



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*

May 2015

NEXT MEETING **Wed, May 20, 2015**

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!**

4:30 Board Meeting

6:15 Networking

6:30 Dinner Buffet

6:45 EBAEA Annual Meeting

7:30 Program: **“Post-Mortem Issues
Affecting Tax Returns”**

Cost: \$40.00 with reservation by Friday, May 15
\$50.00 with reservation after deadline

Course numbers and credit:

IRS: WZA09-T-01297-15-I

CTEC: 1001-CE-7775

CSEA/NAEA: 1 Hour of Federal Tax Topics

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.

May Session:

“Post-Mortem Issues for Tax Returns”

Speaker: Kirsten Howe, Attorney At Law

by Robert L. Seymour, EA

When a person dies, various tax returns may be necessary, and many decisions have to be made in connection with tax return preparation. It's important for clients to get legal and financial advice from the appropriate advisors, in addition to good tax advice.

One needs to understand how principal and income are treated under the terms of a trust instrument.

There may be other documents affecting decisions and tax return preparation, such as marital agreements.

There are often non-tax considerations for clients to consider, such as asset protection, in allocating assets to subtrusts.

Other taxes, such as property taxes, can be important considerations for clients as well.

Understanding how these issues can affect your clients will enhance your ability to serve them. This session will help you understand how the language of various documents affects tax return preparation, and how both tax and non-tax factors affect post-mortem asset allocation.

Our speaker will be Kirsten Howe, Attorney At Law, who focuses her practice on estate planning, elder law and closely related areas of practice. She began her career in business planning law, but found that she preferred the personal aspect of estate planning and elder law. Kirsten earned her J.D. *cum laude* at the University of California, Hastings College of Law, where she was a member of the Thurston Society and was Managing Editor of The Hastings Law Journal. She is on the Board of Directors of the Estate Planning Council of Diablo Valley.

With 1 hour of CE on Federal Tax Topics, the target audience is: Enrolled Agents, CPAs, Attorneys, CTEC Registered tax preparers, and unenrolled preparers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Patty Pringle, EA, President, EBAEA

Congratulations to everyone for making it through the tax season. Job well done! On Saturday, May 16th Andy Rogers, EA has been kind enough to let us come to his home in Alameda and unwind. A great time for us to share our tax time experiences. For additional information please email Andy andy@taxbuddha.com.

On April 23rd our CSEA Board of Director representative, Al Wise, EA, EBAEA 2nd Vice President, Aida Torres, EA and I joined members from across California on the CSEA Chapter Connection Teleconference.

Among the topics discussed were some of the many challenges we faced during tax season. Three topics in particular were mentioned: the Affordable Care Act, Identity Theft, and the number one complaint was the difficulty (or impossibility) of getting through to the IRS Tax Practitioner Hotline. It was very frustrating!

Now that we have our new website up and running we're still looking for a volunteer to lead the team and get our Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) up and running. If you are interested in helping the chapter please email me at capattypringle@sbcglobal.net. We could really use your help!

EBAEA ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

by P. Gail Nanbu, Immediate Past President

As we slowly wind down from a frenetic tax year which included, among other challenges, ACA, 3115, and foreign account issues, let's share our tax stories with each other over dinner at the Dublin Holiday Inn on May 20, 2015.

The Annual Meeting of the East Bay Association of Enrolled Agents will take place that evening, and we will elect the Officers and Directors for the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year.

The EBAEA Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of candidates for the 2015 - 2016 fiscal year:

President:

Patty Pringle, EA

1st VP :

Aida Torres, EA

2nd VP:

Sharon Hinchman, EA

Treasurer:

Carolyn Krieg, EA

Secretary:

P. Gail Nanbu, EA

Immediate Past President:

P. Gail Nanbu, EA

Director 2015-2017:

Joanne Anderson, EA

Mary M. Geong, CPA, EA

Gail Stan, EA

Continuing as Directors through 2016:

Peggy Hall, EA

Katherine Judd, EA

Tim Hintzoglou, EA

CSEA Director:

Aida Torres, EA

The EBAEA Bylaws provide that eligible members can run from the floor with no advance notice. However, as a courtesy to those planning the meeting (which is already under a very tight timetable), it is requested that any floor candidate provide advance notice to the Nomi-

nating Committee through its Chair, Gail Nanbu at (925) 943-3993.

Come out and support the Chapter as we elect the Officers and Directors who will lead us into the new fiscal year.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

by Aida Q. Torres, EA, Membership Chair

"TGIO" (Thank Goodness It's Over!), the essence of April 15th, or at least the 16th, to all EA's! Now the extensions to deal with. Not only this, as Gail Nanbu brings to our attention, we are headed to our EBAEA Annual Meeting this month.

This follows the CSEA Chapter Connection workshop in April, which covered a variety of practice management issues faced by EA's, mentioned in Patty Pringle's message above. At the Workshop, our CSEA President, Patty Kappen, announced a Super Seminar session dealing with the Repair Regs. We look forward to learning more about this area that caused many of us some difficulty during this past tax season.

There were more topics discussed but I will focus on EBAEA membership, and introduce the new incoming Membership Chair, Sharon Hinchman, EA. She will guide our chapter's growth, and help our incoming new EA's!

Please welcome our newest EA members, James Cole, Izimi Fitzsimmons, LaRena Gibson, and Andrea Reese, who joined us in March and April 2015. We also have three new Professional Associates: Jake Bouslog, Norman Nather and Mary Padilla who joined us in the the first quarter of 2015! Finally, a well-motivated student, Isabel Couch, joined us in February, 2015.

We were all so busy during tax season that we did not mention and welcome them during the months when they joined!

To get more information on coming events, please login to: www.ebaea.org.

If you have recently joined, and your name is not listed, contact Aida, at aida@aidatorres.com or by phone to 510-724-6409. All new members, professional associates and professional affiliates will receive a packet from CSEA. All new EA members will receive a packet and certificate from EBAEA. If you are a new EA member, and haven't received a packet from the Membership Committee, please let us know.

THANK GOODNESS IT'S OVER! PARTY

Hosted by Andrew Rogers, EA

Saturday, May 16th, 4:30-7:30 pm

3333 Fernside Blvd

Alameda CA 94501

Bring your stories and a snack or your favorite beverage.

WORK VS. HEALTH

by Robert L. Seymour, EA

Many of us work so much during tax season that we push our bodies and brains to the limit!

Each of us will find a balance between work and rest, and the point of this article is not to tell you what the balance is. However, there are some work-related dangers that we can do something about, and need to be aware of.

One of the most serious problems – being sedentary – may be more of a problem when you're *not* in the busy tax season.

“Sitting is the New Smoking!” Kaiser Permanente reported a study documenting that sitting for more than six hours daily is as bad for us as smoking. *Even if you engage in regular exercise daily, it may not counteract the effects of too much sitting during the day.*

Sitting for long periods is linked to obesity, metabolic syndrome and increased mortality risk. Several articles that I reviewed recently, from Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health and NPR, reported on the problem, and I thank our EBAAE member, Michael Barick, EA, for drawing this to my attention.

Basically, we all need to take steps, literally, for activity during the day that will reduce the risks. Sitting still for much of the day causes electrical activity in the legs to slow way down, strains several sets of muscles (particularly with bad posture), causes our consumption of calories to go way down, reduces enzymes in the blood that burn fat, and reduces good cholesterol levels. All these effects occur, *even if you exercise when outside the office.*

People who sit most of the day are 54% more likely to die of heart attacks, according to a study published in Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise. However, if you do simple steps for brief physical activity throughout the day, you can reduce your waist circumference, body mass index and triglycerides. If you don't know what those things mean, you need to see your doctor for a physical and a stern lecture.

What can you easily do? Here are just a few recommendations, but the essential idea is to find ways for even brief physical activity and stress relief, during the day:

- Schedule a 10-minute break during the day, and take it (take a short walk outside).
- Replace your chair with a stability/exercise ball.
- Stand up, walk around your office, wiggle around, and return to work; hourly!
- Don't use your hands to stand up or sit down.
- Stand up when you talk on the phone.
- Shrug your shoulders, and do some upper body stretching, frequently.
- Walk to talk to someone, rather than picking up the phone.

As summarized by Dr. Toni Brayer, M.D. in San Francisco, “We need to keep our bodies moving. Humans were built to stand, walk, bend, run and move. Our modern lifestyle forces us to sit still, and we weren't built for that.”

Caution: I am not a doctor, nor a medical expert, and I am certainly not your medical advisor. I've read a few articles on this subject, and want to share the highlights.

PART-TIME YEAR-ROUND POSITION

Fremont firm looking for a year-round, part-time tax professional. Minimum 3 years' experience with individual, corporate, LLC, partnership & trust returns. Must be experienced in QuickBooks and understand basic accounting principles. Tax software experience is a must. Enrolled Agent with degree preferred. Excellent communication & organization skills needed to handle client meetings, mail-in returns, tax reviews and staff interaction. View our website at www.TotalBizCare.com Please send resume to info@totalbizcare.com . Call Elise at (510) 797-8375 if you have questions before submitting a resume.

BERKELEY OFFICE FOR SALE

Perfect for an experienced tax return preparer. Tax only. Can be managed by one preparer plus an admin. High average value per return. 1.5 years left on lease ... includes parking space. In the heart of the gourmet ghetto. Email: Sharon@abacus-tax.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 8:00am
[New location to be announced. Call if interested.]
Dagmar Bedard EA (510) 537-3883

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

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.

MEMBERS SPEAK

Upcoming presentations by EBAEA Members include:

May 19 (Tue): "Your First Schedule C" at SF SBA Office, 455 Market Street, 6th Floor, 6-8:30 pm; contact Andy@TaxBuddha.com

May 20 (Wed): "S Corporations Problems and Solutions" at San Gabriel Chapter of CSEA dinner meeting, 2 hours; contact Andy@TaxBuddha.com

June 3 (Wed): "Basic Payroll", 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at 1515 Clay Street Room 9, Oakland; contact Andy@TaxBuddha.com

June 16 (Tue): "Basic Payroll" at 455 Market Street, 6th Floor 9 am-3 pm, Michele Zimmerman; contact Michele.Zimmerman@comcast.net

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

HUMOR

"I can claim a 70-inch plasma TV as a business expense, because my accountant said it's important to look at the big picture." (Thanks, www.glasbergen.com)

If the IRS made a GPS device: "Proceed to the intersection following Schedule C (section 4-6) then turn right if the number of passengers in your vehicle [Form B22] is greater than the number of cup-holders (line 15) currently in use . . ." (Thanks, Walt Handelsman)

An IRS accountant was walking along the beach, late in April, and found an old lamp. He picked it up, rubbed it, and of course, a genie appeared. The genie said, "I am the most powerful genie that has ever lived. I can do great and wonderful things, and I can grant you your dearest wish. But only one!"

The accountant was a caring individual. He pulled out a map of the Mediterranean area and said, "My dearest wish is that you solve the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East."

The genie strokes his beard and looks worried. "Oh dear," he says, staring at the map. "That's a tough one. Those people have been fighting for centuries. No one has been able to come up with a successful solution. You should probably make another wish."

The accountant is understanding and says, "All right. Listen, the IRS has asked me to re-design the Form 1040 so that everyone can understand it. Can you help me with that?"

After a long silence, the genie finally says, "Let's have another look at that map."

A man on his deathbed called his friend and said, "I want you to promise me that when I die, you will have my remains cremated."

The friend asked, "And what do you want me to do with your ashes?"

The dying man responded, "Just put them in a large envelope and mail them to the Internal Revenue Service. Write on the envelope, 'Now you have everything!'"

The Internal Revenue Code is absurdly complex or, as lawyers say, a goldmine.

When Congress writes the tax laws, they often leave it to the IRS to "fill in the details" with specific instructions. That's like asking a hungry lion to protect the sheep from the wolves.

If a tax accountant's wife can't get to sleep, what does she do? Leans over to her husband and says, "Tell me about work today, honey."

An accountant was having difficulty sleeping and went to see his doctor. "Doc, I just can't get to sleep at night."

"Have you tried counting sheep?"

The accountant responded, "That's the problem – I make a mistake and then spend three hours trying to find it."

CSEA ONLINE LEARNING

The CSEA **Learning Portal** offers exceptional tax education, on demand.

Did you miss SuperSeminar last year? Is there a SuperSeminar session you wanted to attend but conflicted with the one you chose? What about a client matter that just came up and you're not sure how to handle it?

CSEA offers online replays of SuperSeminar presentations from 2012 to 2014. This is a great refresher, or a primer for a subject on which you need more info.

Go to www.csea.org and mouse over the "Education & Events" tab, then mouse down and click on "Online Learning Portal". You won't be sorry...

At the CSEA web site, under Education & Events, you can find full details on the upcoming SuperSeminar, in Las Vegas May 12-14, and in Reno May 28-30, each providing up to 24 hours of CPE in the three days.

Come back from this year's first SuperSeminar (Las Vegas) and impress your friends at our TGIO Party on May 16th!

EAs AVAILABLE TO SPEAK

Although our speaker's development group has been dormant in recent months, there are still 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.

EBAEA EMAIL LISTS

EBAEA 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>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2015

12-14 CSEA Super Seminar in Las Vegas
16 EBAEA TGIO Party
20 EBAEA Dinner Meeting
28-30 CSEA Super Seminar in Reno

2014 - 2015 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Web Page <http://www.ebaea.org> Bulletin editor: EBAEA.Editor@gmail.com. (Robert L Seymour, EA)

President: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
1st VP: Al Wise, EA 707-634-4TAX
2nd VP: Aida Torres, EA 510-724-6409
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Marjorie Williams-Jones, EA 510-482-6204
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Katherine Judd, EA
Peggy Hall, EA 510-388-1040
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PIA: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
Quickfinders: Clare Flores, EA 510-785-8356
Social Affairs: Luciann Leraul, CPA 925-518-9076
Social Affairs: Carolyn Krieg, EA

Website: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
IRS Practitioner Panel: Phil Fiegler, EA 510-530-1174
CTEC Panel: Walt Thomas, EA 510-487-1691

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Mini Seminar Team: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
Program: Peggy Hall, EA 925-388-1040
SEE Class: vacant
Tax Talk: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
Town Hall: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
Town Hall: Peggy Hall, EA 925-388-1040
VITA Team: vacant

Administration Committee (IPP)

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Bylaws/SOP: Sal Romo, EA 510-471-9492
Bylaws/SOP: Clare Ashby, EA 925-462-0538
Budget & Finance: Walt Thomas, EA 510-725-8356
Chapter Office: Dagmar Bedard, EA 510-537-3883
Financial Review: Luciann Leraul, CPA 925-518-9076
Nominating: P Gail Nanbu, EA 925-943-3993
Volunteer Coordinator: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682

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