



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER – Thoughts as we move forward as the NECPAs

With a mix of emotions – from wistful to excited – I’m letting you know that this is our last (and abbreviated) official MECPA newsletter. Future communication updates will be sent by the New England Society of CPAs.



It’s been a profound honor and privilege to serve as Executive Director of this 102-year-old stalwart organization. And I’ve been incredibly fortunate to work with talented Board members throughout my 9-year tenure.

I’m especially grateful for our current lineup that has spent long hours devotedly seeing us through this major transition.

This Board includes: President and AICPA Designated Representative Jake Black, BerryDunn; Treasurer Spencer Hathaway, Baker Newman Noyes; Secretary Heather Perreault, Town of Falmouth; AICPA Elected Representative David Stone, BerryDunn. Also, Board members Matt Barbour, McLeod | Ascanio; Dave Barrett, University of Maine; Tami Gower, University of New England; Micah Davis-Johnson, Aries Wealth Management; Stefan Lange, Partners Bank; Mike Santo, WIPFLI; Kirin Schrum,

Purdy Powers; J. Kenneth Stewart III, M&T Bank; and Student Representative Ernest Mamphye-Asane, University of Maine.

Over the next few months, I’ll be working with colleagues from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont to integrate our organizations as seamlessly and efficiently as possible.

Questions inevitably will arise as we go through this process. Together, we’ll figure it all out.

Please continue to contact me at trish@mecpa.org, and you’ll automatically be redirected to my new email address once it’s operational. I’ll share it ASAP.

– Trish Brigham,
MECPA Executive Director

HOW TO – Engaging with your new New England Society of CPAs

Recognizing that change can be uncomfortable, we want to do everything we can to make the transition to membership in the NECPAs easy and smooth.

You’ll get an email from the NECPAs on July 1 that will have lots of information about the newly formed Society. You can review yesterday’s email on that upcoming communication.

Please feel free to [reach out](#) with any questions that arise before or after that email.

In the meantime, here are a few top-of-mind topics:

Dues

Thanks to all who have



renewed their MECPA memberships. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so ASAP. It’ll be a somewhat simpler process if done by June 30.

Your membership will automatically convert to a New England Society of CPAs membership on July 1.

Know someone who has thought about joining? Please encourage them to do so by June 30 at mecpa.org to avoid having to fill out an application.

Communities/Committees

The New England Society will offer a multitude of communities (committees) for members to join that will offer access to an expanded network of resources, expertise and connections.

Stay tuned for more information.

Other

- The NECPAs website, set to launch July 1, will be a great source of information.

- Keep an eye out for word about accessing social sites for the NECPAs (LinkedIn, Instagram, etc.)

- See below for information on CPE registrations.

ADVOCACY – Teaming up is sure to help our legislative efforts succeed

CPA pathways

I’m actively working with our Pierce Atwood team and the Board of Accountancy administrator to draft legislation related to CPA pathways that we’ll present to the new Legislature later this year.

New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont recently passed bills that allow students to earn CPA licensure with an undergraduate degree (not 150 hours), and Massachusetts’s bill is awaiting state Senate approval.

Here in Maine, we successfully got legislation passed last year that allows students to sit for the CPA Exam with 120 academic credits or the equivalent of an undergraduate degree.

We’re now focusing on joining the vast majority of states that



have passed alternate licensure pathway legislation. We’re very optimistic about it passing and becoming effective next summer.

Ongoing & new relationships

We’ll continue to work closely with Maine State Revenue Services on Maine-specific issues and take advantage of the ex-

panded New England network of resources to finesse tax legislation, like the millionaire’s tax.

Develop your advocacy skills

Effective advocacy – for yourself or on behalf of an organization – is a skill that may not come naturally. But it can be developed with instruction and practice.

We’re working to reschedule a session that will allow a small group to meet with our lobbying team in Augusta and be introduced to members of the Legislature’s Committee on Taxation.

It’ll be a chance to see the inner workings of state government and learn legislative advocacy skills that can be applied to other areas of life.

Contact Trish Brigham if you’re interested in participating.

SOCIAL NETWORKING – Allow room for fun events (that often are productive, too)

We’ll still set up Maine opportunities for social networking and professional development, but with the merger, you’ll also have chances to participate in events across the region.

Here are a few great happenings this summer:

Aug. 6

Summer Evening at Thompson’s Point.

Drop in as part of the Summer Sunsets LIVE series, with the Greater Portland Board of Realtors Young Professionals Network. It’s free, and there’s no registration required!



back! For golfers of all levels, and ALL are welcome – friends, family, guests, colleagues and clients. We’d love a couple more sponsors for this tourney.

Interested in sponsoring this event? Contact Trish Brigham. [Go here](#) for more info and to register.



DATE TBD!
The ever-popular Cornhole Tournament will be back!
We’re nailing down a date and details and will let you know ASAP.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & PIPELINE – Initiatives will continue + new perks

Engaging with students, educational institutions and organizations that focus on workforce development, like Junior Achievement and FAME’s Financial Literacy Coalition, is most effectively done via established connections and relationships.

We’ll continue to partner with these groups as part of our ongoing pipeline efforts and

appreciate your continued participation.

A new perk for college students that makes getting into accounting even more attractive is that in addition to free membership in the MECPA (which will automatically convert to NECPAs membership starting July 1), students now also will be auto-enrolled as student members

of the AICPA.

Both of these memberships will give students free access to a variety of student – and other – programs around New England.

And in other workforce development news ... planning is underway for our expanding Business ELO. We’re actively looking for host firms. Reach out to Trish Brigham if interested.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – For CPE, business as usual ... until July 1



NECPAs CEO Zachary Donah, MECPA Board Member Tami Gower and MECPA Executive Director Trish Brigham were presenters at the New England Graduate Accounting Studies Conference earlier this month in Bar Harbor.

Wondering how to sign up for CPE since our merger? For now, continue to register at MECPA.org, and you’ll be redirected to the NECPAs site once it’s operational on July 1.

You may need to create a new account, so remember your ID.

As per yesterday’s email ... starting July 1, all new CPE registrations and event purchases will be managed through the NECPAs website.

Existing registrations and purchases will remain valid and will be transferred to the new system over time.



Sunrise over the Atlantic from Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth – Patricia McCarthy photo

“Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end.”

– Robin Sharma