



COMING UP

Programs

Nov. 7: AICPA & FASB Update

Nov. 9: Digital Assets: Reporting Auditing, Taxation & Investing

Nov. 17: SBA Resources for Your Small Business Clients

Dec. 8: Accounting Ethics: How Attitudes, Emotions & Human Nature Impact Decision Making

Dec. 12: Options to Automate Your Tax Preparation Workflow

Jan. 13: State Tax & Legislative Update – This popular annual event will be sponsored by Maine Revenue Services. Thanks to its generosity, MECPA members can attend for FREE!

Jan. 19: State House visit

Multiple dates: Sargent's Summary & Analysis of the Inflation Reduction Act

Events

Nov. 6: Maine Celtics, 1 p.m., Portland Expo. Win a \$100 L.L. Bean gift card or Winter Survival Basket, thanks to generous donations from UWorld Rogers & ADP!

See a complete listing at mecpa.org. Log in for discounted member pricing. And order Maine Celtics tickets [here](#).

Hit the Links: a successful first



A BerryDunn team made up of, from left: Jake Black, Matt Dube and Ryan King and Quinn Peterson from UWorld Rogers, one of the top-tier tournament sponsors.

The frost on the rolling hills of the beautiful course at Augusta Country Club melted under a brilliant fall sun on Oct. 3, just in time for the shotgun start of the inaugural Professionals Hit the Links Golf Tournament.

About 70 golfers participated in the event jointly hosted by the Maine State Bar Association, Maine Medical Association and the MECPA.

It was a great opportunity

to meet people outside of the office, and in person!

Thank you to all participants and our incredible sponsors: Major Sponsors Gorham Savings Bank and UWorld Rogers, and hole and par sponsors ADP, AllenFreemanMcDonnell Agency, Bangor Savings Bank, Cross Insurance, NBT Bank, Norton Life Lock, Old Republic Title, Payroll Management and Rock Harbor Brewing.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE

Local support when you need it

"Who you gonna call ... MECPA!! While we're not quite as heroic as those lovable characters in the *Ghostbusters* movies, we do answer the call! We respond to myriad questions from the press, members of the public, legislators, CPAs, etc.



In September, for example, we fielded numerous calls about CPA licensing. The Maine Board of Accountancy handles this function, but not everyone is aware of this.

Staffing changes at the BoA also led to some delays in response time, so people called us and we were happy to step up!

Your membership in the MECPA ensures that we can continue to serve as a resource, and promoter of your success and the accounting profession.

Thank you and Happy Halloween!

— Trish Brigham

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The Forum: A collaborative new member benefit/resource

By now, most of you have interacted with our new MECPA website. One exciting new feature is [The Forum](#) page, offering members an opportunity to discuss and exchange professional knowledge and expertise.

We have a multitude of informational resources, but

sometimes it can be most effective to speak with someone who shares an affiliation, local knowledge or common experience.

Side note: Thank you for your patience as we've worked through the various stages of the website rollout!

BOARD PRESIDENT LETTER

A challenging profession, but much to be thankful for too

Hello, members. I hope you've had a great fall.

As we turn our attention to November, I turn mine to my favorite holiday – Thanksgiving.

I love this holiday for many reasons – sharing stories and laughing with family, playing backyard football with cousins, and of course, indulging in endless amounts of delicious food, drink and dessert. But it's also an important time to reflect and acknowledge all we have to be thankful for. This act is equally important.

As accountants, it's easy to get trapped in the inherent hustle of our profession – the long hours, the unclear accounting guidance, the client that doesn't provide requested documents until the last minute.

Sure, our profession has its challenges. But, we also have so much to be thankful for. We work in a profession that is engaging, challenging, and always changing. Most importantly, we're consid-



David Stone

ered trusted advisors to many clients and, for those in private accounting, to many colleagues.

The pandemic is a great example. Accountants rallied to provide clients and colleagues guidance as soon as it was released. This allowed

clients, many of which own small businesses, the capacity to focus on what they're passionate about – running their businesses. It also allowed colleagues, many of which are also in leadership positions, the ability to focus on navigating the ensuing uncertainty.

I'm sure we all have success stories that we're proud of over the past few years. I hope you all will join me this November in reflecting on all we've accomplished as a profession. It truly is remarkable. Sure, we have a lot more to accomplish and a lot more room to grow. But, for just a little while, let's appreciate all we've become!

— David Stone,
Board president



BEYOND THE NUMBERS: MARYANNE M. MATTSON

Beautifully defying the stereotypes of CPAs and accounting

Employer: Mother Bear Corporation, Bar Harbor

Title: Many hats for different accounts – President, CFO, Executive Director

How long in this profession: 40+ years (How did that happen?)

How long have you been an MECPA member: 22 years

How has being a member helped you: It has kept me informed on important professional and tax matters in the state of Maine, given me a group of colleagues to connect to, opportunity to join social events and a solid sounding board with a diverse group of practitioners.

What's your volunteer organization and role in it: Currently, I'm on a sabbatical from serving on Boards. My volunteer focus now is on helping local individual senior citizens to get their accounts in order, explaining financial matters and preparing their taxes. I find this very rewarding.

How did you get involved: I served on boards and volunteered at a variety of organizations over the years. These have included animal shelters, horse rescues, a wolf preserve, marine mammal



stranding center, hospice, Rotary, and a local theater.

What is gratifying about this: I have always felt it is important to give back. I grew up in a family that volunteered, so it just seems natural. The need for help is so great. We all need to do all that we can, in whatever way that works. Working to improve, or simply assisting different causes is an essential part of my values.

What are your hopes for the future of our profession: That we can attract creative and entrepreneurial-type individuals. The image of the CPA as just being about numbers or taxes is too confining. CPAs are capable of so much more and can be pivotal in leading their clients to successfully achieving their goals. Young people thinking about the

profession need to understand that it can be a super-fun career! We can all adjust how we do things and claim it as our own.

How do you relieve work stress: I enjoy spending time with my two daughters (25 and 27). I also enjoy gardening, running, hiking, biking, kayaking, reading, cooking, travel, and painting. Lots of things!

Little-known fact(s) about you: I founded The Beacon School of Imaginative Studies, a girls mystery school while I lived in Boulder, CO. I'm a Reiki Master and a graduate of the International School of Shiatsu. I'm also a graduate of the Path of the Ceremonial Arts and a member of the Order of Bards, Ovates & Druids. I have swum with dolphins, kayaked with orcas, and have hiked 500 miles of the Appalachian Trail. I marched in the NYC Macy's Thanksgiving Parade with the CPA Briefcase Brigade. A highlight of my career was scoring a goal against the Olympic Field Hockey team in an exhibition match.

Want to be featured in
Beyond the Numbers?
[Let Trish Bringham know!](#)

**THREE
CHEERS!**

Big shoutouts to some incredible MECPA members!

Congratulations to the following Maine-connected firms who were included on Inside Public Accounting's Top 100 firms list: Baker Newman Noyes, BerryDunn, Marcum and Wipfli.

CPA Exam Morale Booster Group members: Jordan Kennedy and Sam Hornblower who recently passed all four parts of the CPA Exam! The CPA Exam process is a lot easier with "a little help from friends."

Interested in joining our CPA Exam group? [Email Emily Dupler.](#)



MEMBER NEWS

On the fun networking side ...



Ever-popular cornhole!

A lively group of cornholers enjoyed some friendly competition at event host, Definitive Brewing on a beautiful August night. Congratulations to all participating teams from ARB/Covetrus, BerryDunn, Brown & Kelly, Dawson & Souter, Gorham Savings Bank / UWorld Rogers. The top two winning teams, who jostled for first-place bragging rights and some sporty Definitive Brewing gear, included Ryan Dawson, Andrew Slattery, Tom Orr and Jeff Charland.



Switching from beanbags to basketballs ... Join us Nov. 6 for the Maine Celtics!

Grab family, friends, colleagues, and join us at the Nov. 6 Maine Celtics game at the Portland Expo. Tipoff is at 1 p.m.

All attendees will have a chance to win a \$100 L.L.



Bean gift certificate or a Winter Survival Basket (hat, travel mug, gift cards), thanks to the generous donations from sponsors UWorld Rogers and ADP!

[Get your tickets here!](#)

Recognition event gets a refresh

Congratulations again to many of you who received recognition for your professional prowess, leadership and community spirit at the MECPA's 2020 and 2021 Awards events.

Later this year, we'll be so-

liciting nominations for 2023 superstars. Please watch your email and periodically check the MECPA website for the nomination form.

Award winners will be celebrated during the Annual Meeting in May 2023.

Psst ... You may want to copy this member's strategy

Our latest installment of ListenUP! – where we learn a little about an interesting MECPA member – features Emanuele Porretto, whose strategy for managing stress and identifying



Emanuele Porretto

solutions is to build exercise and periodic breaks into his

daily routine.

Listen to his conversation with MECPA Executive Director Trish Brigham [here](#).

Have a few minutes to chat? Want to introduce yourself to fellow

members?

[Contact Trish](#) FMI.

Are ya there? We are listening!

Business as usual ... is no longer, well, usual!

Adaptation and flexibility are now the name of the game, including for the MECPA.

To continue providing the resources and support you need, it's important for us to understand what your needs are.

You can help by completing [this brief survey](#). Thank you!





MEMBER NEWS

Board's student rep offers perspective for students ... and their mentors

By Liz Flynn,
recent St. Joseph's College graduate

The biggest takeaway from my undergraduate experience is how important it is to hold yourself accountable, both inside and outside of the classroom.

As a student, taking the time to properly master course material increases your potential to be a successful accounting professional. Outside of the classroom, skills that develop through networking, internship experiences, and community involvement can drastically improve a graduate's chances for amazing career opportunities.

If I could go back in time, I would:

- Create my LinkedIn profile in my

freshman year.

- Experience as many internships as possible.
- Pursue part-time/summer jobs in my course of study.
- Join career-related organizations like the MECPA to make connections.

Don't panic if you haven't done any of these things. Take advantage of opportunities in the early years of your professional career to build your network and develop communication and professional social skills. As a graduate student, I plan to take every chance I get to build connections because I know it will help me to be more successful in my career.

An outstanding
new member
benefit:
FREE
MBA course

The University of Maine Business School recently approved an offer worth \$2,000 for MECPA members.

Enroll in the school's MBA program's capstone course, and attend for FREE!

If this impacts you or a colleague, reach out to [Trish Brigham](#) for details.

Join us Nov. 4: Let's solve challenges together

On Friday, Nov. 4, the MECPA will host a virtual meeting to discuss how we – you, your employers/employees and the MECPA – can work together to overcome

the challenges and grasp the opportunities facing the accounting profession.

Contact [Trish Brigham](#) if you'd like to participate.

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ADVOCACY



Be an influencer! Your VOTE & involvement matter

*Tuesday, Nov. 8 is Election Day
– Get out the vote!*

A new Maine Legislature will be seated in 2023.

The MECPA – which seeks to be a bipartisan voice on tax, accounting and licensing-related issues – will resume its members-only Legislative Updates once legislative work gets under way.

Sometimes this may include a legislative action alert. Please consider responding by becoming an “influencer.” This can be as simple as contacting your state legislator – using your own language or draft language we provide to you.

More members getting involved means more influence on policy in Augusta!



9 a.m., January 13

State Tax Update & Legislative Outlook
Sponsored by Maine Revenue Services

Update: Recent advocacy efforts

The MECPA, along with other state societies and the AICPA, urged our federal representatives to sign on to bipartisan congressional letters to the Internal Revenue Service addressing persistent customer service issues, processing delays, and the outstanding backlog of returns.

Mike Santo, MECPA Taxation Com-

mittee Chair, was a featured guest on U.S. Sen. Angus King’s monthly podcast, weighing in on ways in which increased funding for the IRS will positively impact Maine taxpayers.

[Listen here.](#)

When the new Legislature is seated next year, we’ll be monitoring legislation that could impact you and your clients.



Visit to the State House a great opportunity for new professionals

Interested in learning more about the inner workings of the state Legislature and the MECPA’s advocacy efforts on your behalf?

Consider joining us on Thursday, Jan. 19, for a visit to the State House in Augusta.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. in the Cross Building. Elizabeth Frazier, a

Pierce Atwood associate, will be our guide for the day, escorting us to the House and Senate viewing galleries while the Legislature is in session.

We’ll also tour the State House and make every effort to meet members of the Legislature’s Taxation Committee during our visit. You must register to attend. [Email Emily Dupler.](#)



PIPELINE

Making the rounds at Maine schools, promoting our profession!

Solving the pipeline issue is an “all-hands-on-deck” effort, with firms, the AICPA and state societies each playing a role. For our part, the MECPA focuses on reaching high school and college students and spreading the message that accounting is a career with great options and opportunities.

This fall, we have had several professionals visit Westbrook High School accounting classes. Here are a couple of comments from students there that show the impact of such visits:

“I think having guest speakers can be beneficial. They help share new points of views and different pathways from people who have really experienced these situations and careers. We can learn about different pathways and jobs from the curriculum, but I think it makes it more real when we hear a person talking about their experiences and what they did to get where they are. They also give us new information about certain topics that we may not get from just learning in the classroom.”

“The importance of a guest speaker coming in every once in a while is massive, as it gives us a chance to look up to someone experienced in the industry. It also provides us with a reality of what it would be like if we went into accounting

Nov. 7-11 is National CPA Week!

We’re extending that for the entire month of November, and we’ll be reaching out to as many educators as possible to help Maine high school students better understand CPA career opportunities. Interested in sharing your story? Contact [Trish](#).



At left, Spencer Hathaway, representing the MECPA, and above, Dalton Myers and Laura Everett, representing Albin Randall & Bennett, enjoyed speaking with students at a University of Maine Accounting Career Night.

as they explained and answered questions about their program.”

At the college level, the MECPA was well represented at the University of Maine and University of Southern Maine’s Accounting Career/Firm Nights and at Husson University’s Accounting Club. The benefits of these interactions clearly extend to the professionals, too:

“It went great! Better turnout than I had imagined,” said former MECPA Board President Spencer Hathaway, who spoke to University of Maine students. “Got some really great questions from students and they definitely seemed interested in what the MECPA was all about.”

“It was great to come back to USM and represent the MECPA as a resource for many different levels of students as

they work their way through the accounting world,” said Sam Hornblower of DuFour Tax. “The turnout was refreshing to see – from Accounting 101 students to seniors getting ready to step into full-time roles.”

Thank you to our MECPA pipeline presenters:

- Jake Black, BerryDunn – Husson University Accounting Club
- Ryan Curry, IDEXX – Westbrook High School
- Spencer Hathaway, Baker Newman Noyes – University of Maine
- Sam Hornblower, Dufour Tax – University of Southern Maine
- Blake Potter, Wipfli – Westbrook High
- Cheryl Sommer, Albin Randall & Bennett – Westbrook High



INDUSTRY NEWS

AICPA Fall Council: Pipeline concerns, pressing firm issues

Maine was well-represented at the AICPA's Fall Council meeting in Chicago this month. The biannual event was back in-person (no hybrid option) for the first time since 2019.

The meeting provides attendees with opportunities to converse and consult with accounting professionals from around the country and to hear from industry leaders on current topics and trends.

Pipeline challenges topped the list of discussion items this year – including ways to smooth the process to licensure for new profes-

sionals. The 150-credit hour requirement has increasingly been pointed to by practitioners as an impediment.

It does not appear that AICPA/NASBA leadership will change this in the foreseeable future. But consideration is being given to alternative pathways for earning the credit – including on-the-job-training.

Other recommendations for expanding the pool of candidates included CPA exam support – both time and financial – and recruiting a more diverse candidate pool.



From left, AICPA Chair Anoop Mehta, MECPA Board President David Stone of BerryDunn, Mayson Stone of BerryDunn, Councilor-at-large Jodie Heal of Heal Accounting, AICPA Council Representative Karla Brannen and AICPA Vice Chair Okorie Ramsey during the Fall Council meeting in Chicago.

2022 PCPS CPA Firm Top Issues - what firms are worried about today

	Sole practitioners	2-5 professionals	6-10 professionals	11-20 professionals	21+ professionals	
1	Challenges when working with the IRS	Challenges when working with the IRS	Challenges when working with the IRS	Finding qualified staff	Finding qualified staff	
2	Keeping up with changes and complexity of tax laws	Keeping up with changes and complexity of tax laws	Keeping up with COVID relief programs	Finding qualified staff	Challenges when working with the IRS	Retaining qualified staff
3	Keeping up with COVID relief programs	Finding qualified staff	Keeping up with COVID relief programs	Developing the next generation of firm leadership	Challenges when working with the IRS	
4	Seasonality/layering of deadlines	Seasonality/layering of deadlines	Developing the next generation of firm leadership	Keeping up with changes and complexity of tax laws	Developing the next generation of firm leadership	Staff comp. and rewards programs
5	Keeping up with changes in technology and managing associated costs	Keeping up with changes in technology and managing associated costs	Seasonality/layering of deadlines	Retaining qualified staff	Maintaining staff connectivity and morale	



BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

BoA Board member on life in a 'stand-out' profession

We asked Carl Chatto – a recently retired, long-serving member of the Maine Board of Accountancy, to share a few reflections on his experience and the accounting profession.

By Carl Chatto

I was honored to serve on the Maine Board of Accountancy for nine years, during which time I learned a great deal about the regulatory environment for CPAs and the Board's responsibility to step in, when asked, to assist Maine citizens in their dealings with CPAs.

The Board of Accountancy is responsible for overseeing the licensing of individuals and firms, and hearing complaints against licensed individuals and firms. Many of the complaints against CPAs stem from a lack of communication about the status of a client's work. Good communication with clients, including notification of schedule delays, can head off a troublesome and expensive complaint process.

After graduating from Bentley College, I started my public accounting career with Peat Marwick

Mitchell & Co. in Portland. I became a partner at Baker Newman Noyes in 2004, eventually becoming the Managing Partner before retiring in 2019.



My career gave me a great "behind the scenes" look at how a variety of businesses operate, from banks to TV stations to colleges, and more.

I kept up my CPA license while on the Board and I will keep it now that I'm on the "other side" and chair of the audit committee at Greenfield Savings Bank in Massachusetts.

Accounting has changed so much since I took Intermediate Accounting back in 1981, and tax laws have undergone innumerable changes since then as well.

I doubt that the pace of change will slow, but core functions of CPAs and their independence, integrity and trustworthiness will always make our profession stand out to clients and staff.

Other BoA news

No future meeting date has been set

because the Board is awaiting the governor's approval of new member nominations.

TECH UPDATES & INDUSTRY NEWS

Prepare for the Maine Tax Portal!

By Mike Fortin, Director, Maine Tax Portal promotions

Maine Revenue Services is modernizing Maine's online tax system to make managing your business/client's taxes easier, faster, and more convenient.

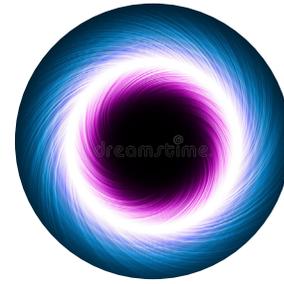
On the new system, the Maine Tax Portal, business taxpayers and tax professionals will be able to file and pay state taxes, set up payment plans, update account details, check on refunds, and view notices from Maine Revenue Services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Maine Tax Portal replaces I-File, MEETRS, and EZ-Pay, and eventually will be the only online option for filing and paying Maine state taxes.

When you can begin using the Portal depends on the taxes your clients pay, but there are important steps you should take now to make sure you are prepared:

1. Mark Dec. 1 on your calendar. That's when the Maine Tax Portal will be available for businesses that pay Sales, Use, Withholding and Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR), taxes, as well as their third-party tax professionals. Check the rollout schedule [here](#) to confirm when the Portal will be available for the taxes your clients pay. Individual income taxes will not be available on the Portal until late 2023.

2. Once the Maine Tax Portal opens, you'll need to create a username and password. In order to do this, you will need your Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number, and either a Letter ID (contained in the Maine Tax Portal invitation which

you will be receiving in November), or the dollar amount of a tax return or refund from one of the past three filings. To set up your account, go to maine.gov/revenue/portal and follow the "Create a Username" prompt.



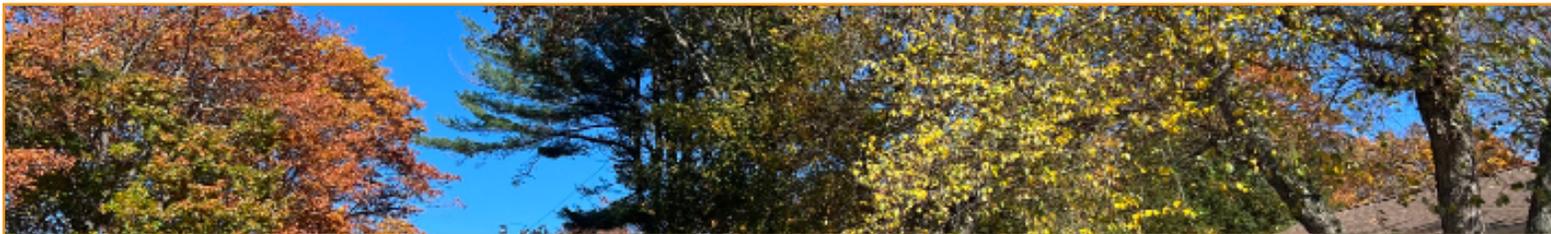
3. Gather your clients' records. Print filing history from I-

File, no later than May 31, 2023. I-File, MEETRS, and EZ-Pay will be deactivated after that date, and your records will no longer be accessible. Going forward, any payment or filing activity on the Maine Tax Portal will be accessible online anytime.

4. Sign up for training. Maine Revenue Services is offering live training webinars through Dec. 15. [Register here](#). Additional training videos and resources are on the MRS website. Coordinate with your clients. If you require third-party access to prepare business taxes for your clients, both of you will need to create Maine Tax Portal accounts. As a third party, you must request and receive access to your clients' Maine Tax Portal accounts. Step-by-step instructions and resources are available on the MRS website

5. Reach out for help. Maine Revenue Services has training videos, Frequently Asked Questions, and [other resources here](#). [Email us](#) with "MTP" in the subject line or call 9 a.m.-noon weekdays at 207-624-9784.

Our agency is committed to making the transition to the Maine Tax Portal as seamless as possible for all Maine taxpayers. We encourage you to sign up for our training webinars and contact us with any questions.



TECH UPDATES & INDUSTRY NEWS



Digital Assets present risks, challenges & opportunities – Find out more Nov. 9

Kicking yourself because you didn't invest that \$10 in bitcoin seven or eight years ago?

Back then, the term cryptocurrency was just being "coined," and the financial world looked with interest, but gave no serious consideration to what many viewed as the latest "tulip bulb" craze.

Fast forward, and digital assets have evolved to the point where they're making

their way into 401K retirement plans and philanthropic giving as [this recent article mentions](#).

All of this has implications for accounting and tax professionals, in addition to investment advisors.

On Nov. 9, join us for an informative and interesting panel presentation and discussion on all aspects of digital currency.

[Register here.](#)

In this employee-driven hiring environment, focus is on DEI

The accounting industry has some work to do in the area of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

With staff turnover averaging 15-16%, policies impacting compensation, hiring, and professional development/mentoring take on added importance.

According to Inside Public Accounting, IPA's 2022 Benchmark Report:

- 23.3% of equity partners

are female.

- Black, Asian and Hispanic and other minorities continue to be underrepresented, at 3%, 8% and 6% of staff.

- 18% of firms offer unlimited PTO for exempt staff with nine or more years of experience. Only 3% offer this benefit for non-exempt staff with the same experience level.

[Go here](#) for an Executive Summary.

ESG making its way into business school curriculums

The theme for MECPA's Annual Meeting last spring was ESG (Environmental Social Governance), a topic that is still finding its footing in many business organizations, particularly among smaller entities.

SEC regulations have forced larger, publicly held

businesses to embrace at least some ESG aspects – and, interestingly enough, put them ahead of business school educators.

Tomorrow's C-suite leaders need to come up to speed and universities need to help them do that.

[Read more here.](#)

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks to our key sponsors!

The generosity of Deloitte and NBT, our 2022 key sponsors, has allowed the MECPA to offer top-quality professional development programs – from Communications to Ethics – as well as stress-busting social events at discounted prices for members. **THANK YOU!**

