

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE

We've been advancing the profession for a century

36,500 days, 876,000 hours, 52.6 million minutes. Pretty impressive numbers for the Maine Society of CPAs as it turns 100.

While much has changed over the past century – today's accounting tools of the trade would be unimaginable in 1924 – a few things remain constant. The Society continues to work tirelessly to advance the profession and success of its practitioners.

We've adapted over the years to focus on the most pressing issues. Today,



Trish Brigham

we support you through effective legislative advocacy and innovative approaches to the profession's pipeline challenges.

If you're also hoping to make it to 100, social engagement is key.

Community and connection are at the heart of what we do – and good for all of us. Thank you for your membership. We hope you'll continue to engage with us and rejoin for the upcoming membership year. And invite a colleague to do so, too!

– Executive Director
Trish Brigham



Margaret Towne, 16, of Berlin, N.H., comes down the ski jump at Portland's Western Promenade during the Winter Carnival of 1924.

Collections of Maine Historical Society/ MaineToday Media

**100
YEARS!**

Jump into our special May 17 celebration & meeting

After quite a 'stormy' busy season, and in a major milestone year, the Society and its members have much to celebrate!

Our **Leading Into the Future & Annual Meeting** features four terrific presenters, including a former AICPA chair who will present the Society with a special gift from the AICPA commemorating our 100th birthday.

We'll also recognize four outstanding **Centennial Award** winners, congratulate newly licensed CPAs, enjoy some 100-centric trivia and much more.

This special event is from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m, Friday, May 17, at the beautiful Brunswick Hotel in Brunswick. It offers 4 CPE, and lunch is included. See page 8 for our speaker lineup, page 9 for meeting info and page 10 for award winners. And, most importantly ... **Register here!**

Special thanks to event sponsors **M&T Bank** and **Payroll Management**.

Upcoming events

Check out these events happening in the next few weeks, watch emails & visit mecpa.org for many more programs.

MAY 30

Ethical Accounting Practice & Decision-making in the AI Era

Co-hosted with the NHSCPA. Virtual. [REGISTER.](#)

JUNE 4

Demystifying the Offshore Talent Recruitment Process

Virtual. [REGISTER.](#)

JUNE 6

MERIT Informational Webinar. [REGISTER.](#)

JUNE 20

Accountants Artificial Intelligence Conference

Virtual. [REGISTER.](#)

See some lighter-side calendar items on page 7.

HELLO, ACCOUNTANTS!

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ADVOCACY

We're working at all levels to ensure a bright future



The Maine Society of CPAs plays a critical role in advocacy, helping to shape the future of the profession and the laws that affect CPAs.

We're dedicated to building relationships with legislators and strengthening our ties with Maine Revenue Services (MRS).

Over the past months, we've worked on the following state and federal issues. During state legislative sessions, we provide periodic members-only updates.

These are archived on the [mecpa website](#).

In Maine

With assistance from our lobbyists at Pierce Atwood, we successfully lobbied against several bills that, as proposed, jeopardized taxpayer confidentiality and carried significant compliance burdens for CPAs and their clients.

With guidance from the MECPA's Taxation Committee, an improved/amended version of a bill to create a pass-through entity and child care credit was sent to the Legislature. This bill was ultimately tabled pending development of an implementation plan by MRS.

We also worked with MRS for state conformity with

federal tax filing deadline extensions.

Nationally

We've partnered with the AICPA and state CPA Societies on pipeline initiatives, including STEM designation for accounting.

Efforts continue to delay enforcement of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) reporting requirements.

In a letter addressed to the U.S. Treasury Department and FinCEN, the MECPA, 53 other state Societies and the AICPA voiced serious concerns about enforcement of the BOI requirements and asked that all enforcement actions be suspended until one year after the conclusion of all court cases related to *NSBA v. Yellen* and believes that no retroactive enforcement for non-compliance should happen during this time.

Want to get involved?

The MECPA's Taxation Committee, chaired by Board member Mike Santo, is an important part of our advocacy and public information efforts.

Interested in joining this dynamic group? Contact [Mike](#) or [Trish Brigham](#).

Our fantastic volunteers spread good news about accounting

Perhaps AI will pave the way for MECPA staff to be in multiple places simultaneously, but until then, our incredible volunteers amplify our accomplishments, particularly for pipeline expansion.

- Micah Davis Johnson, Aries Wealth Management; and Stefan Lange, Partners Bank – South Portland Middle School Career Exploration Day

- Nate Perry, Wipfli; and Christine Moulton, KDS CPAs – Cape Elizabeth High School classroom speakers

- Cathy Connolly, CJ Connolly Forensics; Ryan Curry, IDEXX; Micah Davis-Johnson, Aries Wealth Management; Stefan Lange, Partners Bank; and David Stone, BerryDunn – classroom speakers

- Jake Black, Leah Clair and Derek Collin,



Left: Our display at the South Portland High School Career Fair. Above: Board member and active volunteer Micah Davis-Johnson and colleague Tim Woodhouse at the South Portland Middle School Career Exploration Day.

BerryDunn; and Donna Oxley, BBSC – Brewer High School and Hampden Academy Career Fairs

Here are a few comments from students in high school classes visited by one of the MECPA's stellar guest speakers:

"What I found most valuable was his

advice to become close with professors because it increases your chances at new opportunities."

"He opened my mind to things and other opportunities."

"I found every advice he gave very interesting and because of his career, I am now considering accounting as a major."

BOARD PRESIDENT NOTE

Thanks for an exhilarating ride

It's hard to believe this is my last update as MECPA President. I remember when I was asked to serve as President. I was honored.

My excitement was mixed with anxiousness and a great sense of responsibility. I knew I had big shoes to fill, with recent predecessors such as Lauren Corey, Peter Hall and Spencer Hathaway.

The last two years have been such an exhilarating journey. I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to work alongside such a dynamic Board and with an astounding Executive Director, Trish Brigham. They've made my job as President easy!

We've accomplished so much in such a short period of time and, although I won't be "at the helm" so to speak, I look forward to continuing to push forward the MECPA's various initiatives in the coming years.



David Stone

This is a big year for us – our 100th anniversary! What an honor to have been part of the MECPA's first 100 years. I hope you will join us for the MECPA's 100th birthday bash at our Annual Meeting on May 17. We have a jam-packed agenda, full of timely CPE topics. Come celebrate with us – we've

all earned it!

Executive Director note

On behalf of all MECPA members and Maine CPAs, I'd like to thank David Stone, and his predecessors, for their dedication, guidance and leadership.

They bear the same professional stresses and demands, yet make time to support and advance the profession, their colleagues, clients and the general public. We're all indebted to you. THANK YOU!

ListenUp! Meet Michele Sullivan of BNN

Don't let Michele Sullivan's West Coast vibe, developed during her days owning and managing a Ben & Jerry's franchise in Seattle, fool you.

She's insightful, intuitive and equally adept at visioning and implementing.

She brings all of these important skills to bear in her role as Associate Director of Audit Operations at Baker Newman Noyes.

[Listen to her ListenUp! segment](#) with MECPA Executive Director Trish Brigham.

NOTE: Michele is a member of the MECPA in our associate category. We welcome non-CPA professionals with some affiliation/connection to the accounting profession to join our community. Know someone who might benefit? Encourage them to [join](#).



Michele Sullivan



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to another, we bring the
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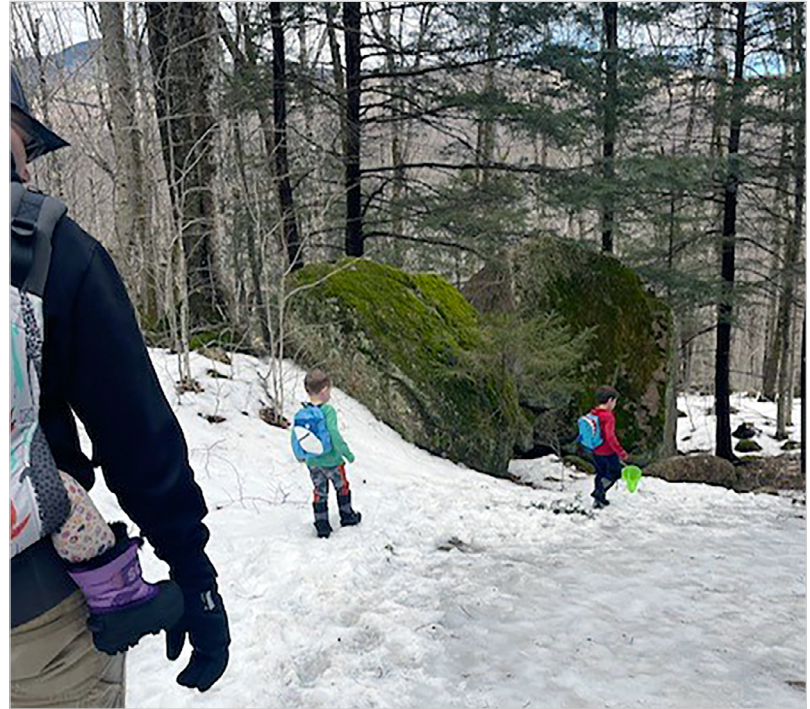
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Burnout Buster participant Arie Boulette racked up some miles hiking with her family in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Congrats to all who took our Burnout Buster Fitness Challenge

Congratulations to those who walked, hiked and ran to burn off some of the stress that builds during the busy season winter months! Lets keep moving!

- Arie Boulette, One River CPAs
- Amanda Shultz Brown, Smith & Associates
- Nick DeBlois, One River CPAs
- Jeffrey Fitch, Tate-Fitch, PA
- Kelly Huggins, One River CPAs
- Mary Middleton, Middleton CPA
- Jessica Parks, One River CPAs
- Louise Soucy, Soucy Accounting Services
- Michele Sullivan, Baker Newman Noyes
- Robert Wood, Tye Carr Advisory

Considering a CGMA certificate?

MECPA member Chris Madden, CPA, CGMA, shares a few insights:

Q: Why seek Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) certification?

Chris: To show a deeper commitment and understanding of management accounting.

Q: Benefits of CGMA skill set/knowledge?

Chris: We use management accounting to help our clients better understand operations, finance, budgeting & strategic planning.

Stay in the know! Visit MECPA.org.

Efforts abound to expand pipeline, ease talent shortage

MECPA COLLEGE MENTOR PROGRAM

Bridge the gap - connect with aspiring accountants!

Help Maine's accounting community thrive!



CONNECT

Meet the future leaders in accounting and potentially your next best hire!

GIVE BACK

Enhance students' understanding of the accounting profession and its various specializations.

EMPOWER

Mentors have the opportunity to actively shape the future of accounting.

TEAM UP

Strengthen the relationships between MECPA, educators, and firms.

TO SIGN UP:

Step 1: Contact Trish Brigham, trish@mecpa.org or 207.761.0925

Step 2: Sponsor your students' membership fee of \$50

Step 3: Make the most of your relationship with your mentee!

www.mecpa.org
 [me_cpa](https://www.instagram.com/me_cpa)
 207.761.0925

Leadership development for students

Before sending student interns off for the summer, encourage them to apply for the Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop, hosted by the AICPA Oct. 16-18 in Atlanta.

Apply by May 15.

[Learn more here.](#)

We're partnering to show what studying accounting in business school looks like

In the first of what we hope will become a regular tradition, the MECPA is partnering with St. Joseph's College to host Maine high school students on the college campus in Standish.

A hybrid attendance option is available for a day of discovery on May 3. The goal is to inform and raise awareness about the exciting opportunities and value offered by a business school education – with an emphasis on an accounting major. Students will hear from current college students and business professionals, and participate in a competitive business challenge.

Funding for this one-day event has been generously provided by **Wipfli**.



IS A BUSINESS MAJOR FOR ME?

PRIZES AVAILABLE!

May 3 | 8:30 am - 1:30 pm | Saint Joseph's College of Maine,

This one-day event offers an opportunity to connect with students, professors, and working professionals and learn about many different career choices. Open to any high school student with an interest in business. Hybrid attendance is available.



Schedule:

8:30 am	Registration
8:45 am	SJC Welcome & Student/Faculty Panel
9:45 am	Break
10:00 am	Professional Career Panel, Wipfli LLP
11:00 am	Break
11:10 am	Mock Business Challenge Teams
12:00 pm	Lunch & Conversation
12:45 pm	Optional Campus Tour

For more information about this exciting event, please contact:

Rick Dodge, MBA, CMA, Asst. Prof. of Business Administration
rdodge@sjcme.edu

Patricia Brigham, Executive Director, Maine Society of CPA's
trish@mecpa.org

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

WIPFLI

**ME
CPA**
MAINE SOCIETY OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Register today!



New College Mentor Program

The MECPA's Pipeline Committee, led by Jake Black and Micah Davis-Johnson, announces a new program to provide one-on-one support and encouragement to accounting students through to degree completion. *See flyer above.*

Data shows increased awareness of accounting careers

Accounting+ is a rebranding effort by the Center for Audit Quality and partners, including the MECPA, to provide every student, particularly, Black, Latino and Hispanic high school and early college students, an opportunity to explore a career in accounting.

Recent market research showed that 2023 was a growth year for the program: 14.6 million students visited the Accounting+ website, a 233% year-over-year growth, and more than 65,000 students subscribed into the Accounting+ ecosystem, a 283% year-over-year growth. Learn more about Accounting+ [here](#).

National Pipeline Advisory Group update

NPAG, a multi-stakeholder body that works to increase the number of students pursuing a career in accounting, and ultimately CPA licensure, has met over the past few months.

[Read this](#) to see how NPAG is working to promote retaining employees, and help shape pipeline expansion efforts by sharing your thoughts in its national survey open until May 9. Practitioners, take the survey [here](#); students, [here](#). [Bookmark NPAG's website](#) to stay up to date on the group's work.

MEMBER NEWS

Stefan Lange earns Outstanding Accountant Alumni Award

MECPA Executive Director Trish Brigham had the privilege of presenting the Maine MBA Outstanding Accountant Alumni Award to MECPA member Stefan Lange, CPA, MBA, at the third annual Maine Business School's Alumni Awards and Business Forum on March 28.

Stefan is Vice President and Controller at Partners Bank.

The award recognizes an alumnus who has displayed leadership and generosity within their field, community or firm.

Stefan is well known in Maine accounting circles, having interned at BerryDunn and worked in Baker Newman Noyes' audit department.

He has a great career story to tell, and he has enthusiastically done just that in classrooms across southern Maine as part of the MECPA's efforts to spread the word and build excitement around the accounting profession. Congratulations Stefan!

The event was held for the first time at UMaine's newly renovated space at 300 Fore St. in Portland.



From left: Partners Bank President Blaine Boudreau, Partners Bank CFO Jennifer Stauffis, Stefan Lange and his wife Mary Michaud, MECPA Executive Director Trish Brigham and Dave Nickerson, Partners Bank Board member, at the Maine Business School's Alumni Awards and Business Forum. Photo by: Soubanh Phanthay at Memory-maker Photography



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Advice he's lived by: Learn something to improve every day

Name/title:

David Smith, Treasurer/ Director

Employer:

Portland Global Advisors, LLC

How long in this profession:

43 years. Proudly or sadly, my CPA number is only three digits.

How long as an MECPA member:

Probably close to 40 years.

How has being a member helped you?

The MECPA provides a voice for the profession at the state level. A recent example is encouraging the state of Maine to extend the 2023 tax filing deadline to July 15 for the most recently declared Maine disaster zones. Having access to local, quality, low-cost education programs, especially in the days before Zoom, has been huge. The social events, such as the cornhole tournaments, have been a great way for the younger members to get connected.

Volunteer organization you're involved in:

I'm a member of the Board of Directors at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. GMRI provides a better understanding of the Gulf of Maine through hard science and research. Two of GMRI's missions are educating Maine's middle



David and Kelly Smith enjoying a bike ride together.

schoolers about the marine environment and determining the social and economic impact of climate change to the state. I grew up on the coast in Washington County, so I understand how vital a healthy ocean is to our quality of life.

Best advice you've received?

That is actually an easy question. I had many great mentors, partners and colleagues throughout my career, and they all taught me valuable lessons; however,

one "off the cuff" comment that stuck with me and I hopefully passed on to my younger teammates, is to never end a workday without learning at least one new thing that will make you better at your job. In our crazy busy days, it's too easy to focus on the task at hand and not focus on making yourself better. Hopefully, I did not do that too often. I wonder if my manager at Ernst & Young would recall making this statement. I should ask.

What do you do in your free time?

My wife Kelly and I moved to Sebago Lake in Windham after becoming empty nesters. We paddleboard, kayak, take lots of boat rides, and are known to enjoy a cocktail by the lake in the evenings. I'm happiest when I'm outside – whether gardening, fishing, hunting or hiking. Since leaving public accounting a few years ago, I have spent most of my free winter days skiing. Needless to say, this is new for me after 40 years in tax practice! It has not been easy to learn a new sport at this age, but I certainly try.

Favorite vacation spot:

Anywhere new and different if I am on a bicycle. Since leaving public accounting, Kelly and I take one or two bike trips each year. There is no better way to experience a country or a region than through an active biking vacation.

On the social side of our calendar

AUG. 22

Karter Kup Tennis Tournament

Newport, R.I., with the Massachusetts Society of CPAs. Includes lunch, tournament play (on grass courts!) and celebratory toast. A clinic with a tennis pro followed by open court time will be offered for those who want to improve skills. [Special member pricing: Register here!](#) [Register for the clinic here.](#) *Players must dress in tennis whites (coloring in white shoes is permitted) and bring their own racket.

IN THE WORKS

- Golf Clinic/X Golf Tournament
- Women's Initiative Joint Networking Event
- Softball tournament is back!

Interested in joining our **Difference Makers Committee** to help plan these events? [Contact Trish Brigham.](#)

Tired of gloom & doom news?

There's plenty of good news out there ... if you know where to look! Founded by Bill Burke, onetime MECPA presenter and former owner of the Portland Sea Dogs, The Optimism Institute offers uplifting and inspirational stories.

[Check it out here.](#)

Meet our spectacular lineup of Leading Into the Future & Annual Meeting speakers

ERNIE ALMONTE, CPA, CFE, CFF, CGMA, MST

Ernie, director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, has an impressive and varied resume, including serving as chairman of the board of the AICPA.



He was Auditor General for the state of Rhode Island for 15 years and worked as a partner at RSM, LLP, a national public accounting firm.

His community service includes seats on the boards of numerous organizations, ranging from Johnson & Wales University to Spectrum Theater Ensemble. In 2005 and 2008, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the Accounting Profession, by Accounting Today.

CHRIS MOURADIAN, CPA

Chris is a senior manager in BerryDunn's Assurance, Tax & Consulting group. Specializing in not-for-profit and healthcare clients, Chris has particular expertise in audit and compliance with federal and state grant requirements. He leverages his extensive experience to provide internal training to his colleagues.



He has been a key player on BerryDunn's Innovation Council and instrumental in efforts to research, analyze and adopt AI technology for the advancement of the firm and its clients.

JACK AGATI, MBA

Jack, a presenter and trainer in human relations and management, has combined his education and experiences into a practical and common-sense series of presentations relating to the successful management of the Social Aspects of Business.



For more than 25 years as a professional speaker, his appearances at conferences and business engagements

have earned him a reputation for presenting useful and relevant material with humor in a way that makes learning enjoyable.

SAMUEL THOMAS, CPA, MBA

Sam, a manager in BerryDunn's Commercial Practice Group, specializes in attest services for the firm's

more complex, upper-middle-market commercial business clients. These clients are often owned by private equity firms and operate across multiple states and internationally. A co-founder of BerryDunn's Innovative Audit Solutions Committee, Sam is committed to innovative auditing practices.



He holds an MIT Sloan School of Management certificate, focusing on the implications of artificial intelligence for business strategy. His expertise spans a variety of industries, where he provides assurance, accounting, business combination and consulting services.

LEADING INTO THE FUTURE & Annual Meeting

Schedule

8:45-9 a.m.

Welcome and opening remarks.

9-9:50 a.m.

*Mentoring/Sponsorship for Career Advancement
& Firm Success – Ernie Almonte*

9:50-10 a.m.

Break, M&T Bank Sponsor Presentation

10-10:50 a.m.

*Reap the Rewards of Effective Conflict
Resolution – Ernie Almonte*

10:50-11:05 a.m.

Break, AICPA presentation with Ernie Almonte

11:05-11:55 a.m.

*Exploring the AI Landscape: Implications
& Innovations for Accounting Professionals –
Sam Thomas & Chris Mouradian*

Noon-1:15 p.m.

Lunch, Annual Business Meeting and election
of leaders

1:15-2:05 p.m.

*Birth Order: What's it got to do with business
anyway? – Jack Agati*

2:15-3:15 p.m.

*Recognition & Conclusion: 2024 Centennial
Awards, New CPAs, Volunteer Appreciation*

Board of Governors slate ... for your approval on May 17

President

Barbara Belik, CPA, MBA, JD, Bergen Parkinson

President-Elect

Vacant

Treasurer

Spencer Hathaway, CPA, Baker Newman Noyes

Secretary

Heather Perreault, CPA, State of Maine

AICPA Elected Representative

David Stone, CPA, CFE, MBA, BerryDunn

AICPA Designated Representative

Barbara Belik

Board members

Dave Barrett, CPA, CMA, University of Maine

Jake Black, CPA, MBA, BerryDunn

Micah Davis-Johnson, CPA, CFA, Aries Wealth Management

Sam Hornblower, CPA, Dufour Tax Group

Mike Santo, CPA, Wipfli

Kirin Schrum, CPA, Purdy Powers

J. Kenneth Stewart III, Sr. Vice President, M&T Bank

Student Representative Nominee

Riley Andrews, University of Maine



Congratulations, newly licensed CPAs!

Shehzad Uddin Ansari

Bethany Ashley

Ross Baldree

Jala Caron

Maureen C. Conn

James Harvey Cottrell Jr.

Kenneth Gerald Desimone

Matthew J. Dube

Jordan C. Fournier

Daniel Lee Jensen

Evangeline Jerome

Hyunjin Kim

Ian Lichtenberg

Michelle A. Miller

Danielle Nelson

Erika Katherine Nelson

Nathan Perry

Bryanna Phillips

Blake Janet Potter

Michael Ian Reeder

Victoria Robinson

Zachery Srader

Darrolyn M. Worcester

100 YEARS CELEBRATION

Congratulations to our 2024 Centennial Award winners!

THE RISING STAR

For outstanding performance
and advancement in the early career stage

Lacy McMoarn, CPA, MAcc
Dufour Tax Group Partner

Lacy earned her masters in accounting from Saint Joseph's College of Maine, joined Dufour Tax Group in 2020 and became a partner in January 2023.

Her nominator said "Lacy possesses wisdom and professionalism beyond her years" and "has become the glue that holds our team together, regularly checking in with team members to ensure that they are thriving and engaged."

Lacy is also active in her community, serving as Treasurer for various local nonprofit groups and as a committee member for the MECPA. She was an AICPA Leadership Academy Graduate in 2019. Lacy recently joined the Finance Committee for Big Brothers Big Sisters, continues to serve on various AICPA committees and is Treasurer for the Biddeford/Thorn-ton Wrestling Foundation.

THE WISE SAGE

A respected, encouraging mentor
and trailblazing leader

Laurette Squier
Dead River Company Treasurer

Laurette began her career as an accounting intern at Nickerson, Simoneau & Norton CPA (Masters, Fowlie & Engelberg CPA). She then moved to Ernst & Whinney (predecessor to Baker Newman & Noyes), where she gained audit and tax knowledge that she leveraged to successfully lead the establishment of corporate tax departments at several Greater Portland mainstay companies, including IDEXX, Fairchild Semiconductor and WEX.

In her current role, as a member of Dead River's senior leadership team, Laurette is known for her prolific mentoring capabilities and the care, compassion and professionalism she brings to her position. Laurette names her dad, Richard N. Simoneau, CPA, and Ellie Baker, founding partner of BNN as her mentors. Laurette also earned a degree in horticulture from the University of Maine and an MSA from Bentley College.

THE GIVER

For generously contributing time and talent
to the profession and community

David Erb, CPA, MST
BerryDunn Tax Principal

Dave heads BerryDunn's Tax Consulting and Compliance Practice Group. He has been instrumental in creating seven development teams within the group to focus on professional development and client service. Annually, he leads "Tax Daze," a retreat for the team to review technical developments and strategic planning, and is active on the firm's Board. Externally, he is a delegate for the STAR group, an affiliation of firms, and serves as a firm representative at AICPA Major Firm Group Meetings.

Dave also has a passion for community service. He served on the Pine Tree Council Board for Boy Scouts of America as Treasurer prior to serving as Board President. He also served as a Council Member for the Cuckolds Fog Signal and Light Station Council during the period of active construction as the building was restored to its original condition.

THE FORWARD THINKER

For leadership in driving innovation,
inclusion and progressive ideas

Gibrian Foltz, CPA
One River CPAs Senior Tax Manager

Gibrian graduated from the University of Maine in 2007 with an MSA in accounting and started his career at Baker Newman Noyes in Portland, obtaining his CPA and developing a focus on taxation of flow-through entities and individuals. Gibrian recently joined the team at One River CPAs.

Gibrian has advocated for demonstrating that the public accounting profession can be a successful career option for those determined to have work-life balance. Keeping a part-time schedule for the majority of his career, Gib has maintained an art practice and studio in downtown Portland for many years, showing that it's possible to pursue your passion while having a great career. He has served on the Board of the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, serves on the Creative Portland Board and previously was President of the Portland artist collective studio space, where he still keeps his studio.

THANK YOU
to our event
sponsors:



**PAYROLL
MANAGEMENT**

M&T Bank

Wishing all the best to our great student Board reps

We send our “retiring” student representatives on the MECPA Board of Governors – Derek Collin and Cristian Dwyer – off with our gratitude and best wishes for future success.

The student representative program’s goals are best expressed by Derek and Cristian, our second rotation of students.

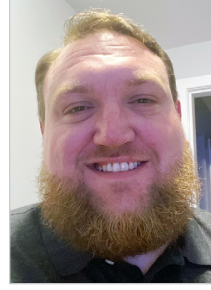
From Derek:

“... Being a student rep for the MECPA has given me the ability to connect with other professionals in the accounting field in Maine. Reflecting on my year as a student rep, I joined the Pipeline Committee to endorse the accounting profession, give a student’s perspective to committee meetings, and serve as a resource to connect to colleges and universities.

“It is vital to continue to promote the



Derek Collin



Cristian Dwyer

accounting profession and mitigate the regression of accounting students.”

From Cristian:

“Being a student representative for the MECPA... has provided me with unique opportunities to engage with professionals in the accounting field and voice the concerns and perspectives of fellow

students to industry leadership.

“Collaborating with members has exposed me to diverse viewpoints and taught the importance of effective teamwork in achieving common goals for the future of the industry. ... It has been an enriching experience that has complemented my academics and provided me with insights for a career in the accounting profession.”

Taking up the mantle from Derek and Cristian is Riley Andrews, a Bangor High School graduate, University of Maine senior and future MBA student.

Riley serves as President for the Accounting Club and a Buddy Coordinator for the University’s Best Buddies program. She intends to pursue a career in public accounting and is off to a good start with an internship in BerryDunn’s Bangor office.



Don't delay – Renew in May!

Why should you renew your membership, besides the fact that being a part of a 101 year-old institution is pretty cool? Your dues fund:

- Advocacy, including the work of lobbyists at Pierce Atwood.
- Pipeline work – Leveraging connections with educators, students and other career-focused organizations like FAME’s Jumpstart, JMG and Junior Achievement and enhancing the appeal of the profession through marketing and promotion.
- Business development opportunities arising through the extensive network of contacts we cultivate.
- Educational programs that are cost competitive, top quality and accessible and enable meaningful personal and professional development.

Accountants tend to love data and details. We try to communicate how we put your dollars to work through our newsletters, emails and social media posts. Interested in more information? Please [contact Trish Brigham](#).

BOA rule change extends CPA Exam window

Effective last month, CPA Exam takers in Maine now have a rolling 30 months, up from 18, to pass all four parts of the Examination.

Extending the Exam window is a

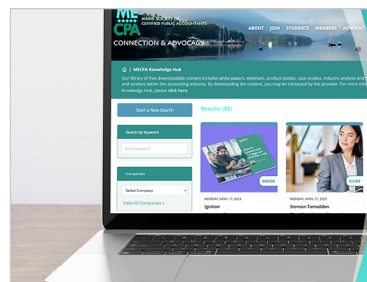
step toward better accommodating the needs and demands of a declining pool of CPA candidates. Maine joins the majority of other states in extending the Exam window to 30 months.

Thank you to our vital sponsors!

Many thanks to these incredible sponsors for supporting our pipeline and educational programs this year:

Deloitte
KPMG
M&T Bank

NBT Bank
Payroll Management
Wipfli



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INDUSTRY NEWS, BRIEFLY

AICPA Regional Meeting in NYC highlights advocacy & pipeline efforts on behalf of practitioners

MECPA-elected AICPA representative Tami Gower participated in information-gathering conversations focused on the various initiatives and proposals by NPAG and other industry leaders to address pipeline challenges at AICPA's recent meeting in New York.

Guiding discussions were the overriding beliefs that the profession needs to tell a more compelling, positive story that proactively addresses the cost and time of required education, makes the academic experience more engaging, provides better support to CPA Exam candidates, enhances employee experiences and expands pathways for the underrepresented.

Want to add your voice to the conversation? [Take the NPAG Survey here.](#)

Meeting attendees also heard about states' legislation with implications for the profession, including an anticipated rise in taxation of professional services; AI-related regulations; ESG bills calling for/against expanded business reporting and disclosure; and threats to CPA licensure.

In 2024, 90 state bills related to licensure were introduced, most aimed at streamlining all types of licensing, regardless of education and training required. The AICPA's and NASBA's Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing will spearhead efforts to combat anti-licensing legislation. State CPA Societies support these efforts.

Everybody makes mistakes – Really!

According to a newly published Gartner study conducted in July 2023, 18% of accountants make financial mistakes at least daily, many the result of capacity constraints.

The survey polled just under 500 respondents working in the controllership function. One-third of accountants made errors a few times weekly, while 59% said they made several errors every month.

"While capacity issues aren't new to accounting, demands on accounting staff capacity continue to rise," said Mallory Barg Bulman, senior director of research in the Gartner Finance practice. "In the past three years, 73% of accountants



Ahh ... it finally feels like spring! Take a little break to feel the sun. Patricia McCarthy photo

report that their workload has increased because of new regulations, and 82% say economic volatility has increased demands for their work."

Firm mobility and substantial equivalency – key points in pipeline proposals

As Individual states begin to propose/enact legislation around pathways to licensure, particularly addressing alternatives to the 150-credit-hour requirement, concern has arisen about the potential for substantial equivalency, currently embedded in the UAA and the foundation on which individual and firm mobility is based, to be adversely impacted.

[This video](#) addresses issues related to practicing across state lines.

Pace of change is accelerating for business; Are you adapting?

According to a recent analysis from Accenture ([source here](#)), an annual index that ranks six factors of change affecting businesses – technology, talent, economics, geopolitical, climate and consumer & social – reveals that the rate of change has risen sharply since 2019: 183% over the past four years and 33% from 2023 to 2024.

The accounting industry is no exception. Looking for tips on how to tackle change with the greatest chance for sustainable success? As you might suspect, communication is key.

For other tips, [this article](#) provides a helpful checklist. Looking to make a

change in your practice? The MECPA can help by recommending a talented facilitator. [Contact Trish Brigham.](#)

What's the key to effective communication? Listening!

On occasion, conversations with clients, and colleagues can be uncomfortable and difficult.

Want to make them more effective and productive? Consider these tips :

1. Be more curious.
2. Listen to understand, not respond.
3. Connect, don't convince.

The MECPA has several presenters who specialize in communication trainings. Interested? [Contact Trish Brigham](#)

NEPR suspends administration of program for non-AICPA firms

New England Peer Review (NEPR) joins a growing number of administering entities that are suspending their state programs for non-AICPA firms.

Cost is a big factor – fewer participating firms means higher per firm costs. More importantly, the AICPA Peer Review Standards now allow non-AICPA members to be enrolled in the AICPA Peer Review Program without a membership requirement.

The AICPA will automatically enroll firms in its Peer Review Program beginning May 16.

If you do not wish to be enrolled, or have additional questions about peer review for firms in Maine, [contact NEPR CEO Pamela Lemire.](#)

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For the second year, NHSCPA partnered with NH Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth & Families. (DCYF).

A 6 week Financial Literacy Program taught to youth by NH College Students.

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NHSCPA CONNECTION

A publication of the
New Hampshire Society of CPAs

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