

Mission Society of Enrolled Agents

January 2009 Newsletter

Presidents Message

I hope your Holiday Season has been fantastic and the New Year will be prosperous. I can't believe it, it's almost 2009. Do you still remember the Y2K scare doesn't seem like it was not that long ago.

Tax Season is almost upon us and coming up in a matter of days is your chance to get some final up to the minute tax updates. MSEA is having Cast in Concrete on January 5th.

[Cast In Concrete Sign Up](#)

I want to thank all who participated in our auction at the Holiday party we brought in \$2,425. Alan made it fun except for when he was bidding for me! For those who did not attend we had a guest appearance from Santa Clause himself.

Politics! - Want to get more involved and find out what the State of California is doing for/to us attend Jim Stern Legislation day (January 9th 2009) to find out more go to CSEA at

[Jim Stern Day Sign Up](#)

We will be having our last luncheon before tax season back at Maggiano's on January 20th so hope to see you there. It will be my last restful lunch until April.

Mission Society of Enrolled Agents

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Cynthia Leachmoore, EA	Director

Have a great tax season. The next time you will hear from me will be April. We do not publish a newsletter in February and March.

Thanks,

Randy Warshawsky, EA
President Mission Society of Enrolled Agents

Cast in Concrete

"There's still time to sign up for MSEA's Cast-in-Concrete Tax Update Seminar scheduled for Monday, January 5, 2009.

Top notch speakers Claudia Hill and Vicki Mulak will bring you the latest information you'll need for our upcoming tax preparation season, with special attention to Mortgage Relief and Insolvency. Additionally, Claudia has just added sections on Disclosures and the effect on income of forgiven Non-Recourse Loans.

Also, hear the latest information on IRA RMD's for 2008, 2009, and 2010.

[Sign up Here for Cast in Concrete](#)

If the above link does not work you can go directly to our website at www.missioneas.org and click on the education page.

Education Committee Meeting

The Education Committee will be finalizing the education offerings for 2009 at our next meeting on January 13, 2009 9:30 am if you are not on the committee and would like to join or give input on the offerings please feel free to come and

participate. The meeting will be held at 282 Barnard Ave. San Jose in Alan's office.

We are always looking for more of our members involvement so if you are currently not on a committee and would like to help MSEA please come and get involved. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Alan Pinck via email.

alan@apinckandassociates.com

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Margy Dunn was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at our December luncheon meeting.

Margy is presently serving on the MSEA as our representative to the CSEA board, as well as serving on MSEA education committee and coordinating the education events being presented in the Carmel- Monterey area.

While being on the CSEA Board she has become active on many CSEA committees and sub-committees.

Congratulation Margy and thanks for all your hard work.

Upcoming at CSEA

CSEA has scheduled Jim Stern Day for Jan 9 followed by the CSEA Board Meeting on the weekend of Jan 10-11 at the Courtyard Marriott Sacramento Cal Expo, 1782 Tribute Road in Sacramento, CA. Jim Stearn Day is a day that EAs visit as many state legislators' offices as possible in order to promote EAs at the California-state level. Please come, join us and help make the EA designation more recognizable to our

state senators and representatives.

All MSEA members are cordially invited to attend and participate in any way they can whether by helping with Jim Stern Day or by joining and supporting the committees of their choice. And did you know that CSEA committee members can get much of their CSEA travel expenses reimbursed by MSEA when pre-approved? If you will give it a try I'm sure you will find as I do that all CSEA participation and activities are very rewarding.

And speaking of CSEA committees (I serve on three and) I am currently vice-chair of the CSEA Membership Committee. Did you know that we are currently conducting a LESS than 5-minute survey of all CSEA members to understand what CSEA members value most? We need YOUR input. Why? It's no secret that our membership numbers are decreasing and if we are going to reverse this trend we really need to know what you like AND don't like about CSEA. We would also like to know what you think we can do to improve. I'm proud of this survey because it is brief and to the point and I feel it will truly help us better understand our member-values. If you have not yet taken the survey, would you please do so now? The CSEA link to this Survey Monkey survey is in the upper left-hand-corner of the CSEA home page. But you can go directly to the survey by using the following link:

[CSEA Survey](#)

Or if you would prefer to receive a PAPER COPY of the survey to take and submit by return mail just call CSEA at 800.777.2732.

Please give me a call or an email if you are interested in helping California EAs at the California state level or if you have any interest in or want to find out more about helping with any of CSEA's activities.

James Houston, EA
408.446.4433

JamesHoustonEA@yahoo.com

Cynthia Leachmoore EA

If you attended the May 2008 luncheon meeting you may remember our newest Board member treating everyone to an April 15th parody to the tune of "My favorite Things". Writing and performing her parodies and "smarty-pants" folk songs is one of Cynthia's hobbies. A hobby that is great for deflecting stress during tax season.

Cynthia became an Enrolled Agent in 1999 although she has prepared taxes since 1995. She and her husband, Greg Piszczatowski EA, have a tax firm in Soquel where she personally prepares over 400 returns. She specializes in business returns including corporations but has clients that require individual, gift, estates & trust returns, as well.

Initially, Cynthia became interested in taxes because of tax law. She wanted to go to law school after college but elected to start a business. Her interest in law did not diminish and she found that understanding tax law fulfilled this interest and helped her clients. She currently has a thriving representation practice.

In addition to her tax practice, Cynthia has been a guest speaker on a variety of tax topics for organizations throughout Santa Cruz County. She also teaches some of the IRS sponsored seminars.

Cynthia joined MSEA as a provisional member after taking the SEE examine. She enjoys the support she receives from MSEA members and the educational offerings. We are delighted that

she has now decided to join the Board as a Director.

Welcome New and Returning Members:

Angela Myhre EA	Morgan Hill
Harsh Bhargava EA	San Jose
Harold Bain EA	Los Altos
Earl Collison EA	Carmel
Peggy Raffel EA	Mountain View
Addy Zadkovsky, Prof Assoc	
Cupertino	
Stacy Hocking, Student Assoc	Santa Cruz

Calendar of January Events

Jan 5 Cast in Concrete Santa Clara Elks 1680 Martin Ave S. C. 8:30-4:50

Jan 6 Sig Group - Holders Inn S De Anza Blvd San Jose 11:30am

Jan 7 Sig Group - Effie's 331 W Hacienda Ave, Campbell 11:45am

Jan 8 Sig Group - Everything But 1040 2095 Park Ave San Jose 12 noon

Jan 13 Education Committee Meeting - 282 Bernard Ave, San Jose 9:30am

Jan 15 Sig Group - Bakers Square, Almaden Expressway, San Jose 11:30am

Jan 17 SEE Review Class Part II, 2095 Park Ave, San Jose 8am-12

Jan 20 MSEA Board Meeting 10:00am-11:30am Maggiano's

Jan 20 MSEA Luncheon Meeting 11:30am Maggiano's Santana Row, S.J.

For more detail and contact information please go to missioneas.org

SIG Groups are small groups of members getting together to discuss tax issues. They are a great way to network. Some group specialize while other are open to all tax questions. Contact information for each group is on the website.



Mission Society of Enrolled agents is a chapter of the California Association of Enrolled Agents www.csea.org. California Society of Enrolled agents is a chapter of the National Society of Enrolled Agents www.naea.org.