual Meeting in Ontario, California, July 6th – 10th.

CSEA DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MAY 2016

By Aida Q. Torres, EA

By now, it's almost a distant memory . . . We survived the April 18th filing deadline, and we continued onward with some extensions. During March and April, there was little CSEA activity, except the CSEA Chapter Connection workshop that I attended on April 26th. This was a welcome activity after the filing season.

President Doug Pickford, EA, made opening remarks, and invited participants to share their tax season experience, most of which focused on ACA, identity theft and Form 3115. It was good to hear the corrective measures and suggestions from those who've experienced these problems.

Announcements were made on several topics by Scarlett D. Vanyi, CAE, Executive Vice President:

1. The need to identify 2016-2017 Chapter Leadership (State Board of Directors & Chapter Presidents). Patty Pringle, EA, reported for our Chapter.
2. For participation at the State Level, the need for more info on different committees and activities.
3. The status of 1st Quarter Sales Tax Report, which our chapter (since EBAEA is incorporated) does not need to provide.
4. The status of Chapter Minutes & Financial Reports, which our Chapter had submitted.
5. Update on Super Seminar, discussing the advance registration deadlines and need for more volunteers on site.

6. Then-upcoming IRS/CSEA Co-Sponsored Webinar on FBAR: Understanding Foreign Financial Account Reporting, scheduled for June 9th @ 11:00 am.

7. Announcement of the State Tax Agencies Liaison Meeting, Friday, Oct 21st, in Sacramento.

8. Reminder of the publication schedules for submission of year-in-review reports, due on 5/25/2016; for the magazine on the 15th day of alternating months; Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.; and for the Newsletter due on the 20th of each month, for the following month.

9. Reminder of the Education Foundation Scholarship application deadline, 6/30/2016.

There was more discussion of proposals regarding the Membership Dues, including elimination of the initiation fee for new members, elimination of all membership dues revenue sharing practices and policies, except for collection and distribution of Chapter dues.

Membership rates are proposed to be the following: Regular (Enrolled Agent) Members: \$195, Member Emeritus: \$45, Students: \$45, International Enrolled Affiliates: \$120, and all other membership categories: \$195.

Though I got my renewal bill for \$185 in the early part of this year, be prepared for the next renewal billed at the increased rates mentioned above, once ratified by all the Board Members!

BULLETIN ADVERTISING POLICY

by Robert L Seymour, Bulletin Editor

To encourage more Members to use the Bulletin to fill their needs, we present the Bulletin advertising policy:

- 1) All Bulletin notices are run for a maximum of three months. If you wish to run a notice for a longer period, you must resubmit the notice.
- 2) Maximum notice size is 1.5 column inches. This equals a space one and one-half inches high by one column (3.5 inches) wide. The standard Bulletin font is Times New Roman 11 point.
- 3) The Bulletin Editor reserves the right to edit any notice for style, content and length.
- 4) All notices must be submitted (and payment received) by the 25th of the month prior to initial publication. Send desired text to: EBAEA.Editor@gmail.com.
- 5) Member notices seeking or offering employment, clients or EA-practice-related matters are run at no charge as a Member benefit. This includes an ad run by a firm which employs a Member. Member notices offering other services or products, and all non-Member notices are run at the standard fee of \$150 for the three-month insertion.

The Bulletin Editor reserves the right to modify or reject any notice which, in the sole opinion of the Editor, violates any of the principles of EBAEA.

IRS PRACTITIONER LIAISON MEETING

by Robert L. Seymour, EA

EBAEA member Philip Fiegler, EA, attended the Practitioner Liaison Meeting in June, and has provided notes from the meeting, which are included at the end of this Bulletin. The meeting was chaired by Jayme Galenson of the CSEA North Bay chapter.

These meetings are part of the IRS outreach to the tax professional community, to promote information sharing and to allow practitioners to make the Service aware of their concerns. Several IRS representatives discussed current areas of focus, problems, and plans. Since the meetings occur only once per year, they provide an important opportunity for discussion of concerns to both the IRS and practitioners.

Please review Phil's notes (5 pages), entitled "Notes from Oakland PLM", appended to this Bulletin.

TAX TALK – SAVE THE DATE !

Mark your calendars: **November 2 – 4** are the days for EBAEA's fall seminar, Tax Talk. You know from prior years that the speakers are excellent and the topics are timely. More to come in the next Bulletin!

MEMBERS SPEAK

Upcoming presentations by EBAEA Members include:

July 6 (Wed): Federal & State Basic Payroll Taxes, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, 455 Market Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco; contact Andrew Rogers at Andy@TaxBuddha.com for more information

August 3 (Wed): Federal & State Basic Payroll Taxes, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. In Oakland at 1515 Clay St, Room 9, Oakland 94612, Michele Zimmerman

August 10 (Wed): Federal & State Basic Payroll Taxes, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, 455 Market Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco; contact Andrew Rogers at Andy@TaxBuddha.com for more information

August 17 (Wed): Schedule C, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 455 Market Street, 6th floor, San Francisco; contact Andrew Rogers at Andy@TaxBuddha.com for more information

September 7 (Wed): Federal & State Basic Payroll Taxes, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, 455 Market Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco; contact Andrew Rogers at Andy@TaxBuddha.com for more information

For EBAEA members to list speaking engagements next month, please email Andy@TaxBuddha.com with details.

GOT ISSUES? IMRS CONFERENCE CALL

by Robert L. Seymour, EA

The IRS Stakeholder Liaison is holding a conference call on Thursday, July 28, 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

The purpose is to share "hot issues" to resolve systemic issues of tax policies, practices and procedures. It will be an open discussion.

This is not an internet webinar with video. You can participate by dialing 888-331-8226 and using Access Code 2838762. Dial in 5 minutes early if it's your first time in a "4th Thursday Call". You can get more information from Keith Kershner, IRS Stakeholder Liaison and IMRS Working Group Member, at 559-513-5298 or Keith.D.Kershner@IRS.gov.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2016

- 20 EBAEA – Risk Management for Tax Pros**
At Dublin-Pleasanton Holiday Inn
- 27 CSEA/IRS Federal Representation Workshop**
In Sacramento (Register on CSEA web site)
- 30 EBAEA Annual Retreat**
At Chapter office, 6400 Village Pkwy, Dublin

August 2016

- 17 EBAEA – Clients with Foreign Assets**
At Dublin-Pleasanton Holiday Inn
- 30 IRS 22nd Annual Tax Practitioner Seminar**
At Dublin-Pleasanton Holiday Inn

September 2016

- 21 EBAEA Dinner (EBAEA Panel Discussion)**

November 2016

- 2 - 4 EBAEA Tax Talk Seminar**

HUMOR

Various Political and Other Figures

If we don't do something to simplify the tax system, we're going to end up with a national police force of internal revenue agents.

-- Leon Panetta

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

-- Ronald Reagan

I wouldn't mind paying taxes if I knew they were going to a friendly country.

-- Dick Gregory

Collecting more taxes than is absolutely necessary is legalized robbery.

-- Calvin Coolidge

2016 – 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President – Aida Torres, EA aida@aidatorres.com	Program – Peggy Hall, EA halloftaxes@gmail.com
1 st VP – Sharon Hinchman, EA sharon@alamo-tax.com	IRS Practitioner Fall Seminar/ Tax Talk – Patty Pringle, EA eapattypringle@sbcglobal.net
2 nd VP – Gail Stan, EA gail@gailstantaxes.com	Bylaws SOP – Gail Stan, EA gail@gailstantaxes.com
Treasurer – Carolyn Krieg, EA ckrieg111@msn.com	Nominating – Aida Torres, EA aida@aidatorres.com
Secretary – Peggy Hall, EA halloftaxes@gmail.com	Volunteer Coordinator – Sharon Hinchman, EA sharon@alamo-tax.com
Immediate Past President – Patty Pringle, EA eapattypringle@sbcglobal.net	Chapter Office Liaison – Dagmar Bedard, EA 510-537-3883
Director 2016 – 2017 Katherine Judd, EA katherinejudd@earthlink.net	Audio Visual – Dagmar Bedard, EA 510-537-3883
Director 2016 – 2018 Mary Geong, EA, CPA mmgeong@aol.com	Disaster Services – Jan Bridges, EA 510-505-0818
Director 2016 – 2018 Mirasol Neufeld, EA mira@mcneufeld.com	Legislative - Sharon Hinchman, EA sharon@alamo-tax.com
CSEA Director - Sharon Hinchman, EA sharon@alamo-tax.com	Membership - Gail Stan, EA gail@gailstantaxes.com
Communication Committee – Gail Stan, EA gail@gailstantaxes.com	Practice Preservation – Linda Fox, EA 925-846-5913
Bulletin – Robert Seymour, EA 925-212-8062	Public Information Awareness (PIA), - Patty Pringle, EA eapattypringle@sbcglobal.net
IRS Practitioner Panel – Phil Fiegler, EA 510-530-1174	Quickfinders – Clare Flores, EA 510-785-8356
Ed Committee – Sharon Hinchman, EA sharon@alamo-tax.com	Social Affairs – Carolyn Krieg, EA Ckrieg111@msn.com
Continuing Ed – Mark Bole, EA	Website / Chapter Office Patty Pringle, EA eapattypringle@sbcglobal.net
Ed Coordinator – Marjorie Williams-Jones, EA 510-482-6204	

Notes from Oakland PLM

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

- **Jayme Gallenson**, CSEA North Bay Chapter, opened the meeting as the PLM chair.
- **Vivienne Antal**, Oakland PLM lead, welcomed everyone and introduced **Derek Ganter**, SL Western Area Manager.
- Derek welcomed everyone, thanked Vivienne and IRS and practitioner reps.
- Derek's communication:
 - PLMs are designed to enhance the communication between the IRS and practitioner community.
 - There needs to be open communication on both sides to support mutual interests and build partnership.
 - IRS needs to hear the concerns from the practitioners.
 - Practitioners need to know IRS missions and goals.
 - Sometimes we don't work well together – to build better alignment we need to ask:
 - What do we need to share?
 - What do they want to hear?
 - How do we fit into the picture?
 - How can we make sure as many as possible will benefit?
- **Albert Ju**, SB/SE Examination, Western Area - Oakland Territory 2 Manager
 - Discussed Priority Programs for SBSE Exam –
 - Abusive preparers, promoters and transactions
 - Referrals from lead development center
 - Service-wide strategy for flow-through returns
 - Increase in examination of S-Corps, partnerships
 - How structure and form cloud substance of transactions
 - Multi-tiered entities
 - TEFRA
 - Off-shore tax evasion – not worked much in Oakland
 - NRP – data gathered during exams are used to develop more effective DIF scoring
 - NOT line-by-line audit
 - Enhance model for selecting returns to audit
 - Started in 2009 – 2010/2011 data now being used
 - Preparer visitations for:
 - Certified Acceptance Agents
 - Knock-and-talk – discuss due diligence, in general
 - ERO – assess e-file requirements
 - EITC monitoring
 - ID Theft – Accounts mgmt works with Exam when discovered in the field
 - Fast Track Settlement Program
 - Exam maintains control of case
 - Findings are not binding – can still go to Appeals if don't agree
 - When goes to Appeals – Exam and Collection lose jurisdiction
 - ACA – RAs and TCOs ensure it's considered when other adjustments are made

- Exam concerned about how IRS and practitioners can work better together
 - Need to manage expectations with smaller workforce
 - Audit as effectively as possible
 - Make most use of time together
 - RAs and TCOs to provide tailored Information Document Requested (IDRs)
 - Practitioners need to assist in organizing documents/substantiation to expedite process
 - Initial contact MUST be via correspondence, not by call – due to ID theft and scam calls
 - Taxpayer and/or POA can call after initial contact letter is sent but before meeting
 - To get clarification so time during meeting is used as effectively as possible
 - If don't agree with proposed adjustment and requesting appeal, must have time left on statute
 - Group Managers need to review all audits going unagreed and consider informal conference with taxpayer and/or POA
 - Interested in resolving at lowest level
 - Informal conference not considered if taxpayer and/or POA were unresponsive
 - Important to keep lines of communication open and focus on critical issues
 - NRP – sometimes issue isn't significant but data is need to build DIF scoring
- RAs and TCOs can't share:
 - If there's a CI investigation on taxpayer
 - Preparer under investigation
 - Whistleblower referral
- RAs and TCOs can share:
 - If DIF score generated audit
 - Reason why other related returns are being reviewed or examined, if flow-through
 - If large, unusual and/or questionable items exist
 - If NRP case – will also be specified on initial contact letter
 - If it's a Program Action Case – part of a group of returns with similar reporting (e.g. high charitable contributions)
- Taxpayer and POA should always be treated with courtesy, professionalism and respect
 - If not, talk with manager
- **Maryann Encisco**, SB/SE Collection Western Area – Oakland Territory Manager
 - Opened by inviting practitioners to contact her directly with any issues not being resolved in the field
 - Don't send Personally Identifiable information (PII)
 - Currently no secure email between IRS and practitioners
 - Interested in resolving at lowest level – she manages people and can find out where and why there's a breakdown in communication
 - Form 9297, Summary of Taxpayer Contact (similar to Exam IDR)
 - Field Call Initiative Plan
 - Goals –
 - get everyone together so discussion/meeting can be productive
 - eliminate back and forth
 - Internal Revenue Manual (IRM) instructs to call POA to schedule an appointment
 - Due to impersonation problems – RO required to show SmartID & credentials for all field calls
 - Workforce is shrinking – not back-filling quickly enough
 - San Jose is getting a few more ROs but not Oakland

- Concentration on:
 - Income tax collection
 - Payroll tax collection
 - FTD Alert Program – field call for missing deposits (educational visit)
 - Show employer what it’s costing them in additional penalties & interest when they’re late
 - Ultimate goal – make field call when FTD is 10 days late
- Work to mitigate problems for employment tax related collection
 - Notice sent to payroll company AND taxpayer
 - Taxpayer sees there’s a breakdown with the payroll company
 - If payroll provider found to be fraudulent – add’l consideration given for OIC
 - Taxpayer or POA can complete and submit Form 14157, Complaint: Tax Return Preparer and specify the status of “Payroll Service Provider”
 - Collection may consider abating penalties and interest
- When tax, interest and penalties are due from company with partners or corp officers, RO can:
 - Levy bank account, seize property, etc.
 - Goal is to collect in-full from whoever will and can pay, but not more than 100%
 - Not every partner or corp officer fits the same criteria for penalties
 - IRS can NOT disclose (1) who is being assessed, and (2) how much each paid
 - Corp officers can request Tax Module to see if payments have been made and applied
- RO looks at collectability, Appeals doesn’t
- **JeNine Robertson**, Senior Revenue Analyst, Taxpayer Advocate Service (Systemic Advocacy)
 - Taxpayer Advocate Service broken into 2 parts – case advocacy and systemic advocacy
 - Case advocacy resolves individual taxpayer problems, mainly those with economic burden
 - Systemic advocacy assists to further and protect taxpayer rights and broaden awareness
 - Concentrates on issues affecting larger groups and legislative changes
 - Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TBOR) was updated 6/10/2014
 - TAS has a system called “SAMS” (Systemic Advocacy Management System)
 - Anyone can submit an issue at any time: <https://www.irs.gov/advocate/systemic-advocacy-management-system-sams>
 - JeNine was not familiar with IMRS
 - Derek clarified the IRS has a number of systems used for problem resolution
 - As part of optimization study – IRS is looking at minimizing redundancies and streamline processes and procedures
- **Juan Saavedra**, CI Supervisory Special Agent
- **Arlette Lee**, CI Special Agent and Public Information Officer
 - Invited practitioners to contact her directly if they want speakers from CI.
 - They contact by “door knocks only – no calls, no correspondence
 - Scams have caused problems for CI to do their job
 - Limited staffing results in less that CI can accomplish
 - Only 5 Special Agents to cover all of Silicon Valley area
 - Current Priority –
 - Illegal returns
 - ITINs
 - Schedule A deductions

- Return Preparer Program – track by PTINs
- Cybercrime that uses virtual currency (bitcoins)
 - Trail discovered when bitcoin is cashed out
- “Dark web” (separate internet) – buy/sell IDs, etc.
- Employment tax related issues
- International tax issues – OVDI no longer being worked in the field
 - Now worked in Philadelphia and processed in Austin
 - SEP and LB&I still working OVDI cases
- CI does investigative work – get search warrants, works with US Attorney’s office
- When questionable preparer – CI helps taxpayers get their records back
- Work Refund Fraud and ID Theft cases – including data breaches
 - Example of new scam – Someone pretends to be CFO, contacts payroll dept. and says they need all the W-2s for the employees
 - Get referrals from cases worked by Exam and Collection
- **Vivienne Antal** , Senior Stakeholder Liaison
 - Discussed Future State (search IRS.gov keyword “Future State”)
 - <https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/irs-future-state>
 - Web-first service strategy – similar to working with banks
 - Early interaction
 - Security Summit – ID Theft victim assistance
- **Derek Ganter** , Stakeholder Liaison Western Area Manager (CA, HI, NV)
 - Future State outreach campaign will begin in 30-60 days
 - Invite SLs to meetings to discuss
 - More conceptual – being developed to enhance interaction
 - Optimizing outreach and communication – eliminating redundancies
 - Presented expectations –
 - Information provided at PLMs is expected to be shared with chapter members and other practitioners who will benefit
 - These meetings will not continue if the information isn’t shared

Follow-up Items

FY 2016 Program Letters NOT posted to IRS.gov – can they be shared with the practitioners?

- **Collection Program Letter** (posted on IRWeb NOT on IRS.gov):
<http://mysbse.web.irs.gov/collection/collectionorg/programletter/33207.aspx>
- **Exam Program Letter** (posted on IRWeb NOT on IRS.gov):
<http://mysbse.web.irs.gov/examination/examorg/drinews/frmthedesk/33211.aspx>

What is the criteria to get case transferred from ACS to RO in Field Collection?

- Campus may have dollar limit for case remaining in ACS
- Is criteria posted on IRS.gov? In IRM available to public?

California Directory for Practitioners – updated version requested

Special Enrollment Examination Fees update (Terri promised to provide something)

Potential IMRS Issues

Jayne Gallenson –

- Refund changed without clear explanation of changes – appears to be systemic issue
 - Also when amount changed, check was issued instead of direct deposit and no explanation
- Receive revised 1099's late, after returns are filed requiring amended returns to be filed – IRS won't process amended returns until amount due on original return is paid
 - Requesting more effective processing when amended returns are filed
 - This and other issue submitted to Vivienne

Phil Fiegler –

- Printing issue in e-Services – will only print when using Internet Explorer. E-Services home page states it will only work with IE6 to IE8. It does, however print with newer versions of IE.
 - Can view using other browsers, but NOT print
 - On e-Services home page: **Note: e-services is compatible with IE6 to IE8 only**
<https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/e-services-online-tools-for-tax-professionals>
 - Why not Google Chrome? Safari? Firefox? Etc.
 - Concern about IE6-8 NOT being secure (extra note from Phil): IE 6-8 are extremely insecure and I doubt anyone uses them anymore. Most banks and brokers will not allow online access using it. Gmail even recently said it will not allow access using IE 9 because it is too insecure!

Joe Calderero –

- Third party debt collectors
 - Will they honor POAs?
 - Issue liens and levies?

Next PLM: TBD



22nd Annual Tax Practitioner • IRS Fall Seminar



Northern California's Only Seminar Venue in 2016
Tuesday, August 30, 2016 (8:00am – 4:00pm)

Seminar Location:

Holiday Inn Dublin-Pleasanton
6680 Regional Street
Dublin, California 94568
(925) 828-7750 Direct

**Registration / Sign-in
begins at 7:30am**

Seminar venue is conveniently located within walking distance of Dublin/Pleasanton BART. Easy access to 580 & 680 and ample free parking available at the venue.

“Solving Problems & Protecting Clients”

Learn to maximize IRS Resources to increase your value. IRS, FTB and other Subject Matter Experts will help clarify issues and topics of importance to your clients and to your practice.

This seminar will cover the following topics:

- ◇ **Estate & Gift Taxes** *presented by* Kyle Martin, Manager – IRS Estate & Gift Tax
- ◇ **TIGTA Update** *presented by* Jason Pritchard, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge
- ◇ **Examination Update** *presented by* Albert Ju, IRS Examination Territory Manager
- ◇ **Offers-in-Compromise** *presented by* Stefanie Zimmerman, IRS Offer Specialist
- ◇ **Panel Discussion** *with* The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) & The FTB (Franchise Tax Board)
- ◇ **Taxpayer Advocate Update - FTB (Franchise Tax Board)** *presented by* Mark Malevski, FTB Taxpayer Rights Office
- ◇ **Future State Initiative** *presented by* Derek Ganter, IRS Stakeholder Liaison Area Manager

**Topics subject to change*

► Registration Fee includes:

- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch
- Afternoon Refreshments

► Seminar materials will be emailed to registrants.

► Seminar accounts for the following:

- Federal CE: 6 Hours & CA 1 Hour
- PTIN needed for RPO Credit
- CRTP required for CTEC Credit

To register online, click the link below or copy/paste into your browser:
<https://www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=ebaea>

MEMBER FEE (Members of CSEA/Chapter)

Early Bird Special	August 15, 2016 or before	Fee \$150 SAVE \$25 off Regular Price
Regular Registration	August 28, 2016 or before	Fee \$175
At Door Registration*	August 29, 2016 or after	Fee \$200

**Checks only at the door. Make checks payable to EBAAE.*

NON-MEMBER FEE (Non-Members of CSEA/Chapter)

Early Bird Special	August 15, 2016 or before	Fee \$175 SAVE \$50 off Regular Price
Regular Registration	August 28, 2016 or before	Fee \$225
At Door Registration*	August 29, 2016 or after	Fee \$250

**Checks only at the door. Make checks payable to EBAAE.*

For more information on the 22nd Annual Tax Practitioner IRS Fall Seminar please contact: Patty Pringle, Enrolled Agent at (925) 320-7802 or eapattypringle@sbcglobal.net or EBAAE Chapter Office at: info@ebaea.org